

Chichester Organic Gardening Society

Newsletter 80 April 2020

Notes from the Committee

This will be a shorter than usual newsletter, as our activities are on hold, along with so much else in the world. Meanwhile let us go on, as I know we are, taking care of each other and waiting for better times. Don't forget that if anyone needs help, the Committee are happy to be contacted and will do what they can. Gardeners like us are probably better placed than many to ride the crisis. Let's hope for some wonderful floral displays and bumper food crops as we have fewer other things to distract us. And if you live with a male, try to keep the sudden enthusiasm for home improvements under some control!

January 27th 2020 – only 6 members attended our get-together and discussion evening, which was held on a very wet night. But we all had a good and companionable time, with plenty of homemade goodies to sample. Ben asked about a weed that is infesting his garden and it was suggested that a photo be put on the website to see if anyone could identify it. So please look if you can and phone Ben if you have any ideas.

February 24th 2020- Tracy, the Volunteer Co-ordinator at the Aldingbourne Country Centre, assisted by Debbie, one of the clients, gave an illustrated talk on the work of the Centre which supports 560 people with learning difficulties and trains them in skills with which they can make a contribution to the community. Among the range of training activities are catering and food preparation, animal care and welfare, plant cultivation, timber reuse and furniture repair and restoration. With many activities on site for children and adults including a farm and play area, it makes a great day out for all the family. Something I guess most of us did not know is that the Centre maintains the flower beds and hanging baskets at some local railway stations. For more information search: www.aldingbournetrust.org.

Late Winter and Spring Meetings 2020

The March 30th and April 27th meetings have been cancelled. Both Hannah Conway of Pesticide Action Network UK (PAN UK) and **Dave Lucas ('Chainsaw Dave')** from the Woodland Centre have agreed to visit at a later date, so watch this space for further information.

June 1st Spring Fling - - this has not yet been officially cancelled yet but it seems very unlikely that we will be able to meet then. Stephanie will let members know in due course.

Autumn Meetings 2020

Hopefully these will go ahead.

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 – Talk from Paul Gallivan, Garden and Outdoor Manager of Woolbeding Gardens. Lovely National Trust gardens near Midhurst.

Summer Visits

Hopefully the proposed visit to Susan Maguire's new garden will still be on but a date has not yet been fixed. Stephanie will contact members.

We have also been in touch with the Arundel Arboretum about a visit in August but will have to wait until nearer the time to make any firm arrangements.

Other Matters

Terry Timblick spotted a letter in 'The Times' recalling that our Tudor ancestors loved to eat one of our major garden enemies: **ground elder**. Here may be an ideal forage crop for a salad at the next Spring Fling – sadly probably in 2021.

A few days ago, when Stephanie and Alan were on a walk, they discovered that the **Black Dog Nursery**, Fisher Lane, North Mundham, PO20 1YU still had plants for sale, both flowers and vegetables, on their outside stall. They went back another day by car, because it's difficult to carry many plants when out for a walk. It was all very well organised with a large yard for parking, and greenhouses where you can look at the plants available. with an outside till for cash or card. They said that as they are a "working nursery" they can sell to the public, as they always have done. We cannot be sure, though, that it will still be open by the time this newsletter comes out, so best to check on **783889**. You may have bought plants from their stall at Chichester Farmer's Market.

If anyone else knows of places that are selling plants, please let us know and we can spread the word. With all the garden centres closed down, it's very difficult to get supplies.

*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*

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