

Nightingale Gardeners Group

DRAFT Notes for Sunday 10 March 2019 at 1 pm, Nightingale Garden

Chair: Bob and Justin

Notes: Rebecca

1. **In attendance:** Barbara, Bob, Gill, Julian, Justin, Kate, Lois, Rebecca
2. **Apologies:** Colin, Keith, Josephine, Immy, Ingrid, Bronwen
3. **Minutes from the last meeting** were agreed.
4. **Finances and fundraising:** we have £264 in the bank account. One person asked if we could share the bank account details with members in case they'd like to donate direct.
Action: Rebecca e-mailed members with bank account details on 11/3/19. To put on website too.
5. **Cambridgeshire Lottery:** we discussed applying to join as a group. We decided there was no great hurry. **Action:** to review the experience of other groups and discuss at future meetings.
6. **Membership and Tempo time credits:** Rebecca is keeping records of volunteering now and reporting each month. 'Bundled' time credits, by name and month, are in the club hut.
7. **Cambridge Community Growing Group:** **Action:** Rebecca to share any correspondence with members
8. **Updates on larger projects:**
 - a. **Soil conditioner:** we have an urgent need for a sterile mulch on beds and to top up raised beds. **Action:** Rebecca/Julian ordered a skip load of soil conditioner which arrived on 14/3/19.
 - b. **Flower survey:** Gill has completed her survey for 2018 – it shows the effect of adverse weather last year. Big thanks to Gill. **Action:** 16/3/19: Rebecca and Gill have now completed it.
 - c. **Green-roofed veranda:** Supposed to happen in Spring 2019. **Action:** Rebecca to continue to chase Guy.
 - d. **New planting:** after soil conditioner, can sow two new perennial meadows ('late Spring'), plant up the triangle bed, three new raised beds (we have a kiwi berry to plant already) and sweet pea bed (baby plants are growing already).
Action: for triangle bed, Rebecca has moved some plants into the triangle bed, received first of two orders for special plants and planted them on 15/3/19, with mulch. Second order made on 16/3/19.
 - e. **Pond surveying:** to link with RHS theme this year. We have made a very informal start on it. **Action:** Gill to send Rebecca some dates of Sunday afternoons, maybe every 4 to 8 weeks, when she is free to do a more focussed survey on the pond. To share with Immy too.
 - f. **Polytunnel:** some enthusiasm. Still a bit nervous about the watering. Might want to do it after the green roofed veranda. **Action:** On 10/3/19: Kate, Julian and Justin did some informal marking out: could have a 10 x 15 ft tunnel, perpendicular or in line with the club hut. Pencil in doing it in Autumn 2019+.
 - g. **Compost toilet:** some enthusiasm for buying (or making) a ~6 x 4 (or 5 x 3 ft) wooden shed, on slabs next to the metal lean-to, and constructing an 'emergency' compost toilet similar to the one at Empty Common: <http://www.we-pee.com/> **Action:** Julian and others to do some more detailed planning. 11/3/19: Rebecca e-mailed Guy for advice.
 - h. **Gardeners World:** lots of enthusiasm about welcoming them to the garden, which would be just for one day. **Action:** 11/3/19: Rebecca e-mailed the contact person.
 - i. **Online survey prizes:** we are still looking for good homes for them. **Action:** Rebecca and Bronwen to use contacts, including amongst members and the allotment society, to find

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good homes for the ones we can't use. It would be useful to raise some funds for the group. If our contacts aren't enough, we could advertise them online.

- j. **Policies and procedures:** Action: Rebecca to continue to work (slowly) on these, unless someone else would like to do them.
- k. **Chelsea Fringe** (last week in May 2019): Lois is happy to take a lead on this with Rebecca's help. She and Rebecca discussed some ideas, including doing activities at the QE school fete (see below), which provides the infrastructure and lots of people coming along so we can focus on the activities themselves. Action: 11/3/19: Rebecca contacted Sandie at the Botanic Garden, Gemma at Veg Fest and Emma at the School, for a meet-up with Lois too. Emma thinks the school will be very keen; Gemma is keen. To update members.

9. Planning ahead for events in 2019:

Note of caution, the park pavilion might be demolished in June 2019 and we might not have a new building until early 2020. We don't yet know how this might affect electricity and toilet access.

- a. **'Spring in the Botanic Garden':** Rebecca has requested from Sandie some suitable Monday dates for an afternoon visit. If we go during weekdays, Sandie had offered us a tour. Action: Rebecca chase Sandie.
- b. Saturday 18 May, 1 to 4pm: **Queen Edith's School fete.** There will be a plant sale and we could develop some gardening related activities, including as Chelsea Fringe (see above). It is a very happy event and volunteers would be very welcome. Action: Rebecca to keep people posted.
- c. **Midsummer Day**, Friday June 21, 2019. We pencilled-in a bring-and-share early evening get together [the weekend of the Jo Cox Great Get Togethers]. Action: to discuss further in the May meeting.
- d. **Summer in the Botanic Garden:** we thought it might be fun to meet on a Saturday lunchtime or afternoon for a picnic. Action: to discuss further in the May meeting.
- e. **Veg Fest:** the Veg Cities project from Cambridge Sustainable Food are keen to do a Cambridge-wide Veg Fest on the weekend of 20/21 July 2019. We said we could host something, in principle, or work with others. The local allotments might do an open morning on the Sunday. It could also be an opportunity to go to other people's events and network. Action: to discuss further in the May meeting.
- f. **October half-term:** we could plan to do something linked to RHS Wild in the Garden. This year's theme is ponds. Like we did with 'worms' in 2018. Update: 15/3/19: RHA pond leaflet has been published – maybe not very good for October activity in garden. Action: to discuss further in future meetings.

10. Other events for 2019:

- a. Saturday 11 May: **Plant sale at Rock Road Library.** They often like extra volunteers.
- b. Sunday 21 July: **Brass Band in the park.** At the same time as garden session.
- c. Saturday 7 September: **Skip Day.** They will like volunteers.

11. Dates of next meetings:

- a. Sunday 12 May 1 to 2pm We probably need to have elections for committee etc. Let Rebecca know if you'd like to stand.
- b. Sunday 14 July, 1 to 2pm
- c. Sunday 22 September, 1 to 2pm
- d. Sunday 17 November, 1 to 2pm