

Chichester Organic Gardening Society

Newsletter 76 January 2019

Notes from the Committee

Thank you to all those who came to the AGM and Harvest Supper in October. We were fewer in number than usual but a very convivial evening was had by all with the usual range of delicious food from our members' gardens and kitchens. The evening was rounded off with an impromptu quiz from Terry Timblich where we were asked to identify poems from their last few words – harder than you may think.

Treasurer David drew our attention to the declining income from membership and a lively discussion ensued around ideas to attract new members. The Committee is working on some of the suggestions put forward (see **AGM Minutes**) but if you have any more ideas, please contact a member of the Committee (see below)

We are still looking for a new **Secretary** to replace **Penelope**, who has done it for 10 years. New Committee member **Liz Campling** is now newsletter editor and any items for inclusion should be sent to her (contact details below). We are also looking for another Committee Member (or 2). It is not onerous. There are only 3-4 meetings a year, but we need to keep the ideas flowing if Cogs is to remain a vibrant organisation.

November 2018 meeting – Diana Morgan gave an interesting talk, illustrated with slides, of her trip to Cuba with Susie to see for herself how the Cubans had converted their agriculture in the 20 years plus since the sudden Soviet withdrawal from mechanisation and oil-based fertilisers to organic farming and permaculture. This had been a steep learning curve for the Cubans but is beginning to reap its rewards.

Late Winter and Spring Meetings 2019

January 28th Members Evening as last year for discussion, questions and sharing of experiences over the past year, plus any topic of local interest. We are going to have a tasting again of any jam and preserves that we have made, so do bring two samples of your best and most interesting.

February 25th Martin Jarvis of Culberry Herbs on growing herbs and vegetable plants – an important part of our cultivation.

March 25th Michael Joseph 'Art and the Garden'. Michael tells us "This is a bit of fun and is interactive with the audience although they do not need to be artistic. It includes sculpture but is more about design, which colours to put where, hard or soft edges, structure, form etc. The audience will understand why they like something and why it works. They can think differently about their own gardens".

April 29th Barry Newman: Growing Vegetables. Barry is a popular expert on cultivating vegetables and has been a judge at many shows. He is coming at a good moment to give us his advice on how to manage our own vegetables over the spring and summer.

May 20th Plant Swop and Spring Fling. Hoping we have all profited from the April meeting, we may have numerous seedlings and young plants to bring and exchange. Please remember that if they do not find a good home, you must take them back with you. And, of course, there will be the traditional supper of home-cooked food. Please bring your own plate, glass and cutlery with you, as well as a dish to share.

Summer Visits 2019

To be arranged. If you have any good ideas, please let a member of the Committee know.

Autumn Meetings 2019

September 30th Dr Steve Millam on Shrubs and Foliage. A return visit from this popular lecturer from Brinsbury College, who will talk about the more long-lasting parts of the garden.

October 28th AGM 2019 and Harvest Supper

November 25th Kerry Jackson of RSPB on Birds in our Gardens. Kerry will illustrate her talk with photos and recordings of bird songs.

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

Out and About in the Area

Water Bottle Refill Scheme – as part of new CDC initiative to discourage one-use plastic bottles, refill points for replenishing reusable bottles and cups are to be provided in cafes and other venues are the town. Diana Morgan is the local representative for this scheme so contact her (details below) for more information.

World War 1 Memorial Carving – the 100th anniversary of the armistice on 11th November saw the dedication of a new sculpture in the Litten Memorial Garden. Based on the concept of turning ‘swords into ploughshares’, it represents a local man, Alfred Smith, both at war as a soldier in the trenches and in his peacetime occupation as a market gardener. It was carved by Dave Lucas of The Woodland Centre from a single piece of oak taken from a centuries old tree that blew down in a storm on the Little Breach Allotments, and was commissioned by the City Council under the initiative of Property Manager, Peter Roberts, and Councillor Rob Campling. As well as a remarkable example of the sculptor’s skill, it is also truly moving. Go and see it if you can.

Your Cogs Organisers are:

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, Membership Secretary, plus:

Pat Alderton (01243 822615) Penelope Johnstone (01243 771881)

Diana Morgan (01243 786386) Anne Bennett (01243 781289)

Liz Campling (01243 532910; lizcamplinguk@hotmail.com)

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