

DRAFT agenda for Sunday 18 November 2018 at 1 pm, Nightingale Garden

Chair: Bob and/or Justin

Notes: Rebecca

1. **Welcome. Apologies:** Angelo, Clare, Colin.
2. **Minutes from the last meeting:** to agree. Any changes needed?
3. **Finances and fundraising:**
 - a. **Bank account etc:** Treasurers report;
 - b. **Cambridge area grants:** apply in Spring 2019 for insurance and maybe one-off community projects – any ideas?
4. **Membership:** Josephine, Katie, Emma and Bronwen joined (some of them have completed forms too). We have over 17 people registered for time credits – Rebecca will claim them every 2 months – Rebecca would like people to keep their own records and let her know how many sessions they have worked at the end of November.
5. **Botanic Garden meeting** (Saturday 17 November): brief report from at least one of Bob, Nat and Rebecca.
6. **Decisions to make, volunteers required:**
 - a. **Flymo/McCulloch prizes:** Justin has borrowed the petrol-powered brush-cutter (McCulloch T26 Cs, Amazon price £117) and pole pruner (MT0005; Amazon price £75), which were not really suitable for our volunteer use. If Justin thinks they will be useful for him, a small donation to the garden might be negotiated.
A mini-trimmer (Flymo mini-trim ST; Amazon price £32) and electric corded mower (Flymo ****need to look the model up****) are still up for grabs (they are in the club hut). The prizes were won by Rebecca (on behalf of the garden) in an online survey. Any ideas?
 - b. **Gardening and tea drinking over the winter** – shall we carry on meeting for gardening and tea every Sunday and Monday?
Proposal: To have the last 'gardening and tea' session of the year on Sunday 16 December and then restart on Sunday 6 January, which would give everyone a 3-week break over Xmas/New Year.
We wondered about having shorter (1 to 3pm) gardening-only sessions during the winter, i.e. on Monday 3 & 10 December and Monday 7, 14 and 21 and 28 January, without a 3pm tea session. Quick hot drinks and biscuits would still be available for cold, tired gardeners. This would mean we can keep things ticking over in the darker afternoons but focus more on working and less on the kettle and allow everyone to get home before it gets dark. We would have Sunday gardening and tea sessions as usual and return to normal timings (and cake) on Mondays from Monday 4 February. Does this sound OK?
 - c. **Landscaping stakes:** we will use them to make new sweet-pea supports – any other ideas for things to make with them?
 - d. **Policies and procedures:** we should develop some for the group; there are some available online to 'borrow' but the group will need to formally adopt them too. Would anyone like to

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volunteer to work with Rebecca on this?

7. Planning ahead for events in 2018/2019: ideas welcome:

- a. Do we want to do anything 'special' around **Xmas or new year**? Would anyone like to volunteer to take a lead on it?
- b. **Chelsea Fringe** (last week in May 2019): the outreach people from the Botanic Garden are keen to encourage and support some Cambridge events. Can be 'anything' in a garden. Do we want to be involved? We have lots of time to think about ideas.
- c. **Midsummer Day** (Friday June 21 2019). We could have a bring and share 'little lunch' or 'little get together' on Sunday 23 June [the weekend of the Jo Cox Great Get Togethers]?
- d. **Veg Fest:** the Veg Cities project from Cambridge Sustainable Food are keen to do a Cambridge-wide Veg Fest in late July 2019. Would we like to host something, in principle?
- e. **October half-term:** we could plan to do something linked to RHS Wild in the Garden (the 2019 theme has not yet been announced). Like we did with worms this year.

8. Forthcoming events for 2018/2019:

- a. **Monday 26 November:** group visit to the Botanic Garden. Free entry. Please let Rebecca know asap so she can tell Sandie names in advance for the gate person. Will be 1 pm until 4pm.
- b. **Saturday 8 December:** Tree festival at St James Church. We have been invited to source and decorate a tree for indoors festival. Barbara is co-ordinating it with help from Rebecca. Some simple blanks for baubles are available in the club hut or make your own. With a message about Xmas or happy new year. We need to deliver the tree on Friday 7 December evening.

9. Any other business:

- 10. Date of next meeting:** we suggest we skip January and have one in March when the weather is improving. How about Sunday 10 March 1pm?

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For info only:

- a. **Animal silhouettes:** we are thinking about painting in dark green or off white 'outlines' on part of the side of the toolshed. Jane has started researching ideas.
- b. **Green-roofed veranda:** Guy visited on 5 November – he is chasing designs – we are still aiming for Spring 2019;
- c. **Go wild for worms:** very successful – well done and thanks to everyone involved in any way!
- d. **Kiwi berry:** Rebecca bought one on Groupon. We are thinking of growing it in the middle of the hugelkulture bed, with raised beds on either side. It will need a strong timber structure and we thought the landscaping poles would be good.
- e. **Little Nightingales:** are meeting on Friday afternoons. Going well. We do a bit of gardening sometimes and plan to grow potatoes with them next year.
- f. **Perennial meadow beds:** 'Pictorial Prairie' (Pictorial Meadows) seeds ordered via Guy. For sowing in late Spring 2019. Should be the last time we need to sow these two beds.
- g. **Planting by new park pavilion:** we have been invited to design, plant and/or maintain two beds on either side of the central steps up to the new pavilion (on the park-side). The Council will also be planting on the road-side, including trees. Rebecca replied we would be interested but only subject to further clarification of support and the timetable.
- h. **Toolshed:** On 7 November, we had a donation of **slabs** so, once they are laid, we can start constructing the lean-to mini greenhouse and the new waterbutts. Offers of assistance very gratefully received!
- i. **Triangle bed:** On 3 November, Barbara, Rebecca, Peggy and Lois went on a visit to Beech's Nursery to gather some ideas. The bed has been scythed and should be easy to clean. We aim to plant using drought-tolerant (and sensory) plants, including divisions of existing plants we know will do well. We will probably purchase some decorative grasses before the Spring.
- j. **Fundraising applications and ideas:**
 - i. **WH Smith:** early Sept: RJ applied online for £500 for insurance and running costs; we will find out in March 2019.
 - ii. **Vegware Community Fund:** could apply for funding after first annual report and finances (post June 2019).