

Climate Emergency Meeting Stonesfield and Fawler 2 March 2020

Growing things, sharing produce

Three speakers:

- Jess Huband – plastic-free gardening
- John Sampson – stall for surplus produce
- Genny Early – creating and running a community garden

24 in attendance

Dave Baldwin check-in on trees:

(Before he spoke, someone asked if there could be a tally of trees planted in the village.)

- There's an XR meeting this Friday 6 March in Woodstock re 'Heading for Extinction and What to do about it'.
- The SPC clerk is writing to the Planning Authority to request they enforce the laws surrounding cutting down trees and inform the PC when an application for permission to fell was received. Planting for a community orchard has been approved, though place is as yet unconfirmed.
- Scouts helped him plant 18 deciduous trees on the glebe land near the Scout hut. Objective: to replace ash lost in ash die-back
- Tube guards from around trees can be reused, though not recycled. [If people collect them, where can they be taken to be reused?]

Jess Huband (RHS qualified gardener):

Plastic free gardening:

- alternatives to plastic plant pots -
you can take black ones to the Burford Garden Company for recycling
- compost bags -
you can get compost made from our garden waste from WODC, but you need to take a tonne, and be able to take it away yourself!
In her role as gardener at a nearby National Trust garden, they recently had 8 tonnes delivered, total cost just £25.
CF: Hickmans outside Burford and Applegarth Nurseries outside Chipping Norton sell bulk bags of compost delivered to your door
- raising seeds without plastic -
try making your own from newspaper – she made one earlier to demonstrate; use toilet roll tubes; bamboo pots are now available

If you research, you can find things.

John Sampson: (a member of Stonesfield Allotment Society)

Produce Stall:

- water is now available on the Churchfields allotments
- last year he grew broad beans on a spare half allotment and gave them away to anyone who would take them

- the Woodstock Road allotments have a real problem with rabbits. They made a bid for a grant to Blenheim and got it – it will go toward fencing, and building a stall to carry surplus veg/produce from all allotments

Need to ask at the shop what their feelings actually are about a veg stall outside – nobody has yet done that.

Just inside the Churchfields allotments seems the favoured spot for the stall. Old stuff could just go on one of the compost heaps there. Who would maintain it / keep it tidy?

Genny Early (Communications and Events Officer, Wychwood Project):

Community garden:

Where could it be?

- Dave Baldwin's Churchfield allotment – he would keep it under his name & pay the fee
- Land at Dave Holloway's farm where the polytunnels are
- Adjacent to the Woodstock Road allotments

If at allotments, official rules would apply.

Uses:

- role model for no-dig gardening
- could involve education for local groups, school kids
- grow veg / flowers to sell
- grow plants good for bees and butterflies
- have a community compost heap

Genny has invited anyone who wants to be involved in this project to email her gennyearly@gmail.com

We then broke into 3 groups to discuss before coming back together.

Plastic-free gardening

- hessian grow-bags.
- Loo rolls > seed plugs (tear the top for capillary action).
- Use your existing pots; swap new plants at Garden Centre into your own pots at check-out.
- Use freecycle to offer and receive stuff.

Produce stall

- Needs to be private, not in an unmanned public space
- Allotments have compost heaps which could be useful!
- Advertise produce on Next Door Stonesfield
- food banks? Witney, Kidlington
- Honesty fridges
- John given a mandate by show of hands to ask Allotment Committee for permission to site stall on Churchfields allotments just inside gate.
- Might need 2 – one on each side of village
- How to get produce to families in need in Stonesfield, who could really benefit from free fruit and veg? Church or school might help. Turn veg into food dishes for distribution?? Share recipes for gluts somehow.

Community garden

- Who would actually want to be involved (other than show of hands at this meeting)? Check this via NextDoor or the Slate.
- It could be used to experiment with gardening techniques
- An educational opportunity
- Involve schools/preschool
- Needs an organizing committee
- Consult experts & other models before establishing one
- Use of a polytunnel on Dave Holloway's farm would be useful
- But it needs to be central for easy access, so not on his farm – too far out

[another point made in Dale's group re *community orchard* – what to plant there? Pears, plums, nuts – already loads of apple trees in the village. Worton Organic Garden might supply cuttings for orchard trees, their stuff is lovely.]

Closing

Next meeting: 6 April on **electric cars**, plus report re the **solar panels** on the primary school.

The May meeting will be about time banks / barter system.