

Agenda for Sunday 12 September 2021. 2pm, with social meet up from 3pm.

Chair: Lois

Notes: Rebecca

1. **Welcome, thank you.** Apologies: Bob, Francesca, Ingrid, Immy.
2. **Minutes from the last meeting in June 2020** (on website): to agree. Any changes needed?
3. **Elections:** we try to keep things informal but we also need to be 'governed well'.
 - a. **Happy to stand again:** Rebecca Jones (Secretary); Julian Hickling (Treasurer); Keith Bird (Membership Secretary); Lois Clarke and Bob Billingham (Co-chairs).
 - b. **New nominee:** Jennie Brandon (Co-chair).
 - c. Other roles? Do we want/need a more formal committee?
4. **Updates since June 2021:**
 - a. **Finances:** Brief Treasurer's report from Julian (to 30 April 2021). Waiting to hear back from at least three Council officers for clarification on some funds. Hopefully, we will have some donations from Friends. Not pursued business sponsorship yet.
 - b. **Membership.** Welcome to new regular volunteers (since June 2021): Marion, Hsin-Ling and her TzuChi group.
 - c. **Time credits.** Ask Rebecca if you'd like to earn them, and she can back-pay.
 - d. **Volunteering.** In September, we changed days and times to Sunday and Monday, 2 to 4pm (unless we were having a heatwave).
 - e. **Completed projects in the garden** (since June 2021): planted fig tree and vine; completed rainchains; under-tree 'pink' bench; nature-swap shelves; painted veranda furniture; inside club hut: mosaic table, pallet wood cladding (started), coat hooks and storage unit for baskets.
 - f. **Visits and groups in NG:** Queen Edith school (29 and 30 June); birthday party for local family (3 July); Cambridge Garden Club (6 July); mindfulness/wellness walks (July, August); DIY Little Nightingales (several meet-ups in July/August); Streets and Open Spaces (SOS) volunteers' party (14 August).
 - g. **Visits/volunteering by NG gardeners.** Visited Water Lane project and Clay Farm (September).
5. **Future groups/meetings/events:** see newsletter for more dates and ideas.
 - a. **14 September 2021:** Cambridge Growing Group meeting, at Nightingale 6 to 7pm: usually one person per group but we could add more from Nightingale this time (ask Rebecca to ask Sandie).
 - b. **Tuesday 21 September 2021:** Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, 4 to 7pm. After school in the garden. Volunteers very welcome!
6. **Friends Group:** in September, designed leaflets and cards – with bespoke (lovely) illustrations from Francesca. To launch at Queen Edith's skip day (Saturday 11 September 2021).
7. **Newsletter:** first issue August/September. Laminated copy is on the metal table on the veranda and available online. Next issue October/November. Send any ideas or copy to Rebecca asap.
8. **Planned projects:**
 - a. Want to try out pizza oven sometime...
 - b. **Outdoor kitchen/activity prep project:** need to finish by June 2022. Need to start a subgroup to refine design, find a contractor. Haven't received the funding yet.

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- c. **Nature connectedness project:** waiting for PhD student to start but, in meantime, need to finish the dead hedge. Can think about bat walks; beetle/minibeast trail; nature club...

9. To discuss:

- a. **'Playhouse'**. We thought it would be good to make an open-fronted wooden structure behind the pink bench for children to use. To be large enough for adults to join/retrieve them. Wheelchair accessible. We have a rough plan but need to measure the area and work out what materials we are short of (we have quite a lot of waste wood already, which would be good to use up). We don't have funding but hope we might be able to fund it via the Friends Group.
- b. **Groups:** a few ideas...:
 - i. Creative group of some kind: **'Inspired by the garden'**. At the least, a very informal show and tell, maybe every 6 weeks? Let Rebecca know if you are interested.
 - ii. **'Learn and grow together'**. Idea to form an informal group/club of people to focus on growing crops in the raised beds, which are underused (and under-performing). What, how, who, when and where?
 1. Could also start to use the polytunnel to grow produce. Could install a simple irrigation system (need to estimate costs).
 2. Will need a watering rota for it to be successful.
 3. Growing produce in existing raised beds. Need a watering rota. Could try out wicking beds in the three 'winter squash' raised beds (will need to buy some materials).
 4. Would be nice to grow produce used by people all over the world. To do some food sharing in the garden.
 5. Would be good to provide growing spaces for people living in flats or who don't have outdoor space.
 6. Probably best to grow under nets (with hoops) and with good signage.
- c. **'Winter hibernation'**: propose to have the last regular gardening session on Sunday 28 November 2021 and the first one in 2022 on Sunday 16 January. We can have one-off working parties and social events between the two dates.
- d. **Gardeners tea at 3:** It would be nice to re-start this, but Julian and Rebecca don't think they can get enough gardening done, supervise others and also look after the teas. They haven't had any volunteers (yet) to look after the refreshments and visitors. Options are to:
 - i. Continue to informally bring a snack along, including to share amongst volunteers only.
 - ii. Look further for volunteers to look after the tea (but there is no electricity at the moment, so this is more difficult than before);
 - iii. Have some designated afternoons when we don't garden and just meet socially and invite people along. Julian and Rebecca can then focus on teas and cake.

10. Any other business.

- 11. **Next meetings:** propose to get back to our calendar of a Spring meeting in March (Sunday 13 March 2022, 2 to 3pm), an AGM in May (Sunday 15 May 2022, 2 to 3pm) and an Autumn meeting in September (Sunday 18 September 2022, 2 to 3pm).