

Parmoor

On the 1st of May there was the official opening and dedication to Lady Ryder of the Victorian walled garden at St. Katharine's. So the work by all the participating volunteer groups (of which there were about 20 all told) and individuals, had finally come together. Lady Anne Parmoor, chairman of St Katharine's House committee, persuaded a group of local people to help her manage the project in June 2010. The one-acre garden, which has been restored over the past 18 months, will promote Lady Ryder's vision of reducing poverty through work training and alleviating sickness and mental health problems by encouraging horticultural activities. Lady Anne said: "This garden was a desert and it was full of weeds. Although it was a lovely place to be, it wasn't really a garden. "After 18 months of very hard work by numerous volunteers", it is a garden that in a few months' time will be abundant with fruit and vegetables." Most of the manual work was carried out by volunteers, including clients from homeless shelters the Old Tea Warehouse and the Watford New Hope Trust, the YMCA in High Wycombe and the Sonning Common Green Gym, made up of people who exercise to promote healthy living. The grass and weed-infested beds were 'manually' dug and more than 14 tons of manure was incorporated. Four students have enrolled on a BTEC level one course in horticulture, after the garden became accredited to teach to that standard.

Lady Anne said the committee hoped to build an educational centre on the site of two defunct glasshouses and four more glasshouses at the cost of nearly half a million pounds. "We have proved that our garden benefits the people who want to come and work with us. We know that we can help rebuild broken self-confidence and self-worth. When we can help those who have become homeless to regain their self-respect and their confidence and give them a reason to get up in the morning, we feel that the garden is doing its magical work."

Sir Terry Wogan performed the opening ceremony and unveiled the plaque (with a logo of a sprig of rosemary) dedicating it to Lady Ryder. He said "Everybody knows the reputation, the work, the incredible lady that Sue Ryder was and everybody knows what a wonderful place this is. I have read so much about what is going on in this garden and how much good it's going to do." He joked that he expected to receive a free truckle of fruit and vegetables once a month. Lady Ryder's children, Jeromy and Elizabeth Cheshire, planted a rose (named Sue Ryder) by the entrance of the garden. Dr Cheshire said: "We are so very, very happy to be here and I know our parents would really have approved. They would think it was a wonderful project. It is a worthwhile project, providing education and therapy to so many people.

The garden was blessed by the Rev Canon Robert Clifton then Carolyn Cumming, High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, officially opened the new aluminium propagating greenhouse.



Nuffield

On a cool wet day the challenge was to use a felled oak tree to build stepping stones in the woods for children to play.



Aston Rowant

On a dry and sunny day we replaced a long section of fence on a path above the sunken way, as well as clearing the scrub and overhanging trees within the sunken way.



Stoke Row

Before the birds were thinking of nesting we raked the mown grass from the orchard, cleared the bandstand of gorse and bramble and cut back the invading hawthorn and bramble from around the cherry trees



planted 5 years ago



Valley Road

On behalf of the Henley Wildlife Group we attacked some of the bramble and ash saplings choking the chalk grassland.



Cleeve Court: The wet weather had certainly promoted the vegetative growth in the water meadows so one task was to sickle and scythe the comfrey, irises, docks and reeds which had completely obliterated the path from the cottage to the river. A separate stalwart gang were tasked with continuing the stockade along the Thames path edge. Several teams were formed to collect wood for stakes and 'deadhedge' infill, cut and sharpen stakes and embed the stakes in the fence line. Even though it was muddy wet and slippery an enormous amount was achieved, suitably bolstered by cakes and coffee. It was also good to have a visit from Richard.



J o y c e
Grove - on a lovely sunny day in March we attacked the Ha Ha while the brambles were still thinking about exploding into life. Whilst we were there we cleared the turf which had overgrown the top of the wall and tidied the hedges in the secret garden.



It's Summer !!!!

Please remember to bring to bring your own drinking water and sun protection for the summer months. It can be very dehydrating working in the full sun and there is a risk of sunburn for the unwary so don't forget the sunscreen and sun hats - I know this seems far fetched after the last few months, but you never know.

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"THE LOPPER"

full of little cuttings.

Sonning Common

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Kennylands Lavender Management (Bishopswood kissing-gate)

On the 12th April when we luckily had a dry day, the Green Gym once again was on hand to help maintain the lavender banks. The first weeding of the banks is always the hardest as the ground has compacted over the winter months. The banks had been strimmed to provide easy access and both the west and south banks were duly completed. This effort enabled 60 new lavender plants to be moved to the west bank to fill all the gaps.

There are still some gaps and a lot of old leggy plants that will need replacing. To cater for this a batch of 72 mini plug plants have been purchased and are currently growing fast in seed trays before being transferred to the outdoors later in the year.

The flower heads are already developing and you are encouraged to pay a visit in July and August to enjoy the South bank Show and to spot as many butterflies species as you can.

Tony



On the same day, Brian and Chris ing gate at Bishopswood to help the of the facilities.



(and later on Tony) installed a kiss- football club in their improvement



Flowercroft Wood

On a warm dry day we cleared the top of the grassy bank of small hawthorn bushes and other invading scrub as well as opening up the lower areas and controlling hazel and scrub growth.

