

April 2018

Britain in Bloom

Following much encouragement from our friends at Elmbridge Borough Council, we have entered the Garden into the Britain in Bloom competition this year. Lawks! We'll need to present the Garden to the judges during June/July so we're aiming to have it looking its best ever by then. Our category "It's your Neighbourhood" is very much oriented towards community involvement (40% of the marks) and Environmental responsibility (30%) so we'll need to present our strengths in those areas too.

The Garden is open normal hours now so come along and help set up the crops for the coming year and get the Garden ready for judging in the summer!

Thursday 10-12 & 2-4pm

Saturday 10-12 & 2-4pm

New faces needed

Several key people will be re-locating and leaving the Garden over the coming year, so we need some new faces to come forward and take over the following roles (some can be combined or job shared if desired, as they are at the moment!):

- Business leader – Drive the policy, principles and profitability
- Head Gardener – Manage the horticulture and the site
- Garden openers – Open the Garden and organise the gardeners
- Committee member – Support the above
- Web master or mistress – Keep our website up to date

These are the key roles that keep the Garden running, and if we can't find people to fill them then the future of the Community Garden concept is at risk.

Regular commitment will be needed but all the roles are very rewarding. If you would like to find out more, come down to the Garden for a chat or contact us at hello@CobhamCommunityGarden.org.uk. Please mention this to your friends and groups you belong to so we can spread this as widely as possible.

We'll talk about this more at our General Meeting, below:

General Meeting

Last year we held a very successful and enjoyable general meeting in the Garden and we'll be repeating it this year to discuss:

- Our finances
- The roles that need replacing
- The future of the Garden if these roles can't be filled
- Britain in Bloom, and no doubt other important stuff

It sounds a bit dramatic, but we'll organise a simple lunch and follow the informal approach of last year. Venue - in the Garden – whatever the weather.

12:00 for 12:30 on Saturday 16th June.

Crop Captains still wanted

We floated this idea in the last newsletter and several people have said it sounds a bit scary; basically what we're trying to do is set up an opportunity for everyone to learn how to grow things – so the Crop Captain idea is to have one person focus on one crop for a season so they get a thorough practical view of how it's done (as well as being generally involved with the rest of the Garden), then swap for something new next year. So, simply a way to disseminate growing knowledge.

Does that sound better?

Current activities

Garlic is up and growing well and the onions are planted – one bed done! There are two main activities ongoing at the moment, sowing seeds in the nice warm greenhouse and preparing the rest of the growing beds. Soon we'll be planting potatoes, potting on and planting out seedlings and sowing direct into the soil.

We also need to build some supports for our new blackberry cordons, and put some net support structure around the rest of the soft fruit

New shed

A big thank you to the ACS American Eagle Scouts for building and painting our new shed – and indeed to Tony Poore for letting us have the kit of parts.

The Scouts were led by Dan Wilcox as the community project part of his Eagle Scout award - like a Queens Scout in the UK, so pretty heavy!

Well done Dan for an excellent job. The shed is huge and very strongly built, and we plan to use it as a 'gardener's bothy' that we can all hide in, crop storage & sales.



Data protection

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which comes into force in May applies to us as well as the big multinational companies. We hold very little data about you but we will contact you soon to explain exactly what we hold & how we use it. Let's be clear now that we don't share it with anyone else. We will need you to respond positively to say that we can continue to hold this data and communicate with you, so please do respond to the e-mail when it comes – otherwise you will never hear from us again! (Who said hurrah!.....?)