

## AGM Garden Report

It has been a good year in the garden. The summer of sunshine and showers followed by the mild autumn, provided great growing conditions. On top of that I have had more help to keep everything looking good. Andy joined the garden team in February and works three days a week, which makes a big difference. We also have several new and enthusiastic gardeners in the Tuesday morning volunteer group 'The Voles'. As well as the support of Kevin who comes from Plumpton College on work experience for half a day a week. I think you can see the impact in how the garden has looked this year, the hedges have been kept neater, the grass has been cut more regularly, the new and expanded borders have been looking good and flowering for longer.

In the last year the biggest project was making the new border in the Dell near the tunnel. I think it has filled out reasonably well through the summer and I hope next year it will start to look more established. I planted it with particular focus on late summer flowering plants, which is something I have been focusing on in the garden as a whole. I think you could see the impact of that this in the summer, with much more colour in the late summer and autumn.

I'm also happy to report that we didn't lose anymore trees to Dutch Elm Disease this year. I start to think that they might be more resilient than I first thought. I have therefore started to plant up the woodland area with a variety of perennials and other plants that I hope will be able to grow underneath the trees. In particular I have planted a lot of foxgloves and aquilegia to brighten up the woodland in early summer.

On another note it seems that the Gardens reputation is spreading, as this summer we were contacted by a variety of people - a PhD student, Birbeck college and others wanting to visit and learn about the garden, it's upkeep and it's history.

Looking ahead:

This winter I will be creating a new border in the North Garden. Because the North Garden is surrounded by hedges and has so many large trees, the borders are mostly shady and very dry which makes it difficult to grow anything interesting in them. I want to cut a new border out of the lawn, it will be in the sun which will enable me to plant an interesting and colourful border to enhance the North Square. This will be on the north side of the lawn between the holm oaks.

On Arundel Terrace I plan to plant a new row of euonymus next to the existing hedge. This is part of a long term plan, the new plants will eventually grow up and replace the existing hedge. When this happens, the current hedge will be removed to create a space between the railings and the hedge so that both the hedge and the railings can be maintained more easily. I will also continue cutting back the hedges from the railings in other parts of the garden, particularly on the south west border.

Apart from that, I will be able with the current level of support to continue with the many incremental improvements around the garden. So that next year it will hopefully be looking better than ever.

Jeremy Mouldsdaie  
Head Gardener  
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