

# MAISEMORE GARDENS LIMITED

Registered in England, No.714547

Newsletter June 2019 - Dear Member

AGM Thank you to all who attended this year's AGM. It went very smoothly and finished in record time giving plenty of time for a sociable chat and drink after.

House Modifications and Maintenance. There still appears to be a little confusion about what members need to let the Council of Management (CoM) know about regarding changes to properties. Basically, any changes to the front (house or garden) need approval. Changes to backs of property need acceptance from neighbours and approval for any structural change. Internal changes need no approval so long as they are not structural. Planning regs. and building regs. approval from the council, where required, is the responsibility of the member. **IF IN DOUBT CONTACT THE CoM FIRST.** It may save a lot of trouble later.

Gardens. Sarah Harrington has informed members of the plans for tidying Area A (nearest the shore, between 45 and 46). The idea in general is to move some of the existing shrubs and plant some new ones towards the back, along with levelling and extending the grass area a little. There has been a lot of consultation about this area, but if you still are not sure please contact Sarah. Members have suggested having a bench seat there, which appears a good idea.

Sarah has also put out an appeal for help from members:

We are proposing to have a **GARDENING DAY on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June** as we are having difficulty in finding a professional to do the weeding. If you could spare an hour or so of your time to help we will be very grateful. Helen Pettitt will provide refreshments. We are having this work party on a Saturday in the hope of attracting members who are normally working or not available mid-week.

Also, does anyone know of a jobbing gardener who would do weeding? If so, please let Sarah know at no.65

Directors We are still hoping that some members will be able to help the Council of Management with its work on a co-opted basis, with a view to possibly becoming more involved sometime in the future. We have had interest from a number of members, but some say that they are too busy at the moment. Mike Boys would like to resign next year, but does not want to go until there is someone able to take over the work. We are looking for members who would like to come to a CoM meeting or so to get an idea of what is involved and what they may be able to contribute. Please contact our secretary, Mike Boys, at no. 64.

Good Neighbours Tea and Evening event was organised by the Friends of Maisemore Gardens on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. There was a very good number of members and guests for a dry and sunny afternoon of tea and cakes. A little presentation was

made to Pat Balchin for all the work she has done for the 'Friends' over the years, as she is planning to leave Maisemore soon and live near her son in Wales. In the evening the festivities continued with wine and cheese while Martin Price gently entertained us on saxophone. A great day, thanks to the hard work of the Friends.



## Nature Notes

## Orchidaceae in Maisemore Gardens



For a number of years now an orchid has been trying to show its blooms before being cut down by the lawnmower. This year after one attempt, our example has succeeded in flowering.

The plant can be seen on the grass area in front of house No. 23. It is protected from further destruction by an assembly of small sticks and string. It is not easy to determine whether it is a Common Spotted (*Dactylorhiza Fucsi*) or an Early Purple (*Orchis Masculata*) as they are both showing this month and are very similar. Both have spots on their leaves. The spots on the Spotted are more rectangular, whereas the Early Purple's are more rounded. The blooms are also of similar colour, with the Spotted having various pink to purple markings on the lip. From these markings we can determine that it is of the Common Spotted variety.

These orchids, are unlike the popular houseplant, the *Phalaenopsis* or Moth Orchid, which are epiphytes, or air rooted plants, and live on trees where their roots absorb moisture and nutrients from the humid air. The wild temperate orchids as in the UK are soil based, and their roots gain nutrients through the soil and by a symbiotic relationship with fungi. This fungus needs to be present for germination and seedling growth, and adult plants will continue to obtain carbon from these mycorrhiza fungi.

Now is a really good time to see a wide variety of wild orchids. There are Southern Marsh, Common Spotted, and Bee orchids at Brook Meadow, and Bee Orchids are on the verge near Warblington Roundabout and also a large number (42) on the Northney Reserve. All within walking distance. For the more adventurous there are a recorded 11 species of orchid at Kingley Vale, and this month is a good time to see these magnificent plants.

Best wishes from your Council of Management

Chairman: Martin Gebbett (51), Secretary Mike Boys (64), Suzy Daniels (8), Gill Edwards (22), Sarah Harrington (65), Barry King Smith (30), David Salmon (71)