

Chair: Bob and/or Justin

Notes: Rebecca

1. **In attendance:** Barbara, Bob, Becky, Ingrid, Kate, Keith, Lois, Lorna, Julian, Justin, Rebecca;
Apologies: Angelo, Bronwen, Clare, Colin, Josephine, Peter.
2. **Minutes from the last meeting:** agreed.
3. **Finances and fundraising:**
 - a. **Bank account etc:** we have £431.76, after buying paint for the shed, but will need to spend around £100 on guttering and connectors for the water butts. We might want to buy some plants for the triangle bed.
 - b. **Cambridge area grants:** we could apply, in Spring 2019, for insurance and maybe one-off community projects.
4. **Membership and time credits:** Josephine, Katie, Emma and Bronwen have joined recently.
Action: Rebecca needs to remember to ask people to complete a paper form (copies in the club hut).
We have 19 people registered for Tempo time credits, which can be earned for gardening (at or between sessions) or helping out at Sunday and Monday sessions or Little Nightingales.
Action: Rebecca needs to chase 2 or 3 more.
Rebecca will claim them every 2 months but you don't need to collect them until you need to use them. Those who have a stash already can 'bank them' for others to use until they are ready to use them themselves.
Action: for all those registered and who would like to earn time credits, please contact Rebecca with the number of hours they have worked after the end of each two months (so November, January etc). There is a file in the club hut you can record your hours per session, or people can e-mail/tell Rebecca.
5. **Botanic Garden (BG) meeting** on Saturday 17 November. Bob and Rebecca attended the first planning meeting on behalf of the NG Group. It was well-attended by people from a diversity of local community gardens, allotments and orchards. Sandie at the BG will assist the development of a new group: Cambridge Community Growing Group. It is an opportunity to network, learn and promote community gardening at the BG but also at 'open days' in projects/places. Next meeting will probably be in late Feb/early March 2019.
Action: Rebecca will circulate any correspondence.
6. **Decisions to make, volunteers required:**
 - a. **Flymo/McCulloch prizes:** we have probably found a home for the petrol-powered brush-cutter and pole pruner. We are still looking for a home for the mini-strimmer (Flymo mini-trim ST; Amazon price £32) and electric, corded mower.
Action: Rebecca to look up the model of lawnmower (it is in the club hut): Flymo Chevron 32VC electric wheeled mower (Amazon price £80).
Contact Rebecca if you know anyone who would benefit from them, especially if they could make a donation to the garden.

- b. **Gardening and tea drinking over the winter:** we decided to take a 3-week break over Xmas. We also decided to scale-down the Monday sessions in December and January, to focus on gardening only, without the extra tea (there will be hot drinks and biscuits but a 'sustaining the gardeners version').

Action: make a note of the dates of sessions until February:

Sunday 25 November: usual gardening and tea;

Monday 26 November: **no session, group visit to the Botanic Garden**, meet at the main gate on Trumpington Rd/Bateman Street corner (by the shop) at 1pm (cycle parking is a few doors down on Bateman St).

Sunday 2 December: usual gardening and tea;

Monday 3 December: just gardening;

Sunday 9 December: 'Xmas/winter a-bit-special' – surprise activities (if the weather isn't friendly we will do them the next Sunday);

Monday 10 December: just gardening;

Sunday 16 December: last session before Xmas;

Monday 17, Sunday 23, Monday 24, Sunday 30, Monday 31 December: no sessions;

Sunday 6 January: first session of the year: usual gardening and tea;

Monday 7, 14, 21, 28 January: gardening only;

Monday 4 January: back to usual gardening and tea.

- c. **Landscaping stakes:** we will use them to make new sweet-pea supports, for raised beds in the hugelkulture area and to try out some different kinds of bean supports. We can probably use them in the QE school garden too.

- d. **Policies and procedures:** we should develop some for the group.

Action: Rebecca to draft and circulate for the group to approve.

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

- a. **Chelsea Fringe** (last week in May 2019): Sandie at the BG will encourage and support some Cambridge events. We decided we'd like to be involved and have time to think about what exactly.

Action: re-visit next meeting.

- b. **Summer social supper:** We liked the idea of having a get together bring and share supper some time over the summer.

Action: everyone to look at suitable dates nearer the time.

- c. **Veg Fest:** in principle, we'd like to be involved in the Veg Cities project from Cambridge Sustainable Food.
- d. **October half-term:** in principle, we could plan to do something linked to RHS Wild in the Garden (the 2019 theme has not yet been announced).
- e. **Other workshops:** several people keen to do some natural dyeing, which could be in Chelsea Fringe week. Rebecca has several books and is slowly gathering resources.

8. Forthcoming events for 2018/2019:

- a. **Monday 26 November:** (self-guided) group visit to the Botanic Garden. Free entry. Will be 1 pm until 4pm. We need to start as a group but you can go wherever, and leave whenever, you like.

Action: contact Rebecca know Thursday 22 November so she can tell Sandie names in advance for the gate person.

- 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 for you to decorate or make your own. With a message about Xmas or happy new year. We need to deliver the tree on Friday 7 December evening. We should be able to have them back for the 'Xmas special' I the garden on 9 December.

Action: contact Barbara is you'd like to use one of the blank baubles or other materials or have an idea of your own for a bauble/something to hang on the willow trees.

9. **Any other business:**

10. **Date of next meeting:** Sunday 10 March 1pm.

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).