

The Plot



Winter 2012

The news and views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or the Ringwood Community Garden Inc. Committee

FROM THE CHAIR

Winter has certainly arrived, temperatures have dropped dramatically and we have already had some good downpours of rain. This time of the year for some folk is time to rest indoors but for the vegetable gardener it should be the time to keep warm and get fit by tidying and cultivating the plot in preparation for next spring's plantings. Of course there are many vegetables that can and should be planted and grown over winter, such as garlic, peas, broad beans, and all the brassica, but if you do not wish to grow vegetables then why not plant a crop of green manure which will help suppress the weeds and when dug into the ground in early spring will help improve the soil.

In April we had a working bee to generally tidy the garden, despite a smaller turn out than normal it proved to be very successful and a lot of work was completed during the morning. This was followed by a very enjoyable barbeque.

The mowing roster we implemented to replace the individual working bees is proving a success and helps to maintain the good appearance of the garden.

Where now the vital energy that moved,
While summer was, the pure and subtle lymph
Through the imperceptible meandering veins
Of leaf and flower?

It sleeps; and the icy touch
Of unprolific winter has impress'd
A cold stagnation on the intestine tide.

William Cowper The Task 1785

The majority of members are doing a good job in maintaining their plots but some of the dividing pathways need attention, can I remind you that the pathway alongside your plot is yours and your neighbour's responsibility to maintain.

Don't forget we have our garden open to the public in February next year which means we need to have all pathways cleared and free from obstructions.

On the subject of the Open Garden if any of you have any ideas for promoting the weekend of our opening, mention them to Tony Milton or John Bannister who are organising the event. We also will need plenty of produce both grown and kitchen produced to sell on the days, so now is the time to plan ahead.

As this is the last newsletter before our AGM in August, at which I shall be retiring from the committee, I would like to thank the committee for their help and support during my time as chairman and to all those members who have come along and worked hard to complete the numerous projects we have had in the garden.

Our AGM this year is on the 2nd of August at 7.30pm and is at a new venue, The Federation Estate, Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood. This is a very comfortable venue with easy access and parking for vehicles.

As several members of the current committee are retiring this year I encourage you to nominate for committee.

The committee only meets a few times a year as required and with tasks being shared so that no one member has an onerous task.

