

Spring Briefing

Thank you for being part of Southsea Green. Thank you to those who attended on Saturday, your energy and enthusiasm is just what we need to move the group forward and to help transform it into the group that we dream for it to become. For those who couldn't attend the meeting on Saturday, I wanted to give you an update on where we are now and what we are doing and why.

Since we began this little social enterprise, on the seafront in a small cabin, together with a band of loyal volunteers we have made a difference to our community including:

- providing grow space and social opportunities through gardening
- helping isolated individuals and groups by access to the garden
- providing regular family friendly events and seasonal workshops
- supporting Green and Healthy Living initiatives across the city
- developing and sustaining Portsmouth in Bloom across the city
- strengthening the message about growing food and its provenance
- taking part in citywide events: - Victorious; Kitchen theatre; Food festival
- supporting new artists and crafters, acting as a platform for them to develop their enterprises

- helping young people, people with extra learning needs, and people in recovery, with specialised workshops and therapeutic opportunities
- offering friendship and relaxing activities, equal opportunities to locals and visitors
- bringing funding; volunteer energy; recycling resources for the benefit of the community
- campaigning for the care and protection of our trees, green-spaces and the environment

Two years ago, Southsea Greenhouse lost some of its' original team and nearly closed, but a small group of key volunteers kept it open by changing the way we share the garden and operate as a group. Passionate to see it evolve and succeed one day. This is the interim Management Committee which we set up to renew the lease with Portsmouth City Council in January 2018, and is currently made up of:

Founder - Sue

Treasurer - Graham

Secretary - Peta

Chair - Carla

Head Gardener - Goff

Social Secretary - Zara

Garden 1st contact - Jean

Crafter member - Lisa

Web designer - Chris

*list is flexible for additions/amends

Our liaison at PCC is Chris Richards

To simplify things, we're currently transitioning the group from a Cooperative to an Association. To achieve this, we have re-grouped and we need your help and input. There will be an open meeting in the summer to formally report and for contributions from all our Association members, and in the meantime via our get together meetings or the social media group.

Key things we're focusing on are: -

1. Gaining clarity on: -

1. Our vision, mission and purpose, key goals and objectives and engaging the whole group to be a part of creating something very special for ourselves and the greater community now and in the future

2. Where we are now: -

- Our responsibilities
- Our resources
- Our limitations
- What we do well and naturally

3. Understanding how we arrived here and what we have learnt along the way to make our future smoother

4. As we're all volunteers we will get this set up in a way so that it easy to manage and deliver. We will keep it simple so that it stays enjoyable.

We aim to bring all this together and re-launch in time for our 7th birthday on the 21st April. Save the date - we look

forward to marking the start of this exciting new chapter with you.

All the while we're doing this, we of course need to be enjoying our time in the garden, getting our plots ready, observing and learning what the garden needs in terms of maintenance and for looking out for our visitors and each other. We have also got a little funding from the Partnership Foundation to help us map the garden once we are happy with the layout (including the community orchard), and to publish a new leaflet which will help update the public information and understanding on what we are all about.

Carla has kindly offered to do a weekly newsletter updating you all on our progress, successes and ideas.

Jenni is working with us from a coaching perspective to help us get clear on our goal and help us create an action plan to achieve it.

Peta, with help from Vik and Sarah and Jean and Graham have been coordinating the bags workshops which we are delivering together with Eastney Community Centre -these begin in a few weeks' time.

Vik and Sarah are also working on a social action project which will incorporate some of their own young people from Catch 22 and SG finding ways that they can benefit with small acts of kindness and social action which will spring from a Dragon's Den where the young people will pitch their ideas-exciting...

We are also contemplating rolling our 3rd set of 'Skillshops' which have been successful in the past and will enable us to finance some development of the garden too. More discussion to come on this.

And Chris, our web wizard has redesigned and revamped our website giving us a comprehensive resource which is invaluable for reporting on and promoting activities and updating all our information. He needs your help with a google review of the garden *see his pinned post here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1762226690733611/>

We're currently taking stock of what we have done to date, so that we're not re-inventing the wheel.

We also need to know your thoughts. Please find attached a document with some important questions. If you think of any others we could be asking, please let me know. Please take the time and answer them and email them back to me. If you'd rather go over it in person verbally we can set some time aside at the next meeting or via Skype. Just let us know what works best for you.

Thank you again for your passion and for breathing life back into the community garden, as I said on Saturday, it is exactly what we need right now, and means we can continue to build a legacy for Southsea that we can all enjoy and be proud of.