

Chichester Organic Gardening Society



Newsletter 68
April 2015



Notes from the Committee

As you will see, we have arranged meetings for some way ahead. Since Vee stood down, this has been done jointly by committee members. **But we do need someone to co-ordinate**; if you think you would like to help, please contact one of the Committee. You will have plenty of support, ideas, and contacts from the rest of us.

You will also see that we need a new Membership Secretary – please read Nina’s message. **THIS IS URGENT!**

We are immensely grateful to Nina for her hard work, over more than five years; this is a job which is needed if we are to keep the Society going.

Visits: unfortunately Roger Parsons tells us that his evenings in June are now fully booked. We shall therefore hope to arrange a visit in 2016. We do have TWO VISITS arranged – see a later page.

The Committee

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Many thanks to those who have renewed their subscription.

Please note that membership now stands at £6 per household.

Should you wish to renew by Standing Order, here are the details:

Lloyds TSB
No: 01914064
Sort Code: 30 91 97
Chichester Organic Gardening Society.

If you do set up a Standing Order or you change your email address (and are receiving your newsletter by email) PLEASE let me know:
nina@nrglearning.co.uk

COGS FUNDING – REMINDER

Talks: Members - £1 per meeting, Visitors - £2.

These are probably the smallest charges of any local Society!

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - URGENT

I will be resigning my place on the Committee at the AGM this year and so we will be needing a new Membership Secretary. I have been on the Committee well in excess of 5 years, so I feel it is now time to stand aside for someone else to take over.

Please do consider taking on the role. It isn't very onerous although a degree of computer literacy would be necessary. We urgently need people to come onto the Committee - not just as Membership Secretary but also for a variety of other offices.

Please contact anyone of the Committee to let them know of your interest.

Nina Guilfoyle

Speakers and Meetings

We are always looking for suggestions for speakers. If you have any idea for speakers or visits, please let one of the Committee know. And do bring a friend to any of our meetings.

Raffles

A reminder that these are held at every meeting except May and October. Any good items, especially bottles, good plants, and 'gifts' are welcome.

Also at meetings:

Surplus, Gluts, whether plants or produce or no-longer-needed useful garden things, are also welcome. People can help themselves (for a small donation) – but please take yours home if no-one wants them!

COGS is having tea (and coffee!)

Last Autumn the committee decided to have a trial run to offer tea and coffee at our meetings, after the speaker. We felt it would be a good opportunity for everybody to have a chance to talk to one and other, to discuss gardening tips, successes, seeds or anything else – we won't be patrolling to check that it is only garden talk!!!

Initially the committee will provide the tea and coffee from the funds, but donations will be gratefully received.

A call for contributors

We would welcome interesting and relevant pieces by members, which we can print. Do you have some special 'tips' or advice gleaned from your own experience, which you would like to share? If so do send, in first instance to penelopejohnstone@yahoo.co.uk or you can discuss at one of the meetings.

March meeting – Sweet Peas

Roger Parsons holds the national collection of sweetpeas and this was the title of his talk in March. He gave us a brief history of the sweetpea from its arrival in England from Sicily in 1699. The Victorians were keen to hybridise the flower and this led to the Spencer type in 1901, having longer stems with more flowers. Modern varieties have at least 5 flowers, and dwarf and semi-dwarf varieties have been developed.

Roger gave us valuable tips on growing sweetpeas. There is no need to chip seeds or soak seeds. Ideally sow in October in root-trainers [or loo rolls], or 6 seeds in a 5 inch pot. Leave outside, they benefit from the cold, and do not pinch the tops out. Beware of mice and pigeons!

Roger showed us photos of modern varieties and ones particularly popular for showing such as Gwendoline [lilac], White Frills [white], Millenium [red]. Roger is known internationally, and currently growing the variety 'Helen', believed to be the only one of its kind in the world.

We were able to buy seeds during the evening. Seeds can be ordered by post or online [see the website]. Roger does conducted tours of his collection, full this year, and we hope to visit the collection next year. *(Pat Alderton)*

Selsey Sea and Salad Fair

COGS have accepted an invitation to take part in the Selsey Sea and Salad Fair, which will be held at East Beach Green, Selsey, on **Sunday 23rd August 2015**. There will be commercial stalls, but also ‘non profit’ like ours. We would like to have **plants etc** please; and if anyone would like to **volunteer to help** for any part of the day, do get in touch with one of the Committee. Penelope will co-ordinate plants so please contact: 771881.

Weald and Downland Countryside Fair 10-11 October

We shall probably take part again; this means two days of manning the stall, and we should like plants and produce. As we depend on as many people as possible helping, in however small a way, please do think about this, and contact one of the Committee if you can help, either with plants/produce or with helping for a shift (free entry for helpers).

And why not enter for at least one of the competitions? They range from preserves to pictures, and you get a free entry ticket.

Transition Green Fair

We have not been told officially of a date, but rumour has it that this will be on Saturday 26th September. As this means it will not clash with WDOAM we are hoping to take part in both. Plants, and help on the day, will be welcome; do come anyway, it is local and good fun.

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Ten Years Ago

As usual, in April 2005 there was a call for new committee members – and also for helpers for Stansted in June and the Totally Tomato Show at West Dean in September. Some members will have fond memories of both of these. There was a longish article about Vegan-Organics, which meant organic without using any animal products.

There was also a seasonal recipe, not at all complicated, using up leeks which are among the few toughies which should have survived the winter:

Using Up Leeks in Soup

1 lb potatoes	2 medium leeks	1 tbsp oil
1.5 pints water	1 tbsp chopped parsley	seasoning

Peel and dice potatoes; trim, wash and slice the leeks. Heat oil in large pan and add potatoes and leeks. Saute for a couple of minutes without browning. Stir in the water. Bring to the boil, then simmer with a lid for about 20 minutes. Liquidise, season and sprinkle parsley on each portion before serving.

Have your leeks escaped the depredations of the dreaded leek moth? They can escape if they are protected by fleece at the vulnerable stage. Garden Organic did a trial, and one method was to cut the affected leeks down to the ground; they do regrow and are then healthy.

Tuppenny Barn Events

Although the March seed swop was cancelled, they have other events planned, and have told us of the following. Maggie is a member of COGS and we support their aims.

All events at Tuppenny Barn, Southbourne, PO10 8EZ

Saturday 25 April Circle Dance with Claire Wilton 2:30pm 2 hrs
Celebrate Earth Day with a fun afternoon of circle dancing. This is a very easy to follow dance style where all steps are taught as you go. We will be dancing to beautiful music from around the world. Suitable for all, no partner required. The event is organised and led by local dance teacher Claire Wilton with all proceeds going towards the Tuppenny Barn Education Centre. Tickets: £8 includes a drink and homemade cake. Book online at www.tuppennybarn.co.uk

Saturday 2 – Monday 4 May – Emsworth Art Trail
Open 10am-4pm each day

Tuppenny Barn will be transformed into an art gallery for the Bank Holiday weekend. We are showcasing the work of Gordon Rushmer, Di Collins, Mike Walker and Tricia Wellings. In addition artwork from local schools will be on show. Meet the artists, art will be on sale. Pop-up café with homemade cakes. Free entry.

Saturday 9 May | Local Food Market | 10am – 1pm

Discover lots of local food producers in this friendly market at Tuppenny Barn. Includes pop-up café and children's activities. Free entry and parking

Transition Chichester continue their film evenings at the Basil Shippam Centre, 7.30 p.m. entry £5/£3 concessions.

Mon May 11th 2015 7.30 pm

Planet Ocean A new cinema adventure into the greatest natural mystery of our planet from world famous photographer Yann Arthus-Bertrand

Mon June 8th 2015 7.30 pm:

The Moo Man A heart warming real life record of days on a farm where animals matter and farming is a raw, hard life filled with love and laughter. Just beautiful!

Mon July 6th 7.30 p.m.

Animate Earth Are we a part of Nature or have we grown apart from it? Dr Stephan Harding, renowned ecologist, tells how holistic science deeply connects us to our Earth.

INFINITY FOODS

Next orders to Pat by **Mon 11 May** please.

(cheques to be with Pat by that date)

Delivery on Tuesday **19 May** please collect asap

Any member is welcome to order and there is no minimum order

If anyone new is interested please contact

pat_adams@btoopenworld.com or 01243 602713

The catalogue can be downloaded at

<http://infinityfoodswholesale.co.uk/catalogue/>

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COGS VISITS SUMMER 2015

We have organised TWO visits this summer:

Wednesday 8 July - Arundel Castle Gardens, meeting there around 2.0 p.m. Entry can probably be reduced if “Gardeners World” has 2 for 1 vouchers – keep a lookout.

Wednesday 12 August – Little Breach Allotments, 5.30 p.m.

A good time of year to browse and meet allotment holders; Vee Cowan, Liz and Rob Campling, and Sarah Clark all have plots there.

In both cases, there will be lists to complete at meetings; if you are not there, or decide later, please contact Penelope (01243 771881) as we would like to know numbers, and preferably car-share for Arundel.

COGS MEETINGS 2015

April 27 Mark Saunders from Fittleworth, Growing Vegetables

A return visit from a very popular speaker; this time with all we ever needed to know about how to grow tasty and healthy vegetables. Fittleworth House has a walled kitchen garden of approximately one and half acres and grows a wide variety of herbs, vegetables and flowers and will be open under the National Garden Scheme on several days, later in the Summer.

June 1 Plant Swop and Spring Fling (note: not in May)

Our spring-into-summer meeting, with lots of plants and some very tasty dishes to share; and a Quiz

September 28 Monica Lucas: "Aster Amellus - its Friends and Family"

Monica grows these very popular flowers and will be telling us about their many varieties and their cultivation.

October 26 AGM and Harvest Supper

Come and give your opinion and your vote – this is your Society! We need new committee members and officers if we are to continue. And the Harvest Supper is one of our highlights.

November 30 Fergus Milton on Butser Ancient Farm:

A pictorial tour of the farm, how our ancestors grew crops, the ancient cereal varieties, and metal working.

Unless otherwise stated, Monday meetings take place at
Bassil Shippam Centre, Tozer Way, St Pancras, Chichester PO19 7LG
Meetings start at 7.30pm, doors open at 7.15pm

Chichester Organic Gardening Society was formed in 1992 as a local group of both the Henry Doubleday Research Association and the Soil Association.

Aims of the Society

To encourage the growing of healthy produce and beautiful gardens by sustainable and environmentally kind gardening methods.

To provide a focus for local gardeners and growers to meet those sharing their interest in gardening *with* nature, both for social activities and to discuss gardening and related issues.

COGS activities in support of our Aims

- A programme of regular meetings (indoors September to May, outdoors June to August) with speakers on gardening and related topics.
- Occasional visits to places of gardening interest.
- Promotion of organic methods at COGS special events and appropriate local shows such as those at West Dean , Transition, and Weald and Downland Open Air Museum
- Shared purchase and bulk purchase scheme for whole food cooking supplies to obtain discounts.
- Books available for purchase or on loan from our small library.

Membership costs £6.00 per household. The membership year runs from October to September. To join contact Nina Guilfoyle on 01243 776063

Your COGS organisers are:

Officers:

Secretary – Penelope Johnstone (01243 771881)

Treasurer – David Scott (01243 778689) d4davidscott@btinternet.com

Membership Secretary – Nina Guilfoyle (01243 776063) nina@nrglearning.co.uk

Organisers:

Speaker Secretary – vacant; temporarily filled by Committee

Bookshop/Librarian - Barbara MacGregor (01243 781849)

Infinity Orders – Pat (01243 602713) pat_adams@btopenworld.com

Publicity - currently vacant

Website – Tom Broughton (01243 530019) tom@chicogs.org.uk

Committee Members:

Pat Alderton (01243 822615)

David Scott

Nina Guilfoyle

John Bennett (01243 781289)

Penelope Johnstone

Anne Bennett

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www.chicogs.org.uk

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