

# BRAEHEAD COMMUNITY GARDEN



## NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2025

### RAISED BED REPLACEMENT PROJECT

As most of you are aware, our raised beds are now getting to the stage of needing replaced due to age. We have a priority list of beds, and once these have been replaced we will work through the rest. This is a huge undertaking, currently being carried out by only a couple of people. We need more help.

Ideally we want to get the worst ones done over the next month or two to reduce disruption to the growing season for these members. Can you help? John is leading the project and will be at the garden Tues & sat mornings most weeks. He can also be around other days by arrangement, or we can provide clear guidance to work alone. If it is your bed, or even if not, please help if you can!



### VOLUNTEER DAYS

#### Path Work, Saturday 29th March, 10-12

To get a head start on the path work around all the beds, we will be starting with some of the worst areas as a group. (See article below).

**Raised Bed Replacement, Tues & Sat weekly, 10-12 (other days available, please let us know what would suit you)**

We are looking for extra hands to help move soil, carry wood and help build the beds. No power tool work unless you have been trained.

### Memberships

Welcoming Lauren & John to the garden!

As we approach the new membership year (1st April) please let me know asap if you are not keeping your bed so it can be reallocated.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Recyke-a-bike

Free bike maintenance and class (see poster)  
Mon 24th March

**First social eve of the year**  
(all welcome!)

Fri 28th March, from 6pm

#### Easter Open Day

Sat 19th April, time tbc

#### Social evening

Fri 25th April, from 6pm

#### Annual Plant Sale

Sat 10th May, tbc

## PATH MAINTENANCE

Nature is taking over and it is becoming a losing battle trying to keep the garden looking its best and weed free. Some bed areas are kept better than others, so to try to reduce the maintenance burden and make it more manageable for members, the trustees have decided to try letting the interior paths (within the outdoor bed area) re-grass. This does still mean some work for all outdoor bed holders. **With immediate effect we need all bed holders to ensure there are no large stones lying around their bed. If the grass grows over this now, it will make it difficult and dangerous for strimming and mowing the paths.** Stones can be put behind PT4 to the left of the compost area. The trustees recognise the work some members have put in to keeping their area clear, thank you, and we hope this is not disappointing. Hopefully it will keep the overall garden looking better when we mow and trim the paths. Exterior and communal areas will still be kept grass & weed free which can be done at volunteer sessions. We ask that everyone helps with this. If you have any questions please contact Nikki or a trustee. We look forward to seeing a better kept garden.

## March Garden Jobs

*Here are a few hints & tips to get the best out of your crops (please note this is general advice, for more detailed info refer to the books in our clubhouse)*

- Sow parsnips as the soil starts to warm up, as they're slow to germinate and need a long growing season
- Feed cabbages and other brassicas with nitrogen-rich fertiliser, such as pelleted chicken manure
- Start hoeing veg beds as soon as the weather starts to warm up, as weeds will germinate quickly
- Plant strawberries in a hanging basket to keep the fruits away from slugs
- Plant bare-root asparagus crowns in well-drained soil or raised beds, in an open, sunny spot
- Plant onion and shallot sets, spacing them 10-15cm apart
- Check for aphids, and remove before infestation increases
- Give blackcurrant bushes a high-nitrogen feed
- Sow dwarf French beans in a large pot for an early indoor crop in June
- Sow tomatoes, chillies, peppers indoors

## MEMBER NOTES...

- As the new membership year approaches (from 1st April) we kindly ask people to pay their fees in April into our bank account. Fees are staying the same as last year. Account: BBD CDT, 08-92-99, 67192414. Cash only before 1st April.
- Can people bring in their egg boxes (6'ers & 12'ers) so we can reuse them please. We've so many eggs from our new ladies now we are running low. But this does mean more eggs are available from PT1 for members! £2.50 for a half dozen.
- Sadly it is Nat's last day at the garden next Tuesday 25th march. He will be sorely missed and has worked so hard during his time with us. If you see him please thank him and show your appreciation. Most of you will not even be aware how much he has done for us!

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