

Notes from a Volunteer Gardener Oct.2017- March 2018

October cont. The Community Garden was tidied & herbaceous planting cut back where gone over.

November. Twin rockeries were weeded & tidied, & Bagdale fernery cleared of debris. Climbers were checked for loose ties. The Community Garden was tidied up for the season. Herbaceous planting on main drive, museum borders & a border near Jurassic Garden were tidied & weeded. 1000 each of Narcissus 'Actaea', N. 'Mount Hood' & N. 'Carlton' were planted on the bank & in South Seas Garden. Cornus were spruced up for winter, buddleia at the Lily Pool pruned & upper Chubb Hill border tidied.

December. Edging of paths was carried out. A *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* was planted at the site of the former Park Keeper's cottage. A delightful morning was spent making Xmas table decorations in the tool shed.

January 2018. Work resumed after a short winter break on 9th. The bog garden had some attention & an attempt at sealing a leak was made. Boards & bins were cleaned, clematis pruning carried out & all other climbing plants tied in & checked over. Jurassic Garden was weeded & ferns cut back. Edging of paths carried out. Lily Pool rockery weeded. Hardy fuchsias cut back, tidying of Twin Rockeries started. Commemorative Garden tidied.

February. Work contined on Lily Pool rockery & nearby shrubs were pruned where overhanging. Edging of paths was completed. Leaves cleared from herbaceous planting, & boards & bins cleaned. Grasses were cut down before new growth starts, the Rose Garden weeded & edged off. Phormium 'groomed' & Twin Rockeries tidied. Herbaceous planting at Jubilee Gate cut back. A wisteria was transplanted to the new support on the main dive. The pergola borders were edged off. The team cleaned the Lily Pool ensuring no damage to wildlife occurred. Many goldfish were thriving. Borders in the area were weeded & tidied.

March. Snow & rain left the ground water-logged. Bins & boards were cleaned. Rosmarinus was pruned, lavandula trimmed, mahonia pruned & sarcococca cut back where encroaching cornus. Old foliage from evergreen ferns in Jurassic Garden was removed. Jasminum nudiflorum was pruned on St. Hilda's Terrace & weeding carried out. Hydrangea dead-headed, benches scrubbed & cornus pruning started. Vinca near the play area was brought under control.

As always thanks to SBC staff for their continuing support.

Vol. gardening hours for the year:155, & since 2005:16,919.