

Notes from a Volunteer Gardener October 2018- March 2019

October 2018 cont. The sunny, mild autumn weather came to an end with polar winds & wintry showers. Twin rockeries, Harry Eatough's rose bed & Peony Steps were weeded, tidied & leaves raked off. Pruning of climbing roses was completed & buddleia pruned. St. Hilda's Terrace border was weeded. Watering of recent planting continued as rainfall had been minimal for months. Roses on the Sweep were pruned & beds weeded.

November. Roses were pruned by half to prevent winter wind rock, leaves cleared, Rose Garden weeded & beds edged off. Aquilegia rockery was weeded. There was no let up in watering of the recent planting. Play area beds were weeded & tidied, bins & boards were cleaned. Hyacinth bulbs were planted in the bedding displays.

December. The climbers were checked for wind damage, rose pruning completed, Bagdale Steps weeded & tidied, & leaves cleared from borders. Main drive border tidied, & a cosy morning was spent in the tool shed making table decorations. Herbaceous planting was tidied & work carried out on Jubilee Gate border. Watering of new planting ceased for the first time since last March.

January 2019. Work recommenced on the 8th after a short break, the winter having been mild & dry so far. Herbaceous planting was cut back in all areas, the Community Garden cleared & wisteria pruned. Climbers checked for wind displacement. Weeding carried out in the Rose Garden, Jurassic Garden & herbaceous borders. Ferns were cut back & Twin Rockeries weeded & tidied. Planting at the wildlife pond was tidied. We welcomed a new volunteer to the group. Cold, wintry showers towards the end of the month.

February. Bins & boards were cleaned, herbaceous borders maintained, Rose Garden weeded & edged off & pruning of late summer flowering clematis (prune code 3) carried out. The herb garden was weeded & garlic planted. Paths edged off, deciduous grasses cut back & compost spread on the vegetable bed. St. Hilda's Tce. border weeded & leaves cleared from the Floral Clock, which was also edged off & dead-headed. Paths edged off. Sedum dead-headed & digitalis planted at Peony Steps. The Lily Pool was gently cleared of excess 'weed' & debris & the area swept & tidied.

March. Path edging off was completed, the little pond maintained & herbaceous border maintenance continued. The Lily Pool area was weeded & fuchsia, cornus & ceratostigma pruned. Compost bins organised. Bedding display weeded & edged off & boards & bins cleaned. A clematis was transplanted from museum wall where it was compromising wisteria. Jurassic rockery weeded & suckers from Rhus typhina removed. Hydrangeas were pruned & weekly watering of new planting started.

Volunteer Gardening hours from Oct. 2018-Feb.2019: 643, & from 2005: 18,525.

As always a big thank you to the SBC team for their continuing support.