



Newsletter

January 2016

Hello!

The growing season will soon be upon us, and there are lots of jobs to do in preparation. So we need as many the volunteers as we can get! It will be fun to work together as a community in making the garden a success.

Achievements

Since the garden first opened last September we have made great strides, starting with removing turf to create the planting beds, planting the hedge & some soft fruit bushes and building our donated shed & greenhouse. We also finished rabbit proofing all the fences and are currently humanely releasing any rabbits left within the garden just outside to re-join their friends.

Things to do

We've planned what we want to grow this year and been quite ambitious so we'll need all the help we can get from our volunteers. The garden re-opens on **Thursday 4th February** at **10:00am** and some of the jobs to do are:

- Dig over the beds ready for planting
- Move the last of the turves to form a mulch under the hedge
- Tidy up the dead stuff & have a bonfire
- Once all the rabbits are gone, plant the rest of the fruit
- Start sowing seeds
- Prepare the volunteer seating area – most important!
- Prepare a bed for the permanent planting of things like asparagus, herbs, etc.

The garden will then be open on Thursdays and Saturdays 10am-12 noon, and 2pm - 4pm.

Plant swap

We're holding our second plant swap on **Saturday 7th May** in the Village Hall. This was a great success last year and enjoyed by all who attended. The idea behind the plant swap is that everyone brings along some plants, and these are exchanged for any plants in the hall. Plants can also be bought for cash. So please start thinking about what plants can be divided, or seeds that you can plant – there are always too many of them, aren't there. It will fun to swap them for something different, or simply buy from what's there. The May Plant Swap will be here before you know it!

We will be supplying a lot of plants too and need our volunteers to help sow & grow them.

Volunteer pack

The new volunteer pack is attached with this newsletter. It outlines everything a new volunteer needs to know (let us know if it doesn't!) and explains how we aim to raise money to run the garden by offering discounts on the produce we grow to our members.

Open Day

Our next Garden Open Day is on **Saturday 21st May** – a great opportunity to bring or send your friends along so they can find out what we're doing!