

Chichester Organic Gardening Society

Newsletter 79 January 2020

Notes from the Committee

A Happy New Year to all our members. And here's hoping that the welcome rains of Autumn 2019 (whatever anyone says, we needed them, although maybe not in that intensity) have not left your gardens and vegetable patches too waterlogged.

At the September meeting Dr Steve Millam from Brinsbury College gave a talk on **Shrubs and Foliage**, which was well-attended. He altered the scheduled presentation a little to suggest long-term garden planting schemes that would flourish in whatever weather conditions climate change would bring to these Isles – whether drier, hotter summers or more torrential downpours at any time of the year. Everyone there must have learned something useful for their own garden.

The **AGM and Harvest Supper in October** was less well-attended than usual but a convivial time was had by those who came and everyone enjoyed the spread of tasty home-prepared food. The business side of the meeting was straightforward. The accounts showed that we broke even for the year to 31st August 2019, with £752 in the bank. Penelope offered to stand as official Secretary, having been doing the job for years unofficially, and Stephanie to continue as membership secretary. The new Treasurer is Liz Campling. Vee Cowan, our former Speakers Secretary, volunteered to rejoin the Committee, and Pat Alderton and Diana Morgan agreed to continue. All six were elected en bloc.

For the **November meeting** we welcomed **Kerry Jackson of RSPB, who gave an illustrated talk on Birds in our Gardens**. Everyone there agreed it was a most engrossing talk with a lovely soundtrack of birdsong and some wonderful still photographs of garden birds. Wildlife photography, as any keen photographer will testify, is one of the most difficult skills to master.

Late Winter Meetings and Spring meetings 2020

January 27th 2020 – a members' get-together and discussion evening, so bring your queries and anecdotes from the 2019 growing season to share and maybe pick up some tips. Last year members brought lots of homemade jams and chutneys to sample and this was enjoyed by all, so please bring your goodies along this time.

February 24th a talk about the **Aldingbourne Centre** by one of its representatives.

March 30th Following the talk given by Nick Mole a couple of years ago, **Hannah Conway of Pesticide Action Network UK (PAN UK)** will update us about their work. PAN UK is a partner organisation of Garden Organic, and the campaign for pesticide-free towns has gathered momentum recently with Chichester City Council's resolution to declare Chichester a pesticide free town. This decision now needs to be implemented, and hopefully the message will spread to our neighbouring local authorities.

April 27th a talk by **Dave Lucas ('Chainsaw Dave')** from the **Woodland Centre** on how a 300 year-old oak tree on the Little Breach allotments, which was blown

down in the storms of February 2014, was transformed into the First World War memorial statue in Litten Gardens set up to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the armistice in November 2018. This carving is only one of many that the Centre has made from recycled wood, and there will undoubtedly be a chance to see pictures of many of them.

Autumn Meetings 2020

September 28th Sarah Hughes, Community Wildlife Officer at CDC will give a talk on local wildlife and the proposed wildlife corridors.

October 26th – AGM and Harvest Supper

November 30th – to be decided

*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*

Summer Visits

At the AGM Susan Maguire kindly gave out an invitation for members to visit the garden at her new house, which by next summer should be in good shape. With Susan's long history of dedication to organic gardening, it should be an interesting visit.

Other visits will be discussed at the Committee meeting in the New Year.

Other Matters

At the AGM it was announced that we have received a sum of £265 from donations in memory of David Scott, and we need to think of something special to do with a sum this substantial.. One well-received suggestion was for a tree in David's memory, but other suggestions are welcome.

Also at the AGM Susan Maguire mentioned that the Transition Community Orchard, behind the Theatre, would be grateful for help in its upkeep, and she suggested anyone interested could contact Grow Chichester.

Having already taken the past issues of the Newsletter to the Record Office, they have also agreed to take the minutes of past committee meetings and AGMs, dating from 1992. A big thank you to Penelope for this initiative.

Your Cogs Organisers are:

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

Secretary – Penelope Johnstone (01243 771881; penelopejohnstone@yahoo.co.uk)

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

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

Committee Members – Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, plus:

Pat Alderton (01243 822615) Vee Cowan (01243 780518)

Diana Morgan (01243 786386)

