



## Chichester Organic Gardening Society

Dear COGS Member

Below is the Autumn Newsletter – thanks to Liz Campling for putting it together.

The planned meetings are, of course, subject to any change in the rules for indoor meetings. We will try and inform members if it's necessary to cancel anything at short notice.

As you see, we're looking for ideas for our October meeting, to replace the usual Harvest Supper.

Depending on how well the September meeting is supported, we might be able to make plans for something a little different in October.

Finally, thanks to all those who pay their subs by standing order, or other ways direct from the bank.

If you intend to pay by cash at the September meeting, please bring the correct amount, £6 per household, with you, so we can minimise the handling of cash.

The same goes for the £2 entry fee - please bring the correct change and drop it into our box. We still need to pay for the hall!

### **Chichester Organic Gardening Society Newsletter**

#### **Newsletter 81 September 2020**

##### **Notes from the Committee**

In the closing days of a summer unlike any most of us have experienced before, let us focus on the positive. It was a beautiful Spring and a decent, if rather dry, summer, if we forget about the last few days of August. From what we have heard, in spite of the drought, most fruit and vegetables cropped well, and the rains came just in time to rescue our stressed gardens. We hope you have enjoyed your gardens and allotments that extra bit more this year for being so very precious when so many other activities were restricted. For the author of this newsletter, it was the first, and probably only, time in her life that she felt warm towards Michael Gove, when he squashed attempts by local councils to shut allotments down, arguing that they were a safe form of exercise during lockdown.

The other piece of good news is that the monthly COGS meetings will resume in September. The Newell Centre have put extra hygiene measures in place and the venue is big enough to enable us to sit suitably spaced. There will be no refreshments or raffle but Sarah Hughes, Community Wildlife Officer at CDC will be coming to talk as planned. We hope to meet up again with as many members as feel able to come.

### **Autumn Meetings 2020**

**September 28<sup>th</sup> Sarah Hughes, Community Wildlife Officer at CDC** will give a talk on local wildlife and the proposed wildlife corridors. With the latest government proposals for planning regulations, the threat to biodiversity has increased and these corridors become all the more vital.

**October 26<sup>th</sup> – AGM** . There will be no harvest supper this year but we would like suggestions from members for something to fill the gap. A traditional team quiz will not work if we are to be safely spaced. If anyone has a new and interesting recipe for using up gluts, do let a committee member know so that we can publish it in a future newsletter and get to enjoy it at home.

**November 30<sup>th</sup> – Paul Gallivan, Gardens and Outdoor Manager of Woolbeding Gardens, a lovely national trust site near Midhurst.**

**Harvests under solar panels ('Guardian 22<sup>nd</sup> August)** – with solar farms in the South of England now economically viable, scientists have come up with semi-transparent ones that allow crops to be grown underneath. The tinted panels harvest the blue and green light to make electricity, allowing the redder light to pass through to enable the crops to grow. 2 trial crops, basil and spinach, have been grown successfully. Although the yield was down on traditional polytunnels, the electricity plus the produce made greater profits than normal farming and the nutritional level was slightly higher. **An idea to watch for the future.**

*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*

### **Your Cogs Organisers are:**

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**Secretary** – Penelope Johnstone (01243 771881; [penelopejohnstone@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:penelopejohnstone@yahoo.co.uk))

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**Website** – Tom Broughton (01243 790026; [tom@chicogs.org.uk](mailto:tom@chicogs.org.uk))

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

Pat Alderton (01243 822615)

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