

**Filton Community Garden**  
**Report of Chair November 2016**

It has been another hugely successful year for the Community Garden and each and every one of our Committee and volunteers should be proud of their achievements. It has been apparent to me that more people are visiting the garden and complimenting us on the work we have done.

At the time of my 2015 report we had just planted the Rose Garden, at that time we could not have envisaged how well the garden would develop, from June to present the roses have produced an abundance of beautiful flowers with delicious fragrances, this has been an outstanding success.

The creation of the bee conservation area has demonstrated our commitment to the environment and sustainability. Plants were carefully selected to encourage bees, houses were made and a water supply provided, this work was complimented by the wildflower meadow. All this planning proved its worth with so many bees attracted to the area, we have in our small way improved the habitat for wild solitary bees.

We have now provided nameplates for all of the trees and shrubs giving valuable knowledge to members of the public and in particular children, this can only enhance the experience of visiting the garden.

The Garden Fete in July was once again a huge success with the traditional Punch and Judy entertaining children and adults alike complimented by other activities, the stalls were very busy. It was good to see more variety this year with the cake and bottle stalls both of which were hugely successful, as were plant sales and the raffle, the £400 profit will come in very useful.

Whilst a little stressful the RHS inspection is a very enjoyable occasion, we are able to showcase the garden to an expert and receive a valued opinion. This year Denise James visited the garden for the assessment and like others before she was really impressed, it was nice that she took time to talk to us collectively and individually about the various aspects of the garden. Whilst it is never a forgone conclusion I was confident that we would be awarded outstanding for the third year in a row and this was confirmed in Taunton in October, very well done everyone.

So what's next, we already have permission from Filton Town Council to expand the garden for the creation of a small orchard and there may be a tree sculpture. Whatever we do I know it will be done with skill, dedication and love. In my opinion the Community Garden is the best addition to Filton in many years and the fact that it has been created by volunteers makes it more special.

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

Dave Mikkelson

Chair Filton Community Garden.  
12 November 2016