



## Melksham Climate Friendly Group

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009 @ 8.00pm**

**Spencer's Sports & Social Club, Beanacre Road, Melksham**

**The MCFG Meet at the same venue at the same time on the first Wednesday of every month**

### **NOTES**

**ATTENDEES:** Jo Stoddart, Eddy Watts, Kathy Iles, Mike Boyce, Marieke Guy, Pete McHenry, Scott Aldersley, Lorraine Aldersley, Shirley McCarthy

**APOLOGIES:** Jess Riley, Becky Hatfield, Graham Ellis

#### **FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL**

This was held at Assembly Hall on Sunday 3 May. We decided to cancel our stall at the last minute as we were told that we would have to be outside on the lawn. This made it too difficult for us to organise at such short notice. The resources already prepared will be used at next events.

#### **SPENCERS OPEN DAY** *Agenda item for June meeting*

This is at Spencers Club on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June from 3pm to 6pm.

- Jade & Jo are doing junk modelling with supplies from the Scrapstore. This will be a free activity for kids.
- Try to sell: our bags, cakes, plants. Jo's husband has built bird boxes, planters, trellis etc from which we will get a share of the profit.
- Polar Bear Game – the polar bears were found to be hibernating in Jo's loft!
- Freecycle stall – info boards plus 'bring and take'. Contributors must take home left over items that belong to them.
- MCFG display boards, food festival resources, plastic bags display, Wildlife Garden etc.
- Volunteers so far: Jo, Eddy, Kathy, Scott, Lorraine, Alan, Jade, Mike, Marieke, Jess.

#### **MELKSHAM CARNIVAL** *Agenda item for June meeting*

This is on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July. After some discussion we decided that we would have a stall at the Party in the Park and also do a walking float again this year. We decided the theme for the float this year will be gardening and in particular the Wildlife Garden. Ideas to dress up as gardeners and have children dressed as wildlife (bees, butterflies, flowers etc), we can push wheelbarrows and carry tools. We would like to invite members of the Gardeners Society to join us if they are not doing their own float. Also try to link with Bee-keepers club.

Decided to keep the stall simple. We need a pop-up gazebo for this event and tables but don't want too much 'stuff' to load and unload from cars as very hard work. Keep stalls simple with info boards, 'every-one-a-winner tombola', free lightbulbs etc.

Jo has the registration forms so will complete with Mike and send off. Mike will pull together the event planning.

#### **CHUFFIN' TRAINS** *Agenda item for June meeting*

Now got up to 600 signatures on petition. Leaflets ready to be picked up from Well House Manor – Marieke will pop round to see if there is a delivery plan we can help with. Hold up on the banner but it will be displayed on Spencers front fence.

## **WILDLIFE GARDEN** Agenda item for June meeting

Lots of members contributed their time, effort and plants last weekend 2/3 May and also some members of the Gardeners Society. A Gardeners Society member contributed their rotovator and trailer which was a massive help.

- Another planting session is planned for this Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May just from 10am-1pm.
- Kathy to send Eddy photos for the website.
- Jo to ask her friend if he can get us some old guttering and Scott to ask the landlord if its okay for us to put this up.
- We don't really want the garden to be open to the public but rather be kept as a wildlife reserve.
- Mike has old tank in his loft; if he can get it out we can use it for water collection.
- Kathy to donate a piece of tarpaulin to start off a bog area.

## **FUTURE PROJECTS**

- **Brainstorming session at next meeting.**

*Mike contributed the list below:*

1. Ideas to improve membership
2. Problem: We have few members so are really stretched at events
3. Solution: Make joining a fun decision. People like interesting activities and projects
4. Examples: Plastic Bag amnesty; Free light Bulbs, Wildlife garden
5. Support projects that create community hands on activity: The garden Land share, Litter pick (adopt a road?)
6. Less support for problematic events: e.g. manning a stall. Good decision to pull out of Food + Drink Fair: more was achieved at West End...
7. Why is manning a stall a problem? We are a specialist org, OK if we are at similar or related venues or discreet venues. Not good if we are competing with beer and burgers and need a lot of labour and kit (manning a day's stall is a challenge, gazebo issues etc...)
8. If we do a stall: 1 or simple clear messages: Cakes and Light bulbs, that's it!
9. Is it worth doing carnival stall?? What did other successful stalls have??
10. How did we stand out or not stand out? Image/Resources, Features etc....
11. Beware of LCD! Mass audience, keep it simple, may have to be gimmicky...
12. Income generation is challenge, but when we have a projects we frequently get support (e.g. Whitehall Garden Centre Donation for Wildlife garden), etc..)
13. OK to be choosy: do a few things well. Push for publicity ( as we do already). Tell papers we need volunteers. Market ourselves?
14. Venue will be a challenge if we get bigger, and we need to. Also guest speakers are a big draw

## **FINANCE**

- £74 in the account.
- Kathy to send thank you letter to Whitehall Garden Centre for vouchers received as a donation for Wildlife Garden – Scott to e-mail details to Kathy.
- We have had £100 donated to us from the disbanded 'anti-landfill' group run by Yvette Kahane.

## **WEBSITE**

- Eddy to update Wildlife Garden page. Kathy to email photos to Eddy for this.
- Scott to send Eddy Q&As from the no-guest speaker night!

## **HOMEWORK:**

Research Palm Oil – bring contributions of information to next meeting to share.

**DATE OF NEXT MCFG MEETING: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2009**