

# **Braehead Community Garden Newsletter January 2023**

## **Dates for the diary:**

### **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February - Seed Swap 6.30 – 7pm Club House**

If you missed out on the seed swap on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January, come along to this evening event. Please bring seeds with you to swap if you can and label any that you've collected yourself with what they are and any growing instructions. There are lots of lovely seeds here to choose from!

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

Let's get ready for the new growing season! 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. Cut back, tidy and weed the nectar beds. Plus any other tidying jobs.



**The garden could do with a good spring clean!**

### **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March - Hedge Planting 10am – 1pm**

We are having a lovely selection of native trees, suitable for hedging, delivered by the Woodland Trust the week before. Please come and help to plant them and fill in the gaps in

the hedge around the garden. This is the last opportunity to plant bare rooted saplings so the more the merrier!

### **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May – The Big Help Out**

As part of the King's coronation, people are being encouraged to help out in their local community. Let's get together that day to help out in the garden and have some fun! More details to follow and please get in touch if you have any ideas. Garden party???

### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August – Flower Show .....**

OK, so it's a long way off, but due to covid the garden hasn't had a flower show for several years. This is a highlight of the events calendar and we want to give you maximum time for planning and growing your prize entry. More details to follow.

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

## **Garden Members Survey Results**

Thank you so much to everyone who took the time to respond to the garden survey at the beginning of the month. The results are a really useful insight into what you think about the garden and your time was much appreciated. It was also really lovely that overall the responses were very positive. However, if you have anything you'd like to discuss or comment on in more detail then please let me know by email or by putting a note in the Club House.

The main points to come out of it were:

- The garden was rated 'excellent' by 80% of respondents and 'good' by 20%
- Most people prefer email communications but a lot of you would be interested in coming to a workshop on how to improve the garden and make it more of a community asset.
- 90% of you think that garden membership is good value.
- For 80% of you the produce you grow supplements your household food, but is not your main source.
- The main benefit of the Garden Development officer is having a point of contact, followed equally by having a programme of events again and an improvement in communications.
- 90% of respondents favoured the newsletter as a means of communications, followed by email and then WhatsApp.
- 70% of you thought that the current communications were good and 30% thought they were average.
- The majority of people said that they could commit 2 hours a month to helping with the upkeep of the garden.

### **Next steps:**

- If anyone who isn't on the garden volunteers WhatsApp group would like to be then please send me your phone number. If you are not on the closed garden Facebook group then please send a request to the Braehead Community Garden Facebook page and I will add you.
- Do you have a workshop idea – growing / bee keeping / hens / or something else? Please get in touch and I will try to arrange something around the most popular requests. The talk on soil health last Saturday was really interesting and we all got a lot out of it.

- If you have any thoughts on how to improve communications then please let me know and I will do my best to implement them.
- Thank you to those of you who said they could commit 2 hours a month to helping with the upkeep of the garden. **Please get in touch** so that I know who can help out and we can make use of your kind offer. This is really useful for all of the communal areas.

## New Apprentices

Last month we said goodbye to Brendan and Marcus, our Stirling Council Apprentices. They had been helping out in the garden for the last few months and were a huge help, particularly with the Growing Group and keeping on top of communal areas.

We are delighted to be welcoming Adam and Robert, our 2 new apprentices, who start next week. Having a regular source of help benefits the garden greatly and we hope that the lads gain something from their time with us.

## Seed Swap and Soil Health Talk

We had such a nice time on Saturday and a great turn out for the seed swap and soil health talk by Akash, one of our garden members. We were still talking about what Akash said this morning

For those of you who haven't been to a seed swap, it's an opportunity to bring along seeds which you have surplus of and swap them for some you do want. Most of us don't need 300 broccoli seeds, or what ever it happens to be, and this is a fun, cheap, way of getting seeds without having to buy a whole packet.

There are plenty of seeds left, so please come along on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb at 6.30pm.



**Just some of the seeds that are available. After the event on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, they will be in the Club House – please help yourselves to small amounts of whatever you wish.**

If you'd like to learn more about how to get the best out of your plot, here are the links that Akash sent following his talk:

[HOME - Charles Dowding](#)

[Huw Richards - YouTube](#)

[RED Gardens - YouTube](#)

## **Membership Renewal / Garden Tidy**

We are getting towards the time of year when memberships are renewed (end of March). Please have a think about whether you'd like to renew yours and I will be in touch next month. If you don't want to renew then please let me know ASAP, so that I know how many beds we'll have available for our waiting list.

**In the meantime, please can everyone tidy and weed the area immediately surrounding their beds** – this area is your responsibility and it is much better to get on top of it before things get out of hand. It also stops weeds spreading to everyone else's beds. The pictures above show some of the garden, but a lot of it is like this!

Please shake off all gravel from the weeds around your bed before putting them in the compost area. If you need more gravel there is a pile to the right of the tool store.

## **Cardboard**

Part of Akash's talk on soil health was about the no dig system. Some of our members are very keen to do this. If you have any large pieces of cardboard please bring them to the garden and put them on polytunnel 3. Thank you.