

## Chichester Organic Gardening Society

### Newsletter 87 September 2022

#### Notes from the Committee

The news from the outside world hasn't improved over the summer but we hope that your gardens and allotments were beautiful and productive in spite of heat and drought and provided some much-needed solace. Tomatoes certainly loved the warmth and make delicious pasta sauce. The watery ones of British cool damp summers seem a distant memory.

After all the enforced cancellations, we are hoping for a full programme this Autumn (see below). There are so many members we have not seen for a while and we'd be delighted to meet up with you all again if you can make it.

#### Meetings and Visits Spring/Summer 2022

**25<sup>th</sup> April** - a serious health problem prevented the planned talk by **Melanie Oxley on 'Gardening in a Climate Crisis'**. When we last heard, she was somewhat better so hopefully we can book this talk for a later date.

**6<sup>th</sup> June - Spring Fling** – only 10 members attended but we all enjoyed a convivial evening with the usual variety of delicious homemade food. The evening was concluded with a word quiz set by Terry Timblick.

#### **Visit to Susan's (Maudsley-Maguire's) Garden Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2022 – a report from Gina Scott**

It is always a delight to visit Susan's garden, as a select group of us did on the afternoon of the summer solstice. It was a perfect day; blue skies, warm sunshine and the slightest breeze to relieve the heat.

Susan purchased her home when it was still being built, so she could discuss her requirements with her landscaper, Annie Guilfoyle. When I first visited the bare bones were in place; a state-of-the-art greenhouse, brick raised beds, storage and compost bays neatly hidden and new planting starting to appear.

Three years on a transformation as the garden matures. Low growing herbs and plants such as Marjoram, Thyme and Erigeron have bushed out to soften path edges, no bare earth can be seen in the borders and fulfilling Susan's desire for bees and butterflies insects are busy everywhere. A border flower, Agastache Blue Boa, striking and long flowering, also loved by bees, caused particular interest. The raised beds contain potatoes and other vegetables, including asparagus, a favourite. Susan gardens biodynamically as well as organically, and companion planting such as Tagetes appear among the veg.

In the greenhouse Ailsa Craig tomatoes are doing well and a stunning vine of Polo Muscat grapes provides some shade along with the fitted shades, necessary with the hot sunshine we are experiencing. In the cold frames outside Charentais melon and Butternut Squash are grown from saved seed.

Elsewhere a Victoria plum is starting to bear fruit and there are two golden currant bushes. There is even room for a small lawn.

As we sat on the shady side of the terrace and admired the view we agreed this was a perfect example of how to make the most of a small garden.

## **Talks Autumn 2022/ Spring 2023**

**26th September** – a talk by **David Standing, former head gardener at Gilbert White’s Garden in Selbourne**. After his retirement, David continues to research the history of the garden and 18<sup>th</sup> Century plants. This talk is likely to be of interest to more than just COGS members, so please do tell your friends and neighbours about it. A colourful poster, designed by member Mary Iden, is available to download. Just let Stephanie or Liz (emails below) know if you would like one.

## **31<sup>st</sup> October – AGM and Harvest Supper**

**28<sup>th</sup> November** – **Maggie Haynes from Tuppenny Barn** will talk on the development of the charity and the Outside Living Classroom. A lot has happened since our last visit as a society.

**30<sup>th</sup> January 2023** – **Jane Reeve from the Manhood Wildlife Group** to speak on an aspect of local wildlife in the current environment.

**27<sup>th</sup> February - members evening**. In preparation for the coming season please bring any seeds you have to swop, whether home-saved or commercial but please make sure they are clearly labelled.

**27<sup>th</sup> March** – a talk by someone from **Chichester Physio** about health and safety in the garden. None of us is getting any younger, so advice on preventing sprains and pulled muscles in particular is ever more essential.

**24 April - Spring Fling and Plant Swop**. This is a break from our tradition of holding this event on the last meeting of the spring in May or June. Only one member brought seedlings last year as most of us had planted out or given away our young plants by then. April, on the other hand, seems a more promising time so we are giving the change of date a whirl in 2023. Please bring your plant swops and a contribution to the Bring and Share Supper.

**5<sup>th</sup> June** – **the Committee has some ideas**. There will be an update in the January newsletter.

## **Tree in Memory of David Scott**

A flowering Sorbus (crab apple) has been sourced from Paul Barnett, a local grower. Planting is planned for late Autumn/early Winter depending on the moisture in the soil. We are liaising with the New Park Community Centre about the practicalities.

## **Last Words – Rain**

Some rain at last! Although it is sometimes inconvenient, let’s hope for an Autumn and Winter of steady rain that soaks into the earth rather than causing flash floods!

*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:**

**Treasurer** – Liz Campling (01243 532910; [lizcamplinguk@hotmail.com](mailto:lizcamplinguk@hotmail.com))

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

**Membership Secretary** – Stephanie Carn (01243 533393; [stephcarn@gmail.com](mailto:stephcarn@gmail.com))

**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)

Gina Scott (01243 778689)

Diana Morgan

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