



Braehead Summer 2022 Newsletter

Dear Gardeners,

I have now been in post for about 6 weeks, and am thoroughly enjoying my new job. I have been so impressed by what you've all achieved at Braehead – it's so well organised and thought out that you should feel very proud. I have also been blown away by how kind and friendly everyone has been. Thank you for being so welcoming.

I have been focussing on the priorities set out in the email Aileen sent out about my role a few of weeks ago. Number one is communications, as I know they were a bit sporadic and people weren't always getting the information they needed. I hope you have seen an improvement, but please let me know if you have any suggestions about how you get information, how regularly or things you would like members to know. We are planning to move the garden notice board to a more prominent position so that we can share news there.

If you're on Facebook but aren't yet a member of the closed garden group then please send a request to join Braehead Community Garden – it's a good way of keep up to date with what's going on.

All of our outdoor beds are now spoken for, which is great. Over the next few weeks some of the ones which the Growing Group are using will be freed up. There are a few indoor ones left so please get in touch if you need more space or would like to extend your growing season.



We are now at a critical level in our water tanks and it is going to take a lot of rain to fill them up again. Please bring water from home if you are able to and be very careful with the amount that you use. It is more effective to water thoroughly every few days than to sprinkle water every day. If you can be savvy with the way you water it will go further.
Thank you.

Events / Dates for your diary:

Apple Event

The trees in the orchard are laden with wonderful fruit! We are hoping to run an apple event over the weekend of the 27th / 28th August. I'm waiting to hear about getting an apple press – watch this space! There will be apple themed cooking so please get creative with any apple based recipes you have. Food can be brought to the garden and shared so please put the date in your diary. More info to follow.

Festival of Biodiversity

The University of Stirling and Scotland's International Environment Centre (SIEC) will be hosting a three-day *Festival of Biodiversity* across the Forth Valley from Friday 16th to Sunday 18th September 2022 and have invited Braehead Community Garden to join them in celebrating biodiversity.

The Festival, held over three full days at both the University of Stirling and throughout Stirling and Clackmannanshire, will focus on celebrating and raising the profile of biodiversity. This will take place through a blend of face-to-face events, including presentations from experts, field events to explore the havens on our doorstep, and workshops and activities to engage and enlighten.

TreeLink will be hosting an event at the Garden on Saturday 17th September from 10am to midday.

This will be an opportunity to see the saplings that are being grown and brought on before being planted out in the Stirling area. Come along and learn how to collect tree seed so that you can grow saplings of your own, to contribute to the nursery.

Growing Group

The growing group have done a wonderful job with all of their produce. Please come along on a Tuesday or Saturday from 10am – 1pm to buy some lovely fruit and veg. Don't forget to tell your friends and neighbours to come too! It's tasty and very reasonable! There is also produce for sale in the fridge on the right in polytunnel 1 (closest to the gate). Please help yourself and put the money in the honesty box. I have thoroughly enjoyed my purchases!

The group is looking for help with selling produce. If you are able to offer some time then please get in touch.





Competitions

Just a wee reminder (especially as it's the summer holidays and it's fun to do with kids) that we're running a scarecrow competition. Get creative and make one for your bed or bench. If anyone's is scary enough to scare away the egg-eating crows they get a bonus prize!

Many people are saying that their sunflowers are dead / tiny / non-existent! There is one in the garden that is doing extremely well, however. Keep an eye out for it and see if you can get any insights into the grower's winning techniques.

Garden Activities

I'm interested to hear about things that our members would like to do with or in the garden. Are there things you feel could be done better? Please get in touch if you have anything in mind so that we can ensure that the space is used in ways that benefit all of you. This might be an event, social activity, blitz of an area or anything else which you think would be fun or interesting. We are also looking to improve the way the garden is used in the community; kind of like an outdoor community centre. If you know of a group or organisation who would like to use the garden then please put me in touch. Someone suggested using the seating circle next to the hens for a book group and Polytunnel 3 as a venue for disseminating information about benefits available to older people. There are well worth exploring, so please drop me a line with anything you have.

Best wishes and happy gardening!

Daisy