

Notes for March meeting held on Sunday 13 March 2022. 2pm

Chair: Julian

Notes: Rebecca

1. **Present:** Anne D, Barbara, Emma J, Gill M, Jennie, Jill K, Julian, Peggy, Rebecca, Terry.
2. **Apologies:** Betty, Bob, Clare, Ingrid, Immy, Julia, Keith, Lois, Macu, Marion.
3. **Minutes from the last meeting in September 2021** agreed.
4. **Finances:** good news on 'Friends' scheme. Will have a full report for May meeting. Have about £400 allocated to the Kindness Garden and Polytunnel. £1,100 unallocated, for general garden use and annual insurance.
5. **Notes from guided discussion (see appendix below)**
6. **Next meetings:** more formal AGM in May (Sunday 15 May 2022, 2 to 3pm); Autumn meeting in September (Sunday 18 September 2022, 2 to 3pm).

Appendix. Ideas from the meeting

Topic	Ways to make it/them happen	Short-term actions
[Something like] apple days : attach to new orchard as an activity; could invite people to bring fruit for juicing; longest-peel competitions; map fruit trees in gardens and on the street;	Think about 'gaps' in local apple days (Rock Rd Library, Rock allotments, local schools, Botanic Garden). Or could we celebrate another fruit? Or develop simple activities on the theme of apples?	Emma J and others have a think, in context of orchard?
Bird hide : decided not needed - 'not enough birds in one place'. If the garden is quiet, can just sit on a bench and watch them.	Could be some part of the playhouse or kitchen design... or a temporary structure we build when volunteers are in the garden – like a tent, den.	Keep under review...
[after main discussion] 'Bring and swap' : with a gardening, nature theme: include spare plants, seeds, tools. Could make small donations for charity – maybe to support Ukraine?	Find a date... doesn't have to be major event. Could just be some tables at the same time as a garden session.	RJ ask gardeners and Friends for ideas and dates.
Craft table : a big table that is in the garden all the time or we bring out when volunteers are there.	Could have existing fold out tables in the 'outdoor kitchen' to use... or think about making, or buying a big wooden table (to replace the picnic table)?	JK to continue to think about - and lobby!
Gardening for children : is popular (and with adults); different activities for different ages; like to have things to take home.	Build on seed sowing activities. Think about making DIY kits to take home – could be in the polytunnel. Like cress-sowing, bean growing.	Emma J, Julia and Jill think about?
Gardening skills and/or ideas for small gardens : could be making herb gardens in pallets, small-scale composting, square metre gardens; things suitable for a balcony garden or in a rented property. We have the blue raised beds, which will	Could be 'displays' always in the garden (need to think about robustness of small-scale structures) or things we develop just for an event. Perhaps make them on the day for just that day. Could also be re-signing things (or adding resources on the website).	Jennie and Emma J think about activities... could also be an event (or part of one) at St James?

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have climbing and French beans later in the year.		
By post-it: [Something about] letters that can make words: could be made in willow or wood, could be left for people to make their own words or on sticks/stakes as a display in the garden.	<p>Could start with the idea of spelling out PEACE.</p> <p>Could use the trellis space next to the polytunnel door.</p>	JK to think about further?
[Something like a] mud kitchen: very popular with small kids: 'small tables, pots, pans, bowls'; or some kind of water runs.	<p>Work out how to do it safely (probably need to protect the mud from cats and foxes and keep the water fresh) and without too much digging of mud from (the wrong) garden beds.</p> <p>Could be a kit we bring out when volunteers are there... maybe use top soil in bags?</p>	Emma J and Julia think about?
Nature: like the 'what you can see in the pond' posters and Steph Hatherway life cycles; enthusiasm for bat evenings and moth traps; could make and provide printed 'I spy' guides for people to borrow or tick off (but have made before and people didn't use them).	<p>We have booked a bat/moth Friday/Saturday for July 2022.</p> <p>Look for more Steph Hatherway guides and print more out as posters.</p>	Jennie work with Julia on Steph Hatherway guides (Etsy).
Nature table: like the idea.	Build on the success of the nature swap 'shelf'. Have a table in the outdoor kitchen for people to leave things they have found.	RJ: include in design.
Noticeboard: like to have a chalkboard to write 'flowers in the garden' (portable ones in polytunnel keep getting vandalised); things to see; any kind of reactions to the garden; like to have a pin board for	<p>Think we could make large areas inside the outdoor kitchen for this.</p> <p>Could also have areas in the playhouse – a chalkboard would be good.</p>	<p>RJ: build into design brief for new structures.</p> <p>Julia and others think about further...</p>

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community notices – maybe a 'gallery' for drawings by kids or adults; copies of newsletter.		
<p>Orchard in the park: enthusiastic; good to have unusual trees like medlars, quinces. Favourite varieties: Ellison's orange (apple), Victoria plums, granny smiths (or other cooking apples); choose rootstock of pears so will live until they are 300 years; pick disease-/climate resistant varieties not just on local heritage;</p>	<p>Leo has lots of expertise on varieties and care for fruit trees.</p> <p>Think about how to encourage volunteers (including children) to water trees– maybe have a social activity around it – maybe water one tree each and have some hot chocolate after.</p>	<p>RJ/Emma J/Leo: work into plans with tree team. Think about applying for grants for activities.</p>
<p>Outdoor kitchen/activity prep/shelter area design and fit out: enthusiastic about (pellet-fired) Ooni pizza oven; great to have worksurfaces that are easy to clean (for pizza prep); enthusiasm for mosaic somewhere (maybe including Siva's name?); probably don't need solar lights (shady under trees) and power can be a bit disappointing; add small windows to the design to maximise light.</p>	<p>Could (re-)name it 'Siva's garden kitchen and shelter'.</p> <p>Make a frieze of mosaic under windows on inside.</p> <p>Find stainless steel worksurface – could be one or more second-hand catering trolley/ies.</p> <p>Design and make noticeboards.</p>	<p>RJ: send new version of plan by e-mail to gardeners.</p> <p>RJ: update design for contractor (windows, noticeboards); source worksurfaces and materials for boards when size known.</p> <p>RJ co-ordinate design and making of mosaic friezes, when shelter is complete.</p>
<p>Pizza herbs: will be popular when we get the pizza oven going - and just for garden visitors to pick.</p>	<p>We aim to grow annual herbs like basil and have perennial herbs like bay, hyssop, marjoram, thyme and oregano.</p>	<p>RJ work on the signage and complete an illustrated map of the new herb garden...</p>
<p>By post-it: [Something to indicate the] points of the compass. We have logs in a circle that were positioned to point North, South etc but haven't signed them.</p>	<p>Could be a re-design of the log circle or another structure.</p> <p>North is behind the flats at the back of the garden.</p>	<p>AD/JH to think about further?</p>

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<p>Plants with wellbeing potential: like lemon balm and lemon verbena – nice in teas etc. Could dry them.</p>	<p>We grow both – verbena is tender so not in the garden at the moment. Lemon balm is very successful in the garden (takes over!). Need to work out how to sign them (better).</p>	<p>JK think about a list of plants and how to promote, harvest and share them.</p>
<p>Playhouse (aim to make from late April onwards): ‘small enough to be child friendly – big enough for adults to enter and play with them’; flexible so can make into a shop, theatre, house; ‘nice to involve children in design/decoration’ - could make cut-out wooden shapes to decorate it – maybe nature themed – could be leaves - kids could paint them to attach to the house; could have a design competition?</p>	<p>Recruit some children to draw designs. Leaf shapes would be nice and could be very colourful.</p>	<p>JH: work up playhouse design so can be shared with gardeners and families. Around Easter, recruit children for design work... think about any incentives.</p>
<p>Runner beans: popular... but wigwams take up space, plants are very thirsty and beans need to be picked frequently. Can be very disappointing in difficult weather.</p>	<p>Need to find suitable space for them and someone to take a lead in looking after them. Alternative is for Julian and Rebecca to just bring some spare crop from their allotment!</p>	<p>Keep under review... maybe next year...</p>
<p>Watering: can we encourage garden visitors to water by leaving cans out with instructions?</p>	<p>Need to think about how this would fit with a Gardeners’ Watering rota. Might not be able to rely on children/visitors, so they would be ‘extra’. And we don’t want to waste water.</p>	<p>Keep under review. RJ ask Julia if families would be interested.</p>