

Notes from a Volunteer Gardener Feb.2011-June2011

Work continued apace at the start of the year, & the nest box maintenance was completed with the installation of 2 splendid tree creeper boxes, we don't think they've been used but there's always next year. The wildlife border, Chubb Hill & the heather beds were tidied together with the rockeries, & paths were edged off. Students from Rawmarsh Community School helped to install the obelisks on the main drive, they potted up roses & did some weeding.

There were some lovely warm, sunny days in March & it was a pleasure to weed the rose beds & floral clock, tidy the herbaceous borders & play area, continue path edging, & feed & water the roses. Seasonal pruning was carried out along peony steps & in the garrya elliptica bed. Prunings were shredded & returned as a mulch. The Community Garden was weeded & the new climbing roses were planted at the rose pergola near the lily pool, these are shade lovers, old varieties..Albertine, Alberic Barbier, Rambling Rector & Dancing Queen (the latter probably isn't a very old variety!)

April was an amazing month. A pleasure to be outside. Lily pool area weeded, & phormiums given the Kath treatment, the Floral Clock got a feed of seaweed which helped boost the planting. Jurassic garden was tidied & watering continued. The rose garden & main entrance were tidied for the Easter event & Chubb Hill border got lots of attention. In May the hydrangeas were pruned, & a splendid training day was held at RHS Harlow Carr, we came back busting with ideas for new planting. We prepared the lily pool area for Lily Planting Day on May 14th, a fitting climax to the restoration of the park. A perfect day.

At the end of the month the park was assessed by the Green Flag judges so all hands to the pump weeding & edging rose beds, herbaceous & bedding displays. The park's managerial team who attended the event were impressed with the standard at which the park was presented, & also how well we all work together as a team.

Finished the month by clearing the bedding displays, weeding Chubb Hill entrance & lots more watering.

At the beginning of June we returned to the lily pool where the weeds grow so vigorously

I think someone's fertilising them, & kept our eye on weed regrowth generally.

Vol. gardening hours for this year are 752. Since 2005:8668 in total.