

Filton Community Garden

Report of the Chair 2019

With the recent news that we have achieved the RHS highest award again for the 6th year in a row we can all feel hugely proud of what we have achieved. We worked very hard in the early years to get our first outstanding and having reached that pinnacle the work has continued with vigour and dedication to maintain the high standards we have set ourselves.

This year we set ourselves the task of improving the Leisure Centre Car Park entrance which we have achieved to a certain extent although the problem with flooding is still an issue which we cannot solve without drainage. However the retaining wall has stopped mud falling onto the path and also made the entrance much tidier. This was our largest single expenditure on the garden and our thanks go to Enover Landfill Trust and our South Gloucestershire Councillors who between them gave us £2,500 towards the cost. We now look forward to the work shortly to be carried out by SGS College in creating a mural which will greatly enhance the visitor experience to the garden.

Other additions to the garden this year have been the vertical garden and the bird identification sign, we also had an update to the garden map signs which are a great improvement on the originals. I should also mention of the installation of the bench dedicated to Howard Bowker who was a lovely man, a real character and great supporter of the garden.

The pond area dedicated to Bill has been very popular with children and following the problems with sustaining the fish the replacement with spawn/tadpoles/frogs has been a great success. The transition from spawn to frogs was of great interest to visitors and even now you can see frogs around the pond area.

The garden fete was once again a great success and with the sponsorship provide by Asda proved to be our most financially successful ever. However it is not all about making money we provided a fabulous event for the community which with so many free or low cost activities meant that a good time could be had by all without breaking the bank. Well done to everyone involved these events do not just happen they require planning, hard work and inventiveness.

It was a shame that we lost the elm tree from the national experiment but it was good to take part and perhaps the opportunity will be available again in the future.

The garden continues to be used by the public in increasing numbers, it was nice that Airbus choose the garden for their annual barbecue and something of a coup for us given that there usual venue was Blaise Castle. Indications are that this will be an annual event.

Well done to Helen for creating the Saplings group which proved very popular throughout the summer, it was good to see so many children enjoying themselves, hopefully this can be continued next year.

My thanks to the Committee for their support throughout the year and particularly my wife Sylvia and to Helen and Peter in their roles as Secretary and Treasurer.

Dave Mikkelson

Chair Filton Community Garden.