



The Growing Together news



Photo: Sussex Express

Half Term at the Community Garden

Welcome to the first Community Garden newsletter and thank you to all those that came along to the half term activities and got stuck in with the gardening. We had a fantastic week and the garden has come on in leaps and bounds.

A real highlight of the week was the celebratory BBQ on Wednesday where we had over 60 people up at the garden! Thanks to Sally, Holly and Emma for preparing such a delicious lunch.



Community Garden Road Trip!

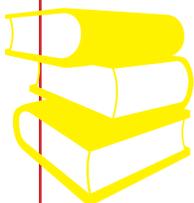


What better way to inspire us than to visit another community garden?! We are going to organise a free trip with travel included to visit the community garden in Seaford.

The trip has been organised for Wednesday 14th July and will visit the Exchange Project a.k.a Seaford Community Garden. A bus will leave from the Hillcrest Centre at 10.30 and return at 12noon.

If people would like to come along they need to ring the office **(01273)-612539** by Wednesday 7th to reserve a place on the bus.

Garden Library



Calling anyone with spare gardening books or information leaflets! It

would be great to have a source of gardening information on site, so that any questions can be answered there and then. If anyone has any books that they would like to donate please contact Jenny or Holly at the Hillcrest Centre

(01273) 612539

or leave them protected in the entrance to the shed.



IT IS GOING to be vitally important for the longevity of the garden to set up a management committee. This will allow the members of the community garden to have a direct input into the running of the garden and steer the development of the garden for the future. If you would like to find out more about this, and/or volunteer to be a part of this please ring Jenny on **(01273)-612539**



Mark Gilbert, Sales Director at Paradise Park with Jenny and the donated tools, plants and seeds

Special Thanks!

To the businesses who have helped out with donations to the garden:

Travis Perkins who supplied us with a Rotivator at very low cost;

TJ Composting who have supplied the compost at a reduced price;

Paradise Park who have donated a huge range of equipment (including the pink wheelbarrow) and plants (herbs, potatoes, onions, and seeds).

WANTED!

Also, can all volunteers bring up any surplus seeds / plants that they have and plant them at the garden, also any old gardening equipment (especially hand forks and trowels).

This Month in the Community Garden:

Harvesting

- Harvest salad leaves, herbs and strawberries
- Pick flowers (in moderation) or dead head regularly

Planting Out and Sowing

- Keep sowing salad leaves.
- Collect and sow seed from foxgloves
- Sow seeds of vegetables, including beetroot, cabbage, endive, kohlrabi, lettuce, radish, rocket, spinach and turnips. Try and sow salad leaves in a place with some light shade during the day as the hot weather can make them bolt (turn to flower and become bitter).
- Plant out leek seedlings from their seedbed once they are pencil thick, planting them 15cm apart in rows, with about 30cm between rows

Maintenance

- Keep watering during hot, dry spells. Give the plants a really good soak rather than a quick water. This will ensure the water reaches the roots and doesn't just evaporate on the soil surface. Water early in the morning or in the evening to give plants a better chance to access moisture.
- Keep earthing up the potatoes. Cover the foliage with soil until only the top few inches of leaves are showing. This stops the potatoes going green and toxic in the light and can help keep down diseases.
- Keep fruit bushes covered with netting, then weave a cane through the bottom edge and peg it down to stop birds crawling underneath

Top Tips:

Conserve water

Try half burying a plastic bottle or plant pot next to your plant so the water gets to the roots rather than running over the soil surface. This provides more water to your plants and deters slugs and snails!