

July 2024 Newsletter

Dear Member,

Upper Pond Restoration



In my last newsletter I outlined the plans for the restoration project and our need to raise funds. The board have been amazed and delighted by your ongoing generosity towards our plans. We have been generously supported by The Michael Bishop Foundation, Caring for the Cotswolds, The Doris Field Trust, the local Parish Councils, and many private donations. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all those who have donated or pledged funds. This support is testament to how much the gardens are valued by our members and the community.

Many of you will have seen that work has already started to drain down the pond. A channel has been installed to take the incoming water to a drain down the side of the pond leading to the outlet in the round pond. We frequently find that rain and the blockage of the pipes can hamper progress. This is revealing just how much silt has built up over the past 50 years. We have been able to access the island to assess the state of the banks and the vegetation and are beginning to see just how much work is needed. It is important to let the silt dry out before we begin dredging to ensure we are not moving water, just silt.

The plan is to dredge the pond using tracked excavator and low impact tracked dumpers working within the confines of the pond. The machines would enter from the Dog Kennel end and work in stages clearing about a quarter and then moving to another section. The spoil would be removed to dump site via same access slope and only use the top path to dispose of the dredgings. The project is expected to last at least 3 months, depending on conditions.

The remainder of the garden will be open whilst the contractors are dredging and visitors will be able to see the work in progress. Our Tuesday morning crew will be working alongside the contractors, and we will update as the work commences. We will continue to fundraise for this project to be able to mitigate any extra expenses as they arise.

Membership Drive

A big thank you and welcome to all our new members from our stand in the garden over the May bank holiday and at the Milton Fete in July. We had a great response at both events and look forward to seeing you all at the Shipton Fete in August.

A Change at the Top!

After 15 years as Chair of the Wild Garden Mike Watson has decided to retire, I am sure that everyone will join me in thanking him for his dedication in that time from taking on the project as a founder member, raising the initial funds and navigating through the set up of the charity. His unwavering and tireless organisation on all sides from the Tuesday morning volunteer sessions, board meetings, restoration projects and fundraising in all its forms let alone all the background jobs that we are only just learning about so that other members of the board can take them on!

A message from Mike

"It has been a privilege to have been Chairman of the Wild Garden charity for the last 15 years since we embarked on the project to acquire and manage the Garden for the benefit of the local community. During this period we have successfully restored the canals and ponds, replanted missing limes in the Avenue, restored the Ha-Ha along the cricket ground and opened up new paths and glades. This has only been made possible by the support from you our members, our wider volunteer team and the generosity of our donors. We have a marvellous board in place to guide the Wild Garden through its next stage of development. It is now time for me to stand down and pass the Chairmanship to Jeremy Huntingford. I would like to thank you all for your support"



Caroline Trevers
Trustee

P.S. If you would like to receive this newsletter by email in the future, please let us know and we will add your email address to our database.