

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, 7th November 2017, 7pm – 8pm**

Thanks for coming: Felicity, Hilary, Chris (Chair), Lorraine (Notes), Lynda, Sam, Liz, Colin, Sue

Apologies: John H, Harry

Review: Canal Day (1st October)

- A volunteer session was arranged to coincide with Canal Day being reinstated.
- 10 Volunteers and 40 visitors stopped by the garden from 12.15pm-2.30pm
- Gardening activities and a pre-winter tidy up was done, refreshments were available so visitors could relax and chat with volunteers.
- Worth doing this annually.

Review: Apple Day (Browning Rd Orchard 1st October)

- This was a brand new event with positive feedback received from our visitors.
- We had 8 helpers, 61 visitors, received £51 in donations with £12 of expenses.
- Visitors were pleased to hear that the donations would be spent on replacement orchard trees and mulch.
- **Things to improve:**
 - Organise a separate pre-event meeting.
 - Create a separate task for setting up/taking down gazebos and equipment.
 - Count the Apples collected.
 - Improve the chopping and scratting process; consider the pros and cons of purchasing a shredder.
 - Build up our own stock of lightweight folding tables and chairs, plastic tableware, specific cutlery etc.
- **Objectives of holding orchard events**
 - **Building community cohesion and providing social benefit.**
 - Encourage the community to freely use the space.
 - Dog users regularly pass through the orchard.
 - Blackberries are often picked; apples are starting to be picked from the newly planted trees.
 - **Site maintenance**
 - Promote awareness and care of the orchard.
 - **Education**
 - Engage with primary schools, such as Queensway, to provide education on pruning, pollination, and the varieties of fruit and trees.
 - Promote ways to cook with apples and other fruits.
 - Connect the impact of climate change with the need to grow food for free.
- **Future plans**
 - Aim to have a separate group of local residents to take over the orchard.
 - Bring forward our apple day to the last Sunday in September to avoid clashing with other local events. Proposed next apple day would be **30th September 2018**.
 - Possibly organise a blackberry picking day.
 - Check with Banbury Town Council about any raised beds that would be available for planting during June – Sep.
 - Chris will send a welcome message to the new mailing list sign-ups.

Give or Take & More – Saturday, 28th October 2017 11am – 2pm

- Promotion is ongoing online, a poster is due to be published in the Letterbox.
- Lorraine is still resourcing more electrical repair fixers.
- More volunteers to help out on the day would be appreciated.
- Felicity will take any leftover clothes and material to store in readiness for a future local Re-Fashion event.

Safeguarding

- Chris provided an update on our preparations for DBS checks. He will check who can approve our ID documents and will notify us if we need to bring them to the next meeting
- Harry (Safeguarding Lead) has emailed volunteers for their contact details.

Car Club

- Chris will chase up Enterprise for an update on recent discussions.
- It is essential that we find a free dedicated parking space in the town to start a scheme.
- Suggestions for parking spaces were: People's Park car park, Co-ops in shopping arcades.
- Contact the Town Clerk to check the potential for Banbury Town Council to create a town centre pavement parking space.

Ideas sharing

- Decide whether to bring in new volunteers by generating a new event or build on existing events.
- Someone will always need to lead an event as a co-ordinator.
- Follow up events by emailing people on the sign-up sheets with thanks and information.
- Interest in energy has fizzled out. Invite a guest speaker to a meeting and promote it as "now's the time to come along"
- Engage with new volunteers by offering new skills training. Develop events around the training where the volunteers commit to a set number of days of giving their time.
- Link to existing groups and organisations: Restore, allotments, fairtrade etc.
- Sue will collate a list of local groups.
- Possibly hire a hall to promote Banbury CAG as building community and living sustainability around Banbury.

Next Catch-up Meeting

- The next one will be on **Tuesday, 7th November 2017. 7pm Start**
- Phone the Reindeer Inn to confirm availability the day before.