

Chair: Bob

Notes: Rebecca

Pre-meeting tea: we expressed our special thanks to **Judit** for all she has done for the garden and our very best wishes in her new life in the South of England. **Ingrid** expressed thanks on behalf of the Group to **Rebecca & Julian** for their time and energy (and wanted it minuted).

1. **In attendance:** Barbara, Bob, Gill, Immy, Ingrid, Jane, Judit, Julian, Keith, Lois, Peggy, Peter, Rebecca.
Apologies: Ben, Colin, Jill, Justin, Kate, Nat.
2. **Minutes from the last meeting** agreed.
3. **Finances and fundraising:**
 - a. **Bank account etc:** current balance is £196.97, after bills. **Action: Julian** to buy a new wheelbarrow and dispose of the broken one. **Rebecca** to find a home for the big square one. **Julian** to buy and install a rechargeable strip light as a temporary help in the toolshed.
4. **Membership and Tempo time credits.** Enthusiasm for remaining in the time credit scheme for as long as it is funded, at least March 2020. **Action: Rebecca** has fed this back to Tempo (30/9/19).
5. **Notes on projects etc:**
 - a. **Green roof veranda:** Still enthusiastic. Could install noticeboards, folding benches and tables. Knowing the cost will help us decide on improvements to the club but too and whether to get contractors it or work on it ourselves. **Action: Rebecca** to continue to liaise with Guy (expect quotes in first week of October 2019, for build before March 2020). **Feedback to Group by e-mail and in person.**
 - b. **Club hut:** Agreed to in principle:
 - i. **Re-cladding the front** for weather proofing and appearance: discuss in more detail when we know more about the veranda. Enthusiasm for Welsh larch or could just use ply and add noticeboards. **Action: Julian** to bring in samples of the larch.
 - ii. Enthusiasm for a **new door to the front**, which would be good for ventilation, and could be a 'stable/Dutch' door and act like a serving hatch. **Action: Rebecca** has conveyed to Guy (1/10/19).
 - iii. At least one **new window** at the front, maybe with larch shutters, would be nice, if we can afford it; **Action: Rebecca** has conveyed to Guy (1/10/19).
 - iv. We probably have the decking and expertise to make a **small ramp** up to the existing door and might need another one after the front veranda area is paved. **Action: Rebecca** has conveyed to Guy (1/10/19). **Action: Julian and Rebecca** construct one, with advice from **Louise**.
 - v. Adding **ceiling insulation:** would be good for very hot weather. **Action: Rebecca** has conveyed to Guy (1/10/19). **Action: Julian and Rebecca** install the small amount donated already. Price-up finishing it.
 - vi. **An area next to the door for washing up.** **Action: plan for this, around the time a new door is installed.**
 - vii. More **cupboards.** To continue to discuss.
 - c. **Polytunnel:** enthusiasm for a Spring 2020 install. **Action: Rebecca** sent spec to Guy for Feb 2020 order (done 1/10/19) **and continue to work with Guy on agreement.** Several people keen to get involved in the install. Will assume:
 - i. 12 ft x 20 ft, with sliding double doors at each end.

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- ii. Planting bed on one side (closest to the club hut) and weed membrane on the rest so we can use the space flexibly. Bars for hanging strings. Make raised beds and benches ourselves.
- iii. Can put pots on the ground (e.g. chillies and baby trees) and have staging for seedlings, which we will probably make from wood.
- iv. Could have a water point inside but it is close to the water butts.
- v. Orientate it at an angle to the club hut, in line with the trees between the minibeast mansion and leaf bins. Allow space for wheelchairs etc to enter and exit easily and not impede movement down the slope.

Suggestions of activities, which could have little 'learning together' sessions:

- 1. Growing dahlias from seed;
- 2. Tree grafting (including apples, apricots, pears, plums, quince)
- 3. Dividing plants;
- 4. Taking cuttings (including figs);
- 5. Baby plants and over-wintering;
- 6. Encourage others to use it for learning;
- 7. We could have some cooler/wetter weather meetings in it.

- d. **Improved path to the garden.** Enthusiastic. Action: **Rebecca** to update the Group if/when she hears anything.
- e. **Impact of pavilion being demolished:** Action: **Rebecca** to continue to ask for dates and temporary toilet provision. **Rebecca/Julian** to use airpots for hot water and temporary lights inside club hut and toolshed. Bronwen can lend us an extra airpot if it is needed.
- f. **Flymo/McCulloch prizes:** we have advertised to the Community Garden Group, Rock Allotments, on Facebook, Next Door. Action: **Rebecca** has sent details to **Bronwen** who has listed it on Ebay (30/9/19). Thanks Bronwen!
- g. **Policies and procedures:** Action: **Rebecca** to find some time and **Ingrid** will help. An over-winter job!
- h. **Produce from the garden.** Agreed our motivations for growing produce include (in no particular order) to learn how to grow produce; to eat the produce ourselves (although this year we have done this less than before); to demonstrate to park users how produce grows; to share produce with park users, which is happening more than in previous years (maybe even when we put large signs saying not to!); for aesthetics. We don't think it is desirable or feasible to stop people taking produce. In Incredible Edible, to which we are affiliated as a Friend, all produce is promoted for sharing and labelled as 'take what you need'. Action: **Rebecca** (with others) to make more signs to make things clearer to park users. Continue to choose easy to grow produce plants, especially perennials, which also don't need so much watering.
- i. **New projects and planting:** enthusiasm for...
 - i. Action: In Spring 2020, **Rebecca** to start from seed two more kinds of artichoke and gather planlets in Feb 2020 of small Greek variety of **artichoke plants for cropping**.
 - ii. Action: Soon, dig up and give away plants from the small strawberry bed. Thin out existing Autumn **raspberries** and plant up.

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- iii. **Action:** continue to dig out narrow beds (including the existing runner bean bed) and transplant existing **rhubarb** (started 30/9/19). **Consider making a new rhubarb bed** in the lower area, after we know where the polytunnel will be.
 - j. **Dates and times for Group meetings:** Agreed to **cancel the November meeting (17 November 2019)** and have ad hoc project-focussed meetings until the Spring. Then to have fixed, regular dates for meetings in March, an AGM in May and one in September (see below). All at 4pm.
 - k. **Winter close down and keeping in touch:** for regular Sunday and Monday garden sessions. Agreed, the last one will be **Sunday 1 December** and we will have an end-of-year informal lunch party for regulars (see below). We can eat some winter squash.
Action: **Rebecca** and **others** to look out for suitable opportunities over Winter to meet up at least once a week, especially afternoons. For example, cinema trips or meet-ups in local cafes (see below).
 - l. **Learning/workshops:** Ben and Stepan enjoyed the recent one-day course at the Botanic Garden. The Botanic Garden might continue to offer learning opportunities. Ideas for learning at Nightingale are always welcome. We can do informal 'learning together' sessions using the expertise we already have. We could also think about partnering or 'buying in' expertise. Enthusiasm for 'learning together' natural dyeing, including with the Rock Road Library textile group. **Action:** review at next meeting.
6. **Dates/events in 2019:**
- **Thurs 10 October, 7pm:** Friends of Rock Road Library talk about Orchards East project at Rock Road Library. <https://friendsofrockroadlibrary.wordpress.com/about/events-at-the-library/>
 - **Sunday 13 October:** garden session cancelled (Julian and Rebecca are unavailable). Lois is doing the gates – thanks Lois!
 - **Sunday 1 December, 1.30 pm:** informal bring and share lunch for regulars, followed by a bit of gardening if the weather is kind. The last session of the year.
 - **Weds 11 December:** Light Xmas lunch at St James: <http://queen-ediths.info/event/festive-lunch-at-st-john-the-evangelist/>
 - **Monday 23 December at 2.30 pm:** 10 of us (the maximum number) are going to the Xmas show at the Junction.
 - **Monday 30 December at 2.30 pm:** two more gardeners are going to the Xmas show. **Action:** ask **Rebecca** soon if you'd like help to go too (you can use time credits).
7. **Dates/events in 2020:**
- In Feb/March, likely to be free-to-attend **fruit tree grafting workshops** organised by Orchards East. **Action:** **Rebecca** is on their mailing list and will forward details.
- a. Sunday 12 and Monday 13 January 2020: **first sessions for the new year.**
 - b. Sunday 8 March 2020 at 4pm. **Gardeners Group Spring meeting.**
 - c. Sunday 10 May 2020 at 4pm. **Gardeners Group AGM.**
 - d. Sunday 20 September 2020 at 4pm. **Gardeners Group Autumn meeting.**
[Forgotten to say at the meeting: Rebecca has made contact with the **Cambridge Garden Club** to see if they'd like to visit (they meet at St John's church on Thursday afternoons); St John's **brownies and guides** are keen to use the garden for cook-outs in Summer evenings and maybe some weekend activities. And another Guide group in Coleridge].