

Weston in Gordano Gardening Group

Newsletter for Spring Bank Holiday 2021

- This month Plant Sale Success
- Village Green definitely moves forward
- ***Group Garden meeting THIS WEEK – BEFORE THE LATE SPRING FLOWERS GO!***

Well what a busy month!

After all the contemplating of the changing Covid regulations, and practical planning, and worrying, the Plant Sale was a huge success, possibly best ever!

The decision to go ahead with running a nearly normal Plant Sale this year was a bit of a gamble back in the early spring but Ann bravely lead us forward. Nearer the time, we were worrying about whether there would be enough plants, how much advertising should be done? We didn't want to have masses of disappointed customers. Then with days to go, the weather deteriorated, and that of course brought other worries – a Plant Sale in the pouring rain just would not be fun!

In the event, everything came together perfectly. Although Friday – plant pricing and set up day, was really rather soggy, making it difficult to write the price labels in the rain, there were intermittent sunny spells to give us hope. It was wonderful to witness the constant stream of people coming to deliver the plants that they were donating for the sale – I found it really quite emotional to see how much support there was, and how many people, including at least three from outside the village, were giving us plants. We were particularly lucky be given 65 beautiful plants by Carol Veale who donated a huge number of splendid plants, as she was reorganising her garden. The quality and variety of plants was exceptional.

We were blessed, on Saturday the sun shone, customers came, and we sold a great many plants! We made more than ever before for plants alone, with the impressive sum of £150 raised by Geoff Mitchell for his flower and veg plants sold from home. After expenses, we have been able to donate £1100 to the church of St Peter and St Paul towards the cost of the new boiler.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with advertising, growing and contributing plants, transporting plants, and to those who helped with setting up, “crowd control”, taking money or clearing up. Particular thanks to Linda Pearce for her on-going care of the plants. All in all a great team effort!

There are still some plants remaining, currently on the patio at the village hall, with an honesty box for sales. Do pop along, if you have not been already! There are some smaller plants, particularly Geoff's small lupins, which we intend to grow on, for **our stall, at the Village Fete on 10 July**. More on this later.

Today, we in the Gardening Group received an amazing Thank You card!



28 May, 2021

Dear Penny,

On behalf of St Peter and St Paul church, I am writing to thank you and the Weston in Gordano Gardening Club for putting on the Plant Sale to raise much needed funds for the church.

We are overwhelmed that so much hard work and so many people helped to make the Plant Sale such a success!

With many thanks to you all,

*Elizabeth Williams
Secretary to the PCC, SSPP church*

And then, a week later, we made big progress on the Village Green.

This is Chris's letter of thanks to everyone in the village who has helped:

Hello Fellow Villagers,

We would like to give a sincere thank you to everyone involved, for your help and encouragement, in the task of transforming the Village Green into a pleasant site where people can pause and enjoy the new atmosphere.

*Following the delays of Covid and bad weather **Saturday 29th May was D day** – the day the digger arrived. Work commenced promptly at 8.00am.*



The Gardening Group who were asked to deliver this project, are indebted to Kevin Cranshaw for giving his time and expertise in removing and disposing of the weedy layer overlying the hard-core which covered a large part of the area. Scraping away the surface confirmed that there being little soil, on top of a stony base, was the cause of the grass failing during dry weather.

To minimise disruption to people living near the green, it was decided to tackle the job in two phases, the pump side first.



The dumpy bags of sand/gravel were being stored near the pub, but Bank Holiday traffic whizzing by was going to make barrowing gravel from the bags across the road difficult, slow and possibly dangerous. A quick phone call to David Down summoned a large tractor and hey presto the dumpy bags were swung across the road! Thank you David for saving a lot of bad backs and possibly the odd coronary!



Several villagers came to rake and compact the gravel and were supplied with refreshments by others.

Over the weeks Steve Doble has worked tirelessly to make the project successful and many others have given time to help with soil preparation, planting, watering and removal of debris.

We are excited and very grateful that Paul Jones has kindly offered to restore the rotting pump casing with a new hardwood replica. We are looking for an old galvanised bucket – any offers?

All in all a great effort to enhance the lovely village we live in Thank you again.

You may wonder why we abandoned what at times was green grass (mainly weeds) for what at present is a rather dominantly coloured gravel area. Please be patient; there are sound ecological, maintenance and financial reasons for the decision. The gravel will fade quite quickly to a quieter shade and the new cottage garden plants will take the eye. They are growing already and will spill over and soften the edges of the borders, with some being left to seed into the gravel areas.

Next Gardening Group Meeting – this week!

Our apologies for short notice, but we are keen to enjoy one garden visit before the late spring/early summer flowers have gone. As we do have decent weather at the moment, we are wondering if it could be viable to meet this week?

We would like to invite you to our first actual meeting this year. Chris Lewis has invited us to meet in her garden, at **The Dairy**, (at the bottom of the lane, beyond the church), on **Thursday 3 June, 4.00-6.00pm.**

Please could you let us know if you are able to come, so that we can make a decision on viability, and the number of chairs needed? We need a volunteer or two to make/bring cake or biscuits (please email Penny) – please bring your own drink, and mask – good idea if we are in close proximity to each other at any stage.

Apart from enjoying the garden, and celebrating our successes, we will think about:

- What we would like to do in subsequent meetings this summer.
- Are there topics you would like to cover, or a gardening skill you might share?
- Would you be interested in going to visit any gardens elsewhere?
- Could you host the next meeting in your garden – more interesting than the village hall. (Need enough room to socially distance)
- Dates and times of next meetings.

Again, apologies for the short notice, but we do hope at least some of you will be able to come, the irises are looking lovely!

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