

REPORT FROM THE GARDENING CLUB

FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF CHISLEHURST & WALDEN RECREATION GROUNDS [FOCRG]

ON MONDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2022

The Gardening Club numbers remain stable, with 12 regular and two intermittent attendees. (One of the two intermittent members is a student and the other is self-employed, both attend when work permits). Two members have left the group but two new members have joined. On any given day there 9 or 10 averaging 8 attendees. The least members we have had is 5.

The shade garden has been completed. Next year we will be redesigning the bug hotel. Probably in the spring so as not to disturb any bugs that have made their home.

We will be planting some seasonal plants to maintain interest. We also plan on replacing some primulas and cyclamens alongside the brook that were lost last year and planting some daffodils in the same area.

I think we have excelled ourselves this year despite the very dry summer. This was largely due to the acquisition of a water bowser and the generosity of Barbara Arora and to the football club for letting us fill it thus saving us going back and forward to the water butts. While we are on water, thanks to the tennis club for allowing us to place a water butt on their premises.

The QE11 planting attracted a lot of interest. Apparently Chislehurst Rec was the only park in Bromley that marked the Queen's Jubilee in plants.

The planting around the roost also attracted and continues to attract a lot of attention.

The Crown in the playground also attracted a lot of attention despite the exceedingly hot summer. Park users appreciated the effort that was extended to try to make the best of it. The problems with the Crown will be addressed soon and will be ready in time for King Charles' Coronation.

The area around the tennis court is also going well, we only lost 2 plants and some didn't do as well as expected but c'est la vie. This year we will be mulching it well, just as soon as the leaves stop dropping. In theory it not the best time to do it, but who knows what the weather will be like in the spring, and we want to trap moisture.

The planters in the in the park and swing park are spectacular (I think).

Many, many thanks to Terry from ideverdi who arranged for the plants and bulbs again.

We also installed some vertical planters along the swing park fence, three more are planned. They have made that area more attractive. And they are made from recycled pallets!

We planted a wild hedgerow, (as part of our Environmental & Biodiversity branch of the GC), along the school fence the whips seemed nice and healthy and the mixture of rain and sunshine lately make us hopeful of success.

We planned a new raised bed but problems with the drains from the tennis court and the scout compound have put this on hold. new sites have been identified we just need approval from Ideverdi.

Book collection and sales didn't happen this year, mainly because we have no collection point.

We are very hopeful of getting a greenhouse soon, subject to scout approval and funding. This will enable us to save a lot more plants for next year and to start sowing our own plants. You never know, perhaps we will be able to have a plant sale next year!

I'd like to finish this report to the entire gardening club. They are GREAT. They work well as a team. They donate plants and pots (and biscuits to have with our coffee).

Thanks too, to Alan, who went to collect some pallets and seen someone loading their car with planters for the tip and retrieved them. Also, he came back with a wheelbarrow, watering cans and a water butt!

Thanks to Invicta Scouts for allowing us to use the compound.

And last but not least, thanks too to FOCRG because none of these things would have happened without the funds and support of the Committee.