

Committee Meeting - Charlbury Garden Society

Rose and Crown - 29th March 2022 - 7:30PM

Committee Members Present:	Hugh Belshaw, Zoe Burton, Alison Derham, Di Gold, Geoff Holmberg, Geneviève Hug, John Moore, Catrin Weston
Committee Members Apologies:	Susan Dunstall, Stephen Nelson, Catherine Goyder
Chair:	Geoff Holmberg
Host:	Geoff Holmberg
Minutes:	Zoe Burton

1. Minutes from last meeting on 11th November 2021

Agreed by the committee members present on 29th March 2022

Action: Gen to post minutes on website

2. Reports

2.1 Treasury (Catrin)

New system is working very well. Monthly reconciliation has been happening every other month in the quieter winter months but will move to monthly with more events through spring and summer.

Geoff shared the final profit and lost from the previous events:

- October Plant Swap: Showing a £45 loss but that is a payment relating to previous year
- Wreath Making Workshop: £250 profit although hire of the hall still to come
- Earthworms Talk (Zoom): £75 loss
- Wild Gardening (Zoom): £60 loss

2.2 Membership (Gen)

Quick report: We have collected £1441 so far in subs for 2022. We have a total of 238 members, half of which are joint members, and 43 new members. A few people are donating extra money with their subs.

2.3 Gardening and growing (Susan)

No update for this meeting. Previously discussed project to plant the far side of the Charlbury Train Station flower border commencing in October.

Action: Alison to confirm with Susan the status of the October planting project

2.4 Junior gardening and growing (Alison)

Primary School

Alison is in contact with the Primary School regarding the bulb planting project.

Following the appeal for help at the Waterperry Gardens talk, a Garden Society member has volunteered to offer advice on the veg growing project along with two parents from the school. Thanks gratefully received from the Primary School. £100 has been donated to start off the project.

Sunflowers

Following a post on the Charlbury Forum, there is interest from the Community in expanding the sunflower competition to raise money for Ukraine as the sunflower is the country's national flower. Gill Begnor would like to have a stall at the Spring Show selling sunflower seeds for £3 which would be planted and judged in the Autumn Show. The Sunflower category would be expanded from children to include adult entries and all from the same seed packets to level the competition. Gill will have a separate stand at the Spring Show, seeds to be purchased in cash or Gill will provide her own card reader. Funds will be as a separate charity fundraising event from Garden Society Spring Show.

Action: Zoe to include section on the charity sunflower seed sale and competition in Spring Show publicity email

3. Events (Catherine)

3.1 Spring Show - 9th April 2022

Arts Society Private View

The Charlbury Art Society have kindly agreed to invite all Garden Society members (200+ people) to a Private View on Thursday 8th April from 6:30 to 8:00.

Action: Zoe to include invite to Private View in Spring Show publicity email

Spring Show

Rota confirmed and filled with volunteers for the day and attached to these minutes. Thanks extended to the volunteers for giving up their time.

Raffle will take place in conjunction with the Arts Society and proceeds to be split equally. A hamper of local produce will be provided by the Garden Society as a prize. Any produce contributed to the hamper by committee members to be provided on the morning (prior to the opening at 12pm) of the Spring Show.

The event will be cash only as there will be multiple stands for which many small transactions will take a fee.

Action: All Committee Members to source local (ideally homemade) produce for hamper (jams, wine, seasonal vegetables, plants)

Action: Alison to ask if Sarah Potter will help with accepting entries at the gate

Action: Alison to provide (display only) basket/hamper for prize

Action: Alison to bake biscuits for hamper

Action: Geoff to bake bread for hamper

Action: Zoe to bake cake for hamper

Action: Geoff to purchase cakes and supplies for the tea stand

Action: Alison to make laminated sign for door advising that cash only event

Action: Zoe to add reminder to publicity email that cash only event

Action: Catrin to provide float

3.2 Plant Sale - 21st May 2022

Confirmed this will be a sale and not a swap/donation event. Organisational details to be confirmed at the next committee meeting.

Action: Geoff to contact plant nursery ASAP regarding plant purchase.

Action: Zoe to include reminder in Spring Show publicity email in case people want to grow and donate their own plants.

Action: Zoe to send Plant Sale publicity email in first week of May and create posters.

3.3 Open Gardens - 19th June 2022 (Catherine)

In hand at the moment for a route round Market St, Dyers Hill, Church Lane, Park St and Church St. Awaiting confirmation of a 9th garden, so 8 confirmed and more public gardens; Museum, Friends Meeting House garden and Baptist Church being followed up.

Catherine requested help to prepare the programme and arrange details. In 2019, a sub-group was formed to do this with help from Peter Kenrick and St Fair. Details moved to the next committee meeting but Hugh, Gen and Alison volunteered to help on the day.

3.4 Self Drives

Following the hugely successful Wildflowers talk with Craig Blackwell has offered to run a Guided Walk in the Glyme SSSI. This would ideally be at a weekend to maximise the number of possible attendees but could be evening if in June.

Committee discussed a wide variety of possible self drive locations including The Gray House Kitchen Garden in Chadlington, Rousham, Wisley and Broughton Grange.

It was noted that Sarah Potter has previously organised coach trips and may be willing to do the same for a summer event.

Action: Catherine to contact Craig to arrange a date for Guided Walk with Craig Blackwell

Action: Catherine to investigate self-drive trip to Rousham

Action: Gen to contact Emma regarding possible The Gray House visit.

Action: Geoff to contact Sarah Potter regarding coach trip

3.5 Talks for 2023

So far January confirmed with a talk by Maggie Tran from Bramdean Garden.

Catrin received requests from members for more talks on practical subjects. Vegetable growing, winter colour and summer containers all discussed.

Action: All Committee Members to see if anyone in their network would be interested in giving a talk on a practical subject

4. Other matters

4.1 AOB

Projector

For the Wildflowers talk, the projector and screen were borrowed from the Arts Society and positioned at the side rather than the front of the room. This was agreed to be a better layout as it created a more personal talk. Paddy has offered to give Alison, Geoff and Zoe a demo on how to work the main projector installed in the hall. Previously, this has not always worked. Committee discussed sourcing their own projector and screen to be more autonomous and provide a preferable layout. Next talk is not until October so not urgent.

Action: Catrin to see if she can source a free/low cost projector from her contacts

Action: Zoe to research cost of purchasing projector and screen

Advice for Members

Catrin was approached by some Garden Society members asking to advise on where to source well rotted manure and compost locally. Geoff has previously spoken to Nick Johnson who no longer has a contact. Concerns about recommending a particular supplier or source if there were issues. The Charlbury Gardeners Facebook Group or Forum could be a better source of information.

Action: Geoff to research new local suppliers of manure/compost

Newsletter

Susan's most recent newsletter was very well received and multiple committee members had received positive comments from members. Creating the unique content for each newsletter quarterly is very time consuming and could be better divided among the committee members to be more manageable. Suggested that by having a quarterly Committee Meeting, the content for the newsletter could be divided amongst the Committee; for example tips for the quarter or recipes.

4.2 Date of next meeting

Agreed to move the meeting to the Corner House so it is easier to hear than The Rose and Crown and the space is guaranteed.

Next meeting **Tuesday 17th May 2022.**

Action: Alison to book the Corner House for the next meeting

4.3 Items for discussion at next meeting

- Support for Catherine in preparing the Open Gardens program organisation details
- Plant Sale
- Guided Walk
- Support for Susan in preparing the quarterly newsletter
- Sourcing reliable local suppliers of compost and manure

5. Spring Show Rota

See below for the final Spring Show Rota. As there will be no plant sale, these roles for the afternoon have been removed from the list.

Task	Timing	People required	Names
Friday – night before – pick up entry forms (if any) from Nick Johnson's house and complete records	9.00 p m?	2	Geoff Holmberg Alison
Arrange tables	8.00 – 8.30	2	Stephen Nelson John Moore
Set up cards in hall	8.30 – 9.30	3	Geoff Holmberg Alison
Saturday – receive entrants at door	9.30 – 10.45	2	Catrin, Geoff, Stephen, Alison, Sarah Potter
Advice to entrants	10.45 – 12.00	1	Stephen Nelson/ Geoff
Steward	10.45 – 12.00	1	Susan
Write up Book	10.45 – 12.00	1	Geoff Holmberg
Write up Prize cards	10.45 – 12.00	1	Susan
Raffle	12.00 – 2.30	1	Patrick Derham
Raffle	2.30 - 4.45	1	Catherine
Membership Issues	2.30 - 4.45	1	Gen Hug
Plants	12.00 – 2.30	4	Stephen Nelson John Moore
Plants	2.30 – 4.45	4	Stephen Nelson John Moore
Teas	12.00 – 2.30	2	Alison/ Gen/ Zoe
Teas	2.30 - 4.30	2	Di Gold/Liz Merry ??Sue Smith??
Handle any Show Queries	12.00 – 5.00	1	Geoff Holmberg
Award cup and draw raffle	4.45	1	Geoff Holmberg John Moore
Clear up	4.45- 5.30	4 - 6	Everyone
Cup - remove for engraving	5.00	1	John Moore