

25 October 2021 at 7.30 pm (doors open at 7.15 pm)

**CHICHESTER ORGANIC GARDENING SOCIETY AGM
AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Adoption of minutes of last AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Adoption of Accounts
5. Election of Officers
6. Election of Committee
7. AOB

The AGM will be followed by:
The Harvest Supper

**Election of Officers
The Society has the following posts**

Position	Committee Mbr in 2019-2021	Held by in 2019 – 2021	Standing for re-election in 2021 – 2022
Chair		Vacant	
Secretary	Yes	Vacant	
Treasurer	Yes	Liz Campling	
Membership Secretary	Yes	Stephanie Carn	Yes
Future Events		Vacancy	
Publicity	Yes	Vacancy	
Newsletter	Yes	Liz Campling	Yes
Committee Member	Yes	Pat Alderton	Yes
Committee Member	Yes	Penelope Johnstone	Yes
Committee Member	Yes	Diana Morgan	Yes
Committee Member	Yes	Vee Cowan	No

We would like more committee, and need a new Secretary; please do consider standing. There are usually three committee meetings a year.

Chichester Organic Gardening Society

Annual General Meeting 2020

Held at the Bassil Shippam Centre on Monday October 26th 2020

1. Present: Committee: Liz Campling, Stephanie Carn, Vee Cowan, Penelope Johnstone, Members: Alan Carn, Sarah Clark.

Apologies: Pat Alderton, Diana Morgan

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on October 28th 2019 were proposed Liz Campling, seconded Stephanie Carn, and accepted.

3. Matters arising: We hope that visits (Susan Maguire's garden, Arundel Arboretum) can be arranged for 2021. Speakers for this year have been postponed (Chainsaw Dave, Sarah Hughes, and Pesticides) until such time as we are back to normal.

4. Treasurer: We have funds in hand of £998, and although we have an actual deficit for the year of £34, we start the new year without losing any ground. The accounts are available and were circulated at the meeting. There will be a brief Newsletter in January.

Accounts were proposed by Vee Cowan, seconded Sarah Clark, and accepted.

Separately, but still under finance, we have previously been asked to consider how best to use the very generous amount left to COGS by David Scott. Alan pointed out that it is not easy to get schools involved, as so much depends upon personnel in a school at any one time. We feel it is better to hold over the amount until more normal times, but to keep reminding ourselves and think of possibilities.

5. and 6. Elections of officers and committee: Under the circumstances, and no nominations having been received, the present members of the committee, and office-holders, are prepared to continue, and this was agreed.

7. Any Other Business: Alan suggested that, as with Chichester Natural History Society, we might have a book available at meetings, for members to note observations, suggestions, experiences, which might be of interest to others.

It was also pointed out that some members might be somewhat isolated during the current climate, and various phone calls were agreed to be made fairly soon.

There being no option this year for a Harvest Supper, the meeting closed at 8.0 p.m. and we departed shortly after.

Committee's Report for the year ending October 2021

To recap, as they say ... our last full AGM was on 28 October 2019, and normal events continued for the rest of that year, with a November meeting addressed by Kerry Jackson of the RSPB, with pictures and audio of birdsong.

2020 January began as usual with a members' get-together, with plenty of discussion and sampling of homemade products.

February meeting was a talk from the Aldingbourne Country Centre, which supports 560 people with learning difficulties, training them in a variety of useful skills.

The March meeting was cancelled, along with all our other planned activities, when a 'temporary' lockdown was decreed. This stretched like an approaching tide over the rest of the year, and everything else was cancelled. Weeks of unbroken sunshine however proved a compensation, while traffic reduced, the air was cleaner, birdsong became more audible, and skies free of aircraft. Members were able to put in time on their allotments and gardens, which flourished.

October, during a temporary time of freedom, allowed us to hold our annual AGM, though with only a few members present and with no harvest supper. The current Committee was voted in, but no activities were possible for the rest of the year.

2021 started more hopefully. Thanks to Jenny Cole, who organised Zoom meetings via the Quakers, we held postponed meetings at long distance. **February**, Sarah Hughes, Wildlife Officer with Chichester District Council, spoke about the need for wildlife corridors in the area, to preserve habitats and the network of local chalk streams. **March**, Nick Mole and Emma Pavans de Ceccatty from the Pesticide Action Network spoke on pesticide-free towns, an initiative which we would like to encourage. Then **April** a presentation by Jenny Cole and Paula Chatfield on the Chichester Tree Wardens.

A summer of strange weather was enlivened by visits (two groups) to Susan Maguire's new, beautifully planned and planted garden in the Summersdale area. Another small group, gathered at short notice, visited Chris Bryan whose lawn harbours the tiny orchid *Spiranthes spiralis*, also known as Autumn Lady's Tresses. These white orchids, only a few inches high, were new to many of us.

September and back to normal life with an illustrated talk from Paul Gallivan, warden of Woolbeding, an extensive estate near Midhurst with numerous varied sections of garden and magnificent herbaceous borders. This was attended by 20 people, including two new members, and we hope to arrange a visit to Woolbeding in the summer.