

# Belfast meeting 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016

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## Morning: Peace and Diversity Gardening (with FCFCG)

Jenny Methvyn – peace gardens. MA research on peace-building through community gardening.

Gardens created in the trenches in the 1<sup>st</sup> world war!

“Green is happiness, green is peace”

P patch gardens – Seattle

Permaculture projects and peace-building

Sage garden – Monaghan

Theories:

Therapeutic effect of being in a garden

- Heraclitean motion: eg movement of clouds, light and shadow – calming effect
- Biophilia (Capture and Wilkins) – increased serotonin levels
- Louvre; if you have a discussion in the open air, its outcome will be much better than a similar discussion held indoors
- Contact theory; how people work, together and alone.
- Liminal spaces; spaces outside of the norm, where it's ok to try something different, new ideas – entrances important

Positives:

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Churchill fellowship available for this kind of research.

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## Peas Park

Junction of Skegoneill and Glandore interface  
Arts Council funding for outdoor art gallery

They've documented all along the way.

Programming – seasonal activities on the site. Work in partnership with other groups in the area. Eg Autumn Fair – community artists, apple press; St Patrick's

day spud planting. Art workshops, performance, lantern-making workshop at Halloween

The garden is always open – space is not locked.

“Resolutions in the garden”

Communicating what’s happening – a lot on social media.

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### Challenges:

Volunteer burnout

Balancing informal/organic happenings with formal, organised activities.

Communicating – especially when different groups are involved

People on ‘solo runs’/ too many chiefs

Staying positive, keeping motivated

Evaluating outcomes – FCFCG has a lot of tools available for how to evaluate outcomes.

Evaluating peace and diversity outcomes – it’s all about people, their stories, their journey. Don’t do quantitative analysis at the start of a project (people will seem to regress – instead, at the end ask “where do you think you were then, where do you think you are now”).

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Apologies : Eoin Craven. Miren Sampler. Gareth Conlon – setting up a CG in Louth. Nicollete

Minutes and matters arising:

-Nico has some outstanding but is travelling

Sandra Austin gave update on financial situation

Discussion on whether or not NING has outlived its usefulness

Dee: Governance guidelines. Would anyone like to be involved in discussions around this?

JoD

Mary Hamilton (Conservation volunteers) [m.hamilton@tcv.org.uk](mailto:m.hamilton@tcv.org.uk)

Miriam Turley

Ingrid (Organic Centre)

Joanne

SA and DS obvs

Deadline – 1 month from now Fri 17<sup>th</sup> June.

Willing to be on committee: (People want to know what's involved)

- Joanne

Only need 3 officers on committee, can then delegate responsibilities to ordinary members (eg events, mapping co-ordinator, press and pr)

Dee filled us in on Electric Picnic

Date of next meeting: Carraig Dulra, possibly late September.

Send Dee the details wrt Beekeepers and Herb Patch Project to Dee for Newsletter.

Joanne and John – pollinator plan. Encourage each county council to implement the pollinator plan; through the PPN.