

Filton Community Garden
Report of Chair November 2015

What a splendid year it has been for the Community Garden, how can you improve on an outstanding garden, well I suppose you make it even more outstanding and that is what we have achieved in the past 12 months.

The highlight of this year for me has been the wildflower bed, with lots of hard work we transformed a bank full of nettles, car parts, bricks and glass into a spectacular display of colour which has been the talk of Filton with so many compliments.

The garden maps have added a new focal point to the garden, visitors can now look at the maps and understand the various elements of the garden enhancing their experience. The wind chimes give a melodic sound even in the slightest of breezes whilst the obelisks planted with roses provide a lovely entrance as well as giving the garden height.

Our relationship with the community has further strengthened with new beds tended by FACE, Twinning and South Gloucestershire and Stroud College.

In July we were assessed once again by RHS with a new judge and fresh eyes, I recall taking Ian around, he was so impressed by what we had achieved, full of compliments and I think a little envy. Was our outstanding award ever in doubt, I don't think so, still it was great to receive the call from Helen to confirm, well done everyone a fantastic achievement.

There were so many events this year, whilst the Community Garden Fete was bedevilled by bad weather we had a healthy attendance who enjoyed the day and although numbers were down we made more money than last year from the excellent plant sales and raffle. Other events included the Macmillan Coffee, Tea and Cake which was really lovely and a great success, students from South Gloucestershire and Stroud College also held their end of year party in the garden. Twinning hosted a party for their partners from France and Germany, to commemorate we themed the Concorde Beds in their honour with their national colours, which was recognised and really well received and appreciated by the guests. The last event was to commemorate Armistice Day and in addition to the now tradition of decorating the fence with knitted poppies we hosted the laying of a wreath in the garden by Bill Knight which was such a wonderful and respectful thing to do, we hope to make this bigger event next year. We should not forget of course that our MP Jack Lopresti visited the garden and was very impressed at what he saw.

It good to see that so many new members have joined this year but of course sad that we have lost one of our most inspirational, Nora Stokes, Nora will always have a place in the garden and in our hearts.

And so we move onto next year what will that hold for us perhaps some progress on the bandstand we will certainly have more colour with the new rose beds coming to life.

A big well done to everyone you are a credit to Filton, thanks also to Helen and Bill for their help and support during the past 12 months

Dave Mikkelson

Chair Filton Community Garden
21 November 2015