



# Sidcup Garden Project News letter

November/December 2015

## Garden update

The gardening event on the 14<sup>th</sup> November was rained off, despite the sky lightening at the critical moment and a few people turning up, it soon started to pour.

We were still able to hold a small committee meeting to get the councils paper work signed.

## Key points from the Committee Meeting

### 1. Japanese Knotweed

- As many of you know, Japanese Knotweed has been found in the Garden. We must not dig, prune or spread this. The worst affected bed is clear to see as it is very messy but there are a few patches in other beds. The leaves will fall off and it will be hard to spot but little digging will be needed until spring.
- There is a quantity in the bed on the opposite side to the fence (that has a couple of trees in). Collected leaves must be BAGGED AND LEFT ON THE BED
- We will get more information from the council in the spring

### 2. Keys to the hut/ gardening "sub groups"

- The aim is for all committee members to have a key
- We will get a spare key cut that can be borrowed by anyone who would like to organise a weekday session
- Sarah is going to ask for volunteers who will provide mobile phone numbers so that any one gardening on their own can let someone know they are there and when they leave. This is to minimise the risks associated of working alone.

### 3. Garden Waste

- Council compost bins have been delivered and Malcom has kindly constructed a wooden sided larger compost container
- To make useable compost, garden waste needs to be separated in to weeds (without Japanese knotweed), grass cuttings etc. and "non-compostable" sticks, branches & larger hedge trimmings which will be taken to the tip by Sarah, Rob or anyone else with a car on site
- One more skip will be ordered to "catch up" but this takes hard won funds – for the 12<sup>th</sup> December session we are after some people to commit to attend even if it rains to load the skip.
- Leaves compost slowly so must be left to rot in sacks for 2 years to make good compost. This may or may not be practical (sacks on site may encourage litter dumping) but once bagged they can easily be taken to the tip.

### 4. Health and Safety

- We now have a short Health & Safety policy and Accident Reporting Sheet (kept in a folder in the hut). Copies of the Health & Safety policy will be circulated at each session.
- Accidents or incidents, even if they do not result in injury must be recorded

## Other news

### Next Garden tasks

- Collecting leaves
- Pruning rosemary and other centre beds

### Next Meetings

Due to the poor light by 3.30-4, the next two sessions will be:  
Saturday 12th December  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of January  
Where possible the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in the months will be continued