

Committee Meeting - Charlbury Garden Society

Rose and Crown - Tuesday 6th September 2022 - 7:30PM

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

1. Agree minutes from last meeting on 17th May

Agreed by the committee members present on 6th September 2022

Action: Gen to post minutes on website

2. Reports

2.1 Brief review of recent events

2.1.1 Plant Sale – 21st May 2022 (Alison)

From Alison: This was quite stressful at times. We had a rush of people at the beginning which then died off rapidly. We were never sure if we were going to sell enough to break even. Patrick managed to sell a lot of the planted containers at the end to a couple who were passing though! We did well on teas and coffees. I think if we do it again we ought to only have plants in flower as people didn't know what many of them would look like. I wonder if bedding plants have had their day with water shortages etc.

The financial success of this year's Plant Sale required ingenuity from sellers and committee members bought plants themselves. As annual plants and hanging baskets are less fashionable and increased challenges around watering due to climate change, the Plant Swap was suggested as a greener alternative. Based on the ROI, the Committee recommends discontinuing the Plant Sale for next year and replacing it with a Plant Swap. We may wish to rename/rebrand the Plant Swap and include a "suggested donation."

Action: Geoff Notify the provider of plans to discontinue the event

2.1.2 Open Gardens – 19th June 2022 (Catherine)

Details included in an article in the Charlbury Chronicle. Next year's Open Gardens Planning will start in February. Catherine to update the spreadsheet of previous participants.

2.1.3 Glyme Valley walk and Gray House Garden self-drives (Catherine)

Details included in an article in the Charlbury Chronicle.

2.2 Treasury (Catrin)

Donations for 2021/22 confirmed by the Committee as shown below. Station garden donations (near-side – see exchange with Georgie Slack – and far-side) also confirmed.

The following committee's recommendations for 2022 were agreed at the 2021 AGM, in accordance with our greening objectives:

- *Charlbury Station garden (far side) £500*
- *Charlbury station garden (near side) £60*
- *Charlbury Primary School £60*
- *Charlbury Preschool £60*

After Judy Dod's and Hugh Belshaw's intervention, we agreed to add to this list:

- *Museum Garden £60*
- *Corner House Garden £60*

2.3 Membership (Gen)

Nothing special to report.

2.4 Projects (Susan)

From last meeting: Far side of the station to be tackled in the autumn. Catrin will investigate planting a tree for John the Station Master who has passed away.

Helpers will be required for planting in autumn.

2.5 Junior gardening and growing (Alison)

From Alison: We helped the Primary School with a donation towards their sustainability project and planting of a herb garden etc. Geoff helped set up a watering system. We were invited to attend a small ceremony which Geoff went to. I think it is important that we continue to support ventures like this with either physical or monetary help.

Grant allocation (mentioned in 2.2) for Primary School dependent on the decisions of the Head. Outside tap already installed (grant for parts only). Decision to be made regarding clearing and refilling the pond and installing a water butt (may have health and safety concerns). CGS continues to support Primary School in projects with volunteers or advice for

Thursday Afternoon Gardening sessions as the children are enthusiastic and the school has won an award. Early sown vegetables, with daily watering that can be harvested before July most suitable.

3. Remaining events for 2022

3.1 Rousham Gardens self-drive – 8th September (Catherine)

Logistical challenge collecting payments in advance and pressure from Rousham combined with unpredictable weather forecast has made the trip challenging to organise. As Rousham does not offer a tour or extras for paying in advance, we will negotiate not doing this in the future as this is not how CGS generally organises trips.

3.2 Annual Show – 10th September 2022 (Geoff)

From Geoff: Nicola Morgan is recommending that we don't award the allotment cup this year. A lot of people have given up and it appears that allotment water availability is variable depending upon which allotment site you're on. So she is saying that it seems a bit unfair to penalise those without a water source.

Committee agreed with Nicola Morgan's recommendation to not award the allotment cup. Participants to be notified at the Annual Garden and Produce Show.

Early warning from Geoff - it takes a lot of people to run the Annual Show - there will be 5 judges each of which needs a steward plus someone to write up Prize cards and someone to write up the book/sheets (Geoff). Whilst judging is happening it needs 2 people to prepare the prize money. So that's 9 minimum.

Rota of volunteers filled and timings confirmed during the meeting.

From last meeting: Gill Begnor is happy for the sunflower growing for Ukraine to be included in the two classes we have in the Autumn Show. She has offered to donate 2 Amazon vouchers for the prizes.

It was noted that two classes have incorrectly named awards (The Society Memorial Trophy should be a The Society Memorial Plate and the Godden Cup should be the Godden Trophy). A query from a society member regarding Category A 5 requires clarification in the schedules.

Concerns raised regarding the shed being unlocked and challenges over limits of keys and where they are. Suggested that a combination lock that the committee members have the code to is a more appropriate solution.

Action: All Committee members to source items for the Raffle (chutneys, jams, produce etc)

Action: John to put up road signs

Action: Geoff to rename awards as appropriate and clarify A5 in schedule

Action: Geoff source combination lock and share code with Committee members.

3.3 Plant Swap – 8th October (Alison)

Alison has booked the Hall and emailed the PTA at Charlbury Primary School to see if they want to do the coffees and cakes etc. As no reply was received, CGS will provide tea and homemade cakes.

Action: Zoe Create poster and circulate newsletter on week commencing 12th September

Action: All Committee members to bake cakes for sale at the Plant Swap.

3.4 AGM + talk on preparing the garden for winter by Timothy Walker – 20th October

Alison has booked the Hall.

Committee agreed to have the AGM in the Memorial Hall. Brief AGM (~30 minutes) followed by talk with wine and nibbles. Clear advertising required that this event will not include food, such as previous Harvest Feasts. Details to be confirmed at the next committee meeting on 4th October 2022.

Action: Zoe Create poster and circulate newsletter on week commencing 12th September

Action: Catherine to contact speaker for text for the advertising

3.5 Zoom talk on garden bugs by Dr Ian Bedford – 17th November (Catherine)

Action: Zoe Create poster and circulate newsletter late October/early November

Action: Catherine to contact speaker for text for the advertising

3.6 Christmas wreath-making event – 8th December (Alison)

From Alison: Mathew Franklin-Maiden (Chadlington Flower Farmer) has agreed to do the wreath making session and provide the foliage and equipment. He hasn't given us a price, but I think we could offer him what we gave Adam and see if that would cover it. (I would need reminding of what we gave Adam). What do the committee think? We could have 25 people again at £25 per head or we could put it up to £30 as it includes foliage this time. Confirmation of all this at the next committee meeting.

Alison has booked the Hall.

Action: Zoe Create poster and circulate newsletter late October/early November

4. Events for 2023 (Catherine)

4.1 Talks

From Catherine: So far January confirmed with a talk by Maggie Tran from Bramdean Garden. Agreed that we will do a mixture of Zoom talks and face to face. I'll look into finding speakers for practical talks for Feb/March 23. The list I have of Country Garden Speakers from Geneviève would all be on zoom. Subjects I've found of interest are on; 'Planting up seasonal containers', 'Organic gardening', 'All year-round colour in the garden', 'Ponds, bog gardens and water-wise gardens', 'How to build wildlife ponds'.

Challenges regarding sourcing in-person talks for 2023. As several past and recent speakers have a range of talks that can be given, we can reuse previous speakers (e.g. Craig Blackwell was very popular).

Committee agreed to remove the dates from the membership card which reduces time pressures for Catherine in booking speakers and Gen for producing the membership cards. Replace with the months that talks will be expected and refer people to the website.

Action: Susan to share details of Dahlia talk at Stonesfield Garden Society with Catherine.

Action: Gen to remove details of talks from membership card

Action: All Committee members to source speakers for in-person talks for 2023.

4.2 Self-drives

Visit South Newington gardens? (proposed by Sue Cox for this year) See <https://www.khh.org.uk/event/south-newington-open-gardens>

5. Other matters

5.1 Projector

As projectors vary wildly in price depending on the brightness, resolution, lamp choice, weight and connectivity options, Committee agrees that the £300-400 cost is too risky. Instead, speakers recommended bringing their own kit (if possible) and, now the facilities in the Memorial Hall have been repaired, CGS can use those.

5.2 Discussion of Rose and Sweet Pea Show

From Geoff: not a difficult one to organise but people need to be told early to get the sweet peas in.

From Alison: Mathew Franklin-Maiden is keen to get involved with the Committee and has said he would love to run a sweet pea and rose show.

Final decision on whether to proceed with an additional summer show to be made at the next committee meeting, dependent on the success of the Annual Show.

5.3 Zoom account

Action: Alison to look into starting a new Zoom account before the next Zoom session.

5.4 CGS website hosting

We had an email from Helen Chapman (who setup our CGS website) to say that the hosting company will be discontinuing their free tier from November. She will look into some alternative hosting for the site to avoid a monthly payment and let us know.

5.5 Date of next meeting

Corner House to be booked for the next meeting but, as the committee were unable to get in for the meeting on 6th September, the meeting may be moved to Rose and Crown.

Next meeting **Tuesday 4th October 2022**

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

5.6 Items for discussion at next meeting

- Decision on Rose and Sweet Pea Show
- Christmas Social/Quiz
- Update on website hosting

6. Annual Show Rota

See below for the provisional Annual Show Rota.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Names</u>
Hall Set up		Friday 7.00	1. Geoff Holmberg 2. Stephen Nelson 3. John Moore 4. -
Prep from forms received before the Show	2 people (at Nick Johnson's house)	Friday 6.00	1. Geoff Holmberg 2. Geneviève Hug
Receive exhibits and document them	Minimum 2	Saturday 8.30 – 11.00	1. Geoff Holmberg 2. Sarah Potter (until 9:45) 3. Geneviève Hug 4. Susan Dunstall

General layout queries	Minimum 2	Saturday 8.30 – 11.00	1. Geoff Holmberg 2. Stephen Nelson
Judging and Prizes	Stewards X 5	Saturday 11.00 – 1.30	1. Steven Nelson 2. Zoe Burton 3. John Moore 4. Susan Dunstall
	Writing Cards X 1		Susan Dunstall
	Writing up Books X 1		Geoff Holmberg
	Prize money X 2		1. Geoff Holmberg 2. Catrin Weston 3. Hugh Belshaw?
Lunch cover	Minimum X 1	Saturday 1.00 – 2.00	Geoff Holmberg
The Show	Door X1	Saturday 2.00 – 5.00	Geoff Holmberg
	Raffle X 1		
	Teas X 3		1. Catherine Goyder 2. Kathy Broughton 3. -
Presentation	Celebrity presenter	Saturday 4.15	John Moore
Clear Up	Minimum X 6	Saturday 4.00 – 5.00	1. Geoff Holmberg 2. Stephen Nelson 3. - 4. - 5. - 6. - ALL

Judges

- **Childens:** Wendy Clifford
- **Vegetables:** Ken Taylor
- **Flowers:** Ian Tolputt
- **Cooking:** Heather Hill (New)
- **Handicraft:** Beverly Morely (New)