

The ODHC Gardening Group

Update – 11th May 2019

We had another great gardening session on Saturday morning!

The date of our next meeting will be in two weeks time on Saturday 25th May, from 1000-1200 as usual.

We would appeal for donations of the following plants: Lavender, Cosmos, Agapanthus, herbs especially Rosemary and Sage, and basically any colourful perennials that aren't too bushy.

We will be placing a 'collection box' outside the Surgery doors for all donations.

Plant donations: to date, group members have been bringing stuff from their own gardens or buying plants. We've been very happy to do so to get the project up and running, but we're very aware that this isn't a sustainable model in the long term.

It was agreed that we wouldn't want this to become 'the norm' as this may make anyone joining the group who doesn't have a garden or who isn't in a position to buy plants feel uncomfortable — and we very much want people of all backgrounds to be included.

Watering: we've had plenty of rain recently, but if we get a dry spell — or have a heatwave in the summer like last year — then plots front and back would need watering regularly to keep them going.

Rear garden pathway: we are beginning to think about ease of walking and accessibility out back — the ground in the rear garden is very muddy and slippery when wet. In the longer term paving would be great, but in the short term we are thinking of gravel and edging. We hope to approach local firms for donations, involve local media etc and reach out more visibly on social media and at the practice premises. We are also starting to think that some sort of event would be good — there has been a great suggestion that, as our veg and fruit start to ripen and are ready to harvest (maybe in August), we could invite people to a picking session (an evening or Saturday morning), followed by a demonstration of preparing/preserving the veg/fruit and/or a demo of some healthy recipes using them.

Judy, the Practice Manager, has agreed to talk to the Partners about such an event at their next meeting and will report back to the group before our next meeting.

Another BIG thank you to all the donations of a water butt, compost bins and plants — we will make very good use of them.

