

Next Meeting: Catch-up **Tuesday 3rd April 2018, 7pm – 8pm**

Thanks for coming Emily, Hilary, Chris (Chair), Lynda, Manel, Colin, Lorraine (Notes)
Apologies: Harry, Philippe

AGM

- **Chris** (Chair) gave a brief report on the previous year.
- Good things: Give or Take, Orchard and the Edible Community Garden are becoming well established. Particularly proud of the garden which has been turned around from a scruffy patch of land.
- Hopes to see more happening around energy and recycling.
- It's troubling that so few volunteers attend meetings making it difficult to promote ourselves to other organisations.
- Look into trying new meeting locations to engage with the wider community.
- Chris is happy to stand as Chair for the coming year but now has other commitments that are taking up more of his time.
- **Hilary** (Treasurer) gave a brief update on our finances.
- Reasonably solvent, covering our costs from event donations but could do with some more regular funds.
- Will follow up some local grants. Lorraine will contact CAG Oxon.
- Hilary will only be able to stand as Treasurer for the current year then will step down.
- **Lorraine** (Secretary) is happy to continue for another year but would like some help with social media, event promotion and the mailbox.
- **Candidates:** No new candidates put their names forward for the committee roles.
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval for the current committee to continue for the current year.
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Bridge St. Garden, Noticeboard / Garage store

- Still waiting for our Sanctuary Housing contact to arrange access to the garage store with Harry.
- Saturday working parties will start in April.
- A garden volunteers meeting will take place on **Saturday, 10th March** – 11am at the Mill Arts Centre
- Lynda will check available event dates with Harry.

Browning Road Orchard

- Local residents would like to hold a picnic at the orchard. This could be similar to a bring and share Big Lunch.
- Colin will check with his neighbours and suggest a potential summer date.

Refashion/Give or Take

- Posters will be available tomorrow – placed at the church, Castle Quay, town centre lampposts.
- Banbury Sound promoting all week and will attend on the day.
- CDC will do a press release, facebook event and social media.
- Banbury and Bicester college students are no longer able to attend – replacement sewing workshop volunteers found.
- School children attending from: Heyford Park Free School and Chesterton School, Bicester.
- Lynda will collect flyers from the depot on Thursday.
- Lorraine will confirm Restore as a collection point for their members.
- Hilary will help with the café, provide cakes and soup. Fairtrade volunteers and Megan assisting.
- Lorraine will email all the event volunteers with further details for the day.

DBS Checking

- This has been postponed till April 2018.

Volunteering Networking Event

- Philippe, Lynda and Lorraine attended the Longford Park Primary School “Getting to know your community” event.
- Very busy, leaflets were handed out – children were particularly interested in the garden.
- Philippe made contact with the U3A who suggested giving a talk about what we do.
- Definitely would be useful to be on the list of guest stalls for a future event.

Repairer Training

- Bicester Green will be offering free training for volunteer electrical repairers later this month.
- Thursday **22nd March** in Wantage, Saturday **24th March** in Oxford
- We need to find volunteers to come forward – will promote at the Give or Take and online
- Potential for £210 worth of funding if we can run 2 repair cafes before November 2018.
- Suggested promotion to EMBS, BYHP etc.

Collaborating with other local groups

- There is still interest in inviting other groups to a meeting to learn what others are doing and whether we can do similar stuff together.
- This will depend on enough of our volunteers to be available and enough local groups being found.
- Potential meeting times and locations were discussed.
- Henry from CAG Oxfordshire is attending the April meeting to help us decide on how we wish to take the group forward.
- Lynda is attending a social on 17th March for Resource Futures and Master Composters.
- We will promote our group at the Give or Take/Refashion event.
- We will revisit this discussion after the April catchup meeting.

Visit Banbury

- We have collaborated with Visit Banbury on previous projects before.
- A re-launch meeting will take place on **Thursday, 22nd March 2018**, 7.15pm to 8.45pm at the Waitrose Community Room, OX16 2FW.

Meeting Locations

- Lorraine will contact Waitrose to see if the community room is available for **Tuesday, 1st May**.

Next Catch-up Meeting

- The next one will be on **Tuesday, 3rd April 2018. 7pm Start**
- Phone the Reindeer Inn to confirm availability the day before.