



GIVING FLOWERS

CONNECTING PEOPLE



NEWSLETTER



With signs of spring everywhere it seems the right time to send out our second newsletter, and an update on our progress since the publication of our first, with news of our exciting plans for the coming year and beyond. It also gives the team at *Giving Flowers* a chance to say a huge thank you to all those who have been so encouraging in their support of the project since its inception last year. It has meant a huge amount to us in our journey to this point.

OUR FIRST YEAR

Since the delivery of our first bouquet at the beginning of June last year we managed to create and gift a little over 70 bouquets before the autumn brought a close to proceedings. As pleased as we were with this number, of greater importance has been the feedback and encouragement we have received for the initiative, as well as the learning we have gained about growing and the giving of flowers.

FLOWERS THAT HAVE FEATURED IN OUR BOUQUETS:

SWEET PEA	LAVENDER
ALCHEMILLA MOLLIS	SOLIDAGO
COSMOS	AGASTACHE
HYDRANGEA	NIGELLA
GAURA	CALENDULA
AMMI MAJUS	ZINNIA
KNAUTIA	DAHLIA
WEIGELA	ECHINACEA
ABELIA	RUDBECKIA
BUDDLEIA	

WE ARE OFFICIAL!

Our progress, and mishaps too, over the last year has allowed us to get a better sense of our objectives and direction of travel. With a need to raise some funds to develop further, we felt it important to have a more formal structure and governance. With this in mind, we now have a constitution and a group of trustees who have started to meet regularly to support and guide the project, as well as ensuring the agreed objectives are met and any funds raised utilised in accordance with the objectives, and for the benefit of the public.

GIVING FLOWERS OBJECTIVES:



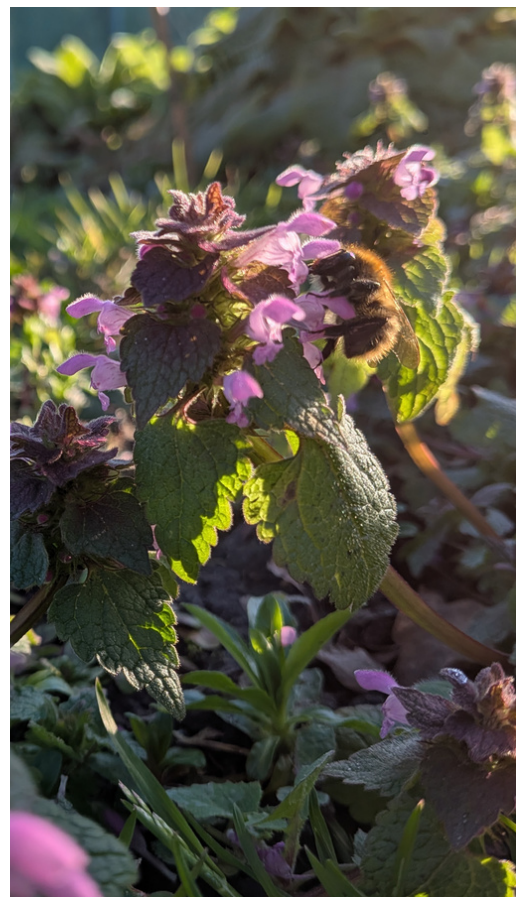
TO PROMOTE AND FACILITATE, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN THE DORKING AREA, THE GROWING OF FLOWERS ORGANICALLY, SUSTAINABLY AND LOCALLY TO HELP INCREASE FOOD SOURCES FOR INSECTS AND POLLINATORS



TO CUT AND GIFT FRESHLY CREATED BOUQUETS OF FLOWERS TO PEOPLE IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY TO HELP PROMOTE AND BENEFIT SOCIAL COHESION AND CONNECTION WITHIN THE DORKING COMMUNITY



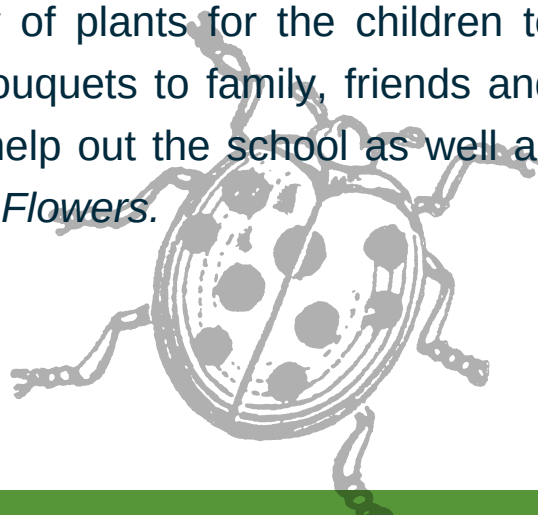
TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



COLLABORATIONS

Towards the end of last year we established an exciting collaboration with

St John's Primary School, Dorking. Over the coming year we will be growing and giving, as plug plants, a variety of plants for the children to nurture and then cut, wrap and give flower bouquets to family, friends and the local community. We hope that this will help out the school as well as engage the children in the objectives of *Giving Flowers*.



'NO DIG' TRIAL



One of our key objectives at *Giving Flowers* is to encourage and support the growing of more flowers locally. We appreciate that many people have not got the time to spend creating, and planting up, a flower border. To find ways to address this we have begun a

'no dig' trial bed. This is a well established, quick method, of creating a planting space with significantly less effort than making a more traditional plant border. It also avoids disturbing the underlying soil structure that is a home to so much life. As the photos show, card board is laid on the area where the new border will be, and then compost is placed on top, 10 - 15 cms

in depth. The border is then ready for planting! The key challenge, when we have previously tried this method, has been the cost of the compost. The trial will be looking at how well plants grow, and flower, in a pure compost bed compared with one made up of rotted wood chip and leaf mould with just a

pocket of compost around each plant. For more information about this approach we recommend taking a look at Charles Dowding's excellent YouTube channel about 'no dig' gardening and Huw Richards' equally good YouTube channel on how to make, and maximise, the use of compost amongst many other, informative, episodes about growing.

Giving Flowers is a very small, growing initiative with evolving ideas as to how we might help connect people and increase habitats for plants and insects at the same time. If you would like to join us, whether growing, sharing or cutting flowers, making up bouquets and/or gifting them we would love to hear from you. We can be contacted via our website www.givingflowers.uk or scan the QR above.