

Chichester Organic Gardening Society

Newsletter 73, September 2017

1992 – 2017: COGS is 25 in October. So this will be our “Silver Jubilee”. It is 25 years since Susan and her late husband with a few others contacted Garden Organic and founded the Chichester Organic Gardening Society. We owe a great debt to those pioneers of the early days, when Organic principles were less well known and considered ‘muck and magic’. While the Organic message is better known today, we still need to cultivate the ideas as well as the soil. Habitat and many species are in danger.

We hope as many members as possible will come to the AGM and the special festive Harvest Supper on October 30th to mark the occasion. We are inviting some guests; why not bring a friend?

Other 25 years to note are: Duchy Organics; and Sarah and Jim are celebrating 25 years of work at West Dean, restoring and developing the magnificent gardens.

Notes from the Committee: The summer visits were enjoyable occasions and quite varied. One was a follow-up from a previous talk and two people from the other two visits will be coming to us as speakers in the near future.

We would like more committee members – would you consider standing? We have three very friendly and efficient meetings every year, to plan the programme.

We need a new Secretary – NOW! After about ten years Penelope is finishing and would like to have time to hand over. So please will someone come forward or there will be a gap. The task is not complicated and all committee members support each other.

Facebook page is doing nicely – if you have any interesting photos of COGS occasions do forward them to Diana: (morgandians68@hotmail.com).

Weald and Downland Countryside Show: 7-8 October: as at the time of printing we have just enough members to cover for both days, but if you now find you can come and help, for a couple of hours, please let Penelope know: 01243 771881. Those who have already signed up will be contacted soon (or already have been) to confirm times. Thank you to all!

Your COGS organisers are:

Secretary – interim – Penelope Johnstone (01243 771881)

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

Membership Secretary – Stephanie Carn (01243 533393) stephcarn@gmail.com

Website – Tom Broughton (01243 790026) tom@chicogs.org.uk

Committee Members: Treasurer, Secretary, Membership, plus:

Pat Alderton (01243 822615)

Anne Bennett (01243 781289)

Diana Morgan (01243 786386)

www.chicogs.org.uk

Autumn Meetings

September 25 Sarah Beard, Medical herbalist. Sarah will discuss the various medicinal uses of herbs that are commonly found in the garden including those ‘weeds’ you love to hate! This is an interactive talk with things to taste.

October 30 AGM and Harvest Supper: Short business meeting, and your chance to take part in discussion; followed by our annual supper, with plenty of home-made (and perhaps home-grown) dishes to share. A reminder that we are marking our 25 years since COGS was founded. Let’s have some celebratory cooking. And bring a friend.

November 27 Dr Steve Millam: Soil Matters. A return visit from this popular speaker, a horticultural expert, who will discuss the important foundation of all our growing activities.

2018

January 29 Members’ evening for discussion, e.g. pesticide-free cities. A “tasting” of preserves made by members, so do bring one or two of your specials (this is optional). We shall provide spoons and plates. Or just come to listen and talk.

February 26 Jan Atkinson on Working with Wildlife. Jan has considerable experience working for the RSPB, and some of us have met her at the Green Fair.

March 26 John Williams “Establishing the Cookscroft Garden” A group of us visited in the summer and admired the achievement of a splendid and varied garden created from a 5-acre field in Earnley.

April 30 Colin Clark on Feeding Futures, which trains farmers in rural Kenya to improve their soil and yields thus enabling them to provide meals to hungry school children in another community and teach the farming methods to the new community so they too can become sustainable.

May 21 Plant Swop and Spring Fling An opportunity to find plants and seedlings, to pass on any of your own surplus, and to surprise us with your culinary skills. A reminder to bring your own plates, cutlery, etc as well as a dish or two to share.

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

INFINITY FOODS

Next orders (and cheques) to Pat by Monday **November 13** please.

Delivery on Tuesday **November 21** please collect asap

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

If anyone new is interested please contact

pat_adams@btopenworld.com or 01243 602713

The catalogue can be downloaded at <http://infinityfoodswholesale.co.uk/catalogue/>