

# **Braehead Community Garden Newsletter December** **2022**

Correction from last month's newsletter – Seed swap in January will be on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>, not Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Dates for the diary**

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Craft fair and coffee 10.30am – 12.30pm**

Lots of beautiful handmade crafts, honey from the garden, homemade chilli jam, hyacinths in beautiful pots and lots more! Come along and help raise money for the garden – people have been really busy making and producing things so please spread the word and come along to support the event. Thank you.

### **Garden Blitz – 10am – 1pm**

Help us to clear some of the vegetation out of the pond to create more open water for wildlife. Clean, oil and tidy the tools in the tool store. Finish off with a spot of shopping at the craft fair and a nice cup of coffee!

**lots going on in the garden this weekend. It's going to be chilly, so dress warmly, but it'll be fun!**

### **Tuesday December 20<sup>th</sup> – Christmas lunch in the garden. 12 – 2pm.**

Come along for soup, a mince pie and a bit of festive fun!

### **Saturday January 21<sup>st</sup> – Seed swap and crop planning 10am to 12pm.**

One of our garden members, Akash, will be giving a talk at 10.30am on soil health – how to improve and care for it, the no-till system and soil flora.

Get help and advice on how to plan your growing to get the most out of your plot. Any members who'd be up for giving a wee talk about this / be on hand to give less experienced members some advice please let me know! Bring your seeds along to swap with other members.

### **Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup> – Garden Blitz 10am – 1pm**

Help the Growing Group to get beds prepared for the year ahead, plus any other tidying the garden needs. The group brings in much needed funds for the garden from the sale of produce over the summer, so helping them get off to a good start would be great.

### **March (date tbc) - Hedge planting**

We are receiving a tree / hedging pack from the Woodland Trust, which is arriving in March. Come and help to plant them along the perimeter of the garden to fill in the gaps of the hedging.

### **Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 10am – 1pm – Pond improvement and nectar bed clearing**

Plant up gravel area of wetland with native plants. Make smaller pools in gravel bed.

Weed nectar beds.

Please let me know whether you can come to any of the above. Thank you.

### **Hen Roof**

The hens are very happy with their new roof, especially after all the rain we've had. A huge thank you to John Martin, John Wright, Matty Power and everyone else who has helped with its construction over the last few weeks. The roof is making a huge difference to them already and they now have a nice, water-tight, place to live.

So far in Scotland there is no requirement to have them indoors, but it may happen any day and in the meantime they're enjoying being out. The hens also love having visitors, so do go and see them. If you want to bring them something then their favourites are fresh greens and tinned sweetcorn. Thank you from our happy, healthy, hens!



### **Funding Opportunities**

The garden's Trustees are currently in the process of applying for funding to continue the garden Development Officer post, which is funded until the end of March 2023.

If anyone knows of a fund the garden could apply to which would be suitable for staff costs, please could you send it to me ASAP.

Also, some applications would benefit from a testimonial from members so that we can evidence the positive impacts the garden has on people. If you'd like to send me a couple of lines about what you like about the garden / the positive impact it's had on your life, that would be very much appreciated.

## **Seed Sowing / Propagating Group**

The propagating group will be sowing vegetable seeds for sale from February. These will be for sale from about April. Last year the group grew on things like cabbage, broccoli, kale, leeks, kohlrabi, turnips, swede, spouts, beetroot, courgettes, cucumbers, tomatoes. If you have any requests for seedlings to them to grow on then please let us know by the end of January.

Runner bean seed seeds available to swap.

## **TreeLink - Trees for Babies**

### **Free Trees for Babies Scheme launched in National Tree Week**

Free Trees for Babies is a new initiative from TreeLink, giving families a free tree to mark their baby's birth. It is sponsored by local Firm Dolby Vivisol.

To register for a tree, families must live in the Stirling Council area and have room for at least a small tree in a garden. It is for families which wish to celebrate the birth of a pre-school child or an adoption, or to commemorate a lost baby. Trees will be available for collection in February and will be supplied with a stake, tie, mulch and instructions.

TreeLink offers a choice of tree types, all suitable for small and medium-sized gardens. They will be offered on a 'first come, first served' basis. Registration is open until 31st January 2023.

To find out more and register for a tree, visit [Free Trees for Babies | TreeLink Stirling](#)

Saplings will be given out in the garden on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

