

GrOws

Notes from 19 August 2024 meeting

Much of the discussion was around upcoming events:

8 September – Village Fete

We discussed the details for the GrOws stand at the Fete. There'll be information boards for the repair cafés, WeCan and WINACC Green week, a pop up banner from WINACC and info from local eco shops eg Earthian. Toilet twinning will be promoted – with an actual toilet! Paul will create a Cornhole game – Cathy to make the beanbags – to attract people to the stand. Peter (Facey) Nicky (Scott), Nicki (Evans), Sue (Tickle) and Belinda (Smith) to be on the stand. We'll have sign-up sheets for anyone interested in knowing more about GrOws.

16 September meeting will be a Bat Walk.

This is in conjunction with St Andrew's as one way of supporting the Silver Eco Award effort. There's a back-up plan for 23 September in case of bad weather. 30 free tickets available on Eventbrite with a suggested donation to cover costs and make a donation to St Andrew's. We agreed various places to advertise on FB, OIS, LoLs, OMAMA, the newsletter. Nik Wright from Hampshire Bat Society will be leading the event and has sent information about how to prepare which Paul and Belinda will put in place.

21 September – inaugural meeting of the Pub GrOws village garden

The Ship's manager, Daniel, has offered GrOws the option to run the kitchen garden as a village project. He wants it to be kept in good order and would like any excess produce to be made available to the pub kitchen. It's an exciting offer and various ideas were discussed about practicalities including what guidance might be needed on what to grow etc. Carol Chaplin-Rogers has taken on running this first meeting. Next steps will happen once we know how much interest there is.

21-29 September Winchester Green Week

Promote this amongst us and further afield. We've had a lot of support and encouragement from WInAcc. In particular Stu Mills and Kim Blakeway in particular are our contacts.

Further ahead

21 October will be our next monthly GrOws meeting

9 November will be a second Swishing event in the village hall

18 November will be a climate café also in the village hall – speakers on Food and Money matters

16 December will include a demonstration of an infra-red camera and the start of a loan arrangement for people to use it at their own homes.

GrOws meeting 28 October agenda

1. Aluminium recycling now live - action for all: keep an eye on the bins in case they need emptying and report back to PS
2. Bat walk: done great response and good audience engaged. Do another?
Something else to connect community with nature, mini beast safari in spring?
3. Pub community garden: underway! - offer spare allocation, plan day for getting together, consider funding options CCR & PS
4. Repair cafe round up 2024 and publish dates for 2025 - MT
5. Swishing - ticket sales update - BS
6. 18 November climate cafe: plan agenda with food & money speakers - BS / PS
7. infra red camera has arrived! Plan December demo with Stu. Training link share to any volunteer testers - PS
8. parish pollinator pledge HCC share details and discuss. Any vols to help?
9. website page update - comms vols?
10. eco church silver on track for December? - BS

GrOws

Notes from 28 October meeting

7 people attended in St Andrews.

Looking back over the last month a lot has happened.

We particularly discussed the stand GrOws had at the village fete. The toilet twinning coin throwing leading to the cornhole game attracted a lot of attention. Enough funds are available to apply for a toilet twinning certificate. Cathy was thanked for making the bean bags and Paul for making the cornhole game and Peter, Nicky, Nicki, Sue and Belinda for being at the stand. However, we haven't had anyone else sign up for GrOws.

1. Aluminium recycling is up and running. It's outside the church and is dark green. We are all to keep an eye on the bins and let Paul know when it needs emptying. PS NB there is a cans only collection bin in the Village Hall. The contents will be added to the church one. Gary, the village ACSO, is liaising with Paul on this. NB The bottle top collection point has stopped at the Village Hall. Tops can stay on bottles and go in the household recycling bins.

2. Bat walk on 16 September was at capacity and a great event with a diverse group of people attending. Nik Knight brought bat detectors for everyone. He was really good. Plan to run a mini beast safari in the Spring, and another bat walk next Autumns. Paul will ask Nik, Wildlife Trust and Marwell Education Centre about who might be able to run the safari.

3. Pub community garden volunteers met on 21 September. Clearance is underway with a local couple leading the way. There is interest in the remaining beds. Next steps are with CCR and PS to plan another day for getting together, keeping in touch with the new chef at The Ship, and to apply for grants.

NB Humphreys early thoughts for the development of their Whites Hill Site is to include allotments. We wait to hear more and how that would impact on the pub community garden. We noted that alongside one big house, one small house, and 6 small / medium sized enterprise units there could be as many as another 50 vehicle movements a day through the village.

4. Repair cafe round up 2024 was covered in the 25 October newsletter. Dates for 2025 are published: 1 March, 17 May, 5 July and 11 October. – The WeCAN (Winchester Climate Action Network) is meeting in Owslebury Village Hall on 25 November to learn from Monica and others about setting up and running Repair Cafes.

5. The Swishing event is planned for 9 November. The update from Belinda and Nicki was that only a few tickets had been sold.

6. 18 November climate cafe: plan agenda with food & money speakers - BS / PS

7. infra red camera has arrived. Paul has tried it out and passed to Belinda to have a try. Stu is booked to do a demo and talk more about how to use the data for our December meeting. There's a training link to share with any other volunteer testers in the meantime.- PS

8. Parish pollinator pledge. Karima, the Pollinator Projects Officer for HCC joined us to share details and discuss what's involved. A lot of the work is for conservation. Grants are available in response to any expressions of interest. We need to choose a plot of land and then go for it! PS will take this to the next Parish Council meeting. We got all sorts of ideas from Karima including how we could have a kids trail for the Scarecrow Trail and / or the fete next year. All in all though the pollinator pledge needs volunteers to get involved.

9. We need help to keep the website updated. James Tickle is happy to help, we need to formulate clearly what we need.

10. Eco church silver award. BS to report back on where we've got to next time.

11. The Terms of Reference for GrOws has been updated and Paul will take it to the next Parish Council meeting. We discussed how our actions can be measured. It's difficult to calculate a village wide carbon footprint. We therefore acknowledged the wording needs to be 'take action against climate change' rather than having a specific measurable target.

12. Financial update. Juanita is keeping us updated with our funds which are healthy and we have more allocated from the Parish Council for next year. We have to prioritise where to spend the funds now.

Date of Next meeting: Monday 18 November.