CCGA 2019 Patron’s words

The tragedy that happened in Christchurch at the mosques in March has brought into focus the need for us all to pay attention to the making and maintenance of the fabric that knits each of us into the pattern of our nation. Suddenly it seems extra important to connect with neighbours, new immigrants and people from places we know little about.

Since that event we have become more aware of everything that might divide us, rile us and endanger our settled ways.

In our increasingly diverse society it behoves us to nurture benign ways of meeting strangers – to create safe places where we can learn how to rub along together and to thrive.

Through the Canterbury Community Gardens Association (CCGA) we have a unique opportunity to do this.

Where better to make connections than in a garden?

Gardening transcends physical strength, education, ethnicity and religion; it allows everyone an opportunity to contribute to the binding together of a purposeful community. ‘The seriousness of our intent is enlivened by the pleasure of the process.’ Together we can admire a well-turned compost heap, take pride in a trellis of good beans, commiserate when thing go wrong, commemorate and celebrate.

Through community gardening we can get to know about our whole society – about how things work and how to do things and how to get things done.

I can think of no better way of welcoming a new arrival into the heart of our nation than by taking them to a working bee at their local community garden. CCGA knows where all the gardens are.