

Chichester Organic Gardening Society

Newsletter 82 January 2021

Notes from the Committee

A Happy New Year to all. And let us hope that 2021 turns out to be a better and more hopeful year than 2020. As nearly all our activities were cancelled over the last 12 months, there is little to report. 2021's meetings are also suspended until further notice, but as soon as we can get together again, we will let members know. It will be something we can all look forward to, as will Spring, which is not so far away now. Soon we shall notice the days getting longer again.

26th October 2020 AGM – we did manage to squeeze the AGM (but without the customary Bring and Share supper) before the 2nd lockdown started in November. The Newell Centre very generously offered to charge us a lower rate than usual as we were restricted to a maximum of 30. 6 members attended, which was just a quorum, and the usual business was conducted swiftly, followed by some pleasant socialising. The committee was re-elected on bloc (see below). The Treasurer reported that the accounts for the year to 30 August 2020 showed a more or less breakeven position. Although we lost income from entrance fees, raffles and shows, expenditure was also reduced. This is not ideal as the Society exists to **do things**, but it does mean that there has been no detriment to our financial position during this period of forced inactivity.

The generous donation made in 2019 in memory of David Scott remains unspent. Given the current unusual circumstances, it was decided to wait until more normal times. In the meanwhile, the Committee will keep the issue to the forefront and continue to debate possibilities. Any suggestions from members will be very welcome.

Other News

After 30 years of versifying, long-time member, Terry Timblich, has published a book of poems on subjects ranging from lockdown, flowers, Oaklands Park, apples and David Attenborough. The price is £6 (£8 by post) and proceeds go to Save the Children Fund. If you would like a copy, please contact Terry on 01243 537812 or via terrytimblick@gmail.com.

January Gardening Tips – just a few random ones:

Now that the cold weather has really arrived, food is short for birds, so do not forget to put out fresh water every day and some sustaining food to help them keep warm. They need fat, so suet mixed with seeds, nuts and fruit is good. How to stop the squirrels elbowing in is another matter!

If you are planning to plant early peas, start warming the ground up by placing fleece or a cloche over it.

Cut back any perennials that have gone soggy and straggly and remove the debris, so that they do not harbour snails and slugs.

Cut off last years leaves from hellebores, so that you can see the flowers better at this time when little else is flowering.

Finally, curl up in the warmth with a cup/glass of your favourite beverage and indulge yourself in planning your planting for spring and summer.

*Unless otherwise stated, Monday meetings take place at the Bassil
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)

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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 (07789 013472)

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