

## **NOEHS Activity Report Details**

### **December 2015**

In June 2015 we took stock of the replanting that was needed – in the overgrown beds that we wished to replant and around the fountain where box plants had died. Where possible we intended to keep any plants that fit in with the new yellow and red planting scheme – and hoped to move those that didn't.



The Memorial garden is in four main sections. The raised bed nearest to the bird table was completely overgrown and needed stripping back. We found several plants that we were able to transplant elsewhere but unfortunately we also found bindweed in the corner near the bird-table which meant that we could not immediately replant.

This gave us some time to weed the slabs in front of the raised beds.

Replacing the missing box plants would be a much easier proposition as it simply involved counting the missing plants (12), buying them from the local garden centre and planting them.

Knowing that we were going to improve the planting here also encouraged some of our volunteers to weed the cobbles around the fountain and our oldest volunteer ( a youthful 90 year old) continued to scrape and then varnish the benches.



In mid July we started to clear the beds but it was not until the start of October that we were starting to get ready to replant.



The delay in our plans was largely due to ensuring that the weeds and bindweed were removed as completely as possible.

Although we had delayed the replanting we decided to do some other improvements in the area – we weeded the flag stones and varnished the benches and we also made some bug hotels for the side walls and repaired the worst of the brickwork in the bed walls.



We also decided to clear out more of the beds along the rear wall of the garden. When we had removed the overgrown planting we were left with a cornus, a cordyline and a small beech hedge in the back wall bed No1.



The next walled bed (back wall bed No 2) was also stripped of everything but the magnolia, which was given a good pruning in preparation for planting around it.

The improvement to the bed can be seen in the picture above – as it now became visible from the other side of the cordyline.

This second walled bed will have a clematis planted to cover the wall behind

the bench seen below.

The third, and final, bed (back wall bed No3) that we cleared ready for our “red and yellow” planting scheme kept only a magnolia, a camellia and a rose.





So by November we had cleared 4 beds in the memorial garden area, kept a number of plants that fit in with the new scheme and had spent some of the grant on other aspects of the bid – namely, replanting the box border around the fountain and labelling some of our previous planting.



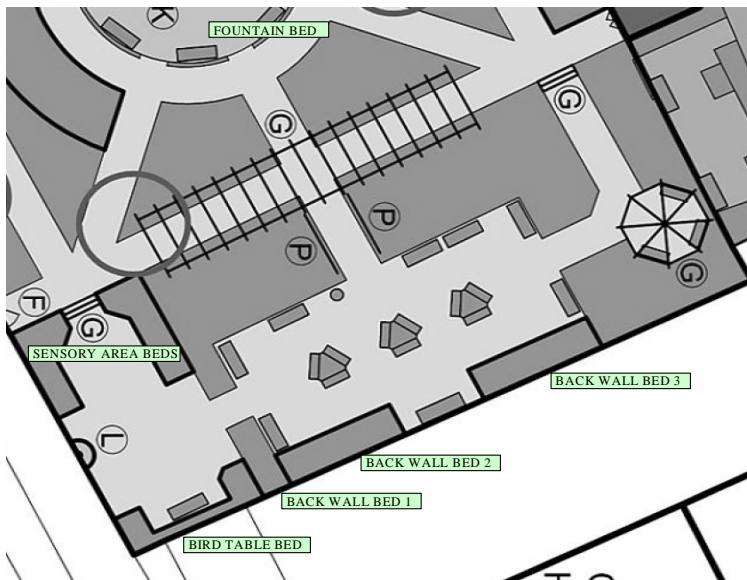
Box hedge planting



Plant labelling

Although we are behind timescale in terms of the bid we made to NOEHS we have been inspired to do other activities that have complemented the planting work that we planned.

The grant that we received has acted as a catalyst for a number of other projects – or enhancements to the plan that we had for the memorial garden – and has helped to maintain the enthusiasm of our current volunteers as well as attracting new people to our activity-based open day.



Planned work completed:

- Clearing the 3 Back Wall beds
- Planting box plants
- Labelling other plants

Planned work still to do:

- Replanting the beds

Additional activities completed:

- Clearing the Sensory area
- Clearing the Bird Table bed
- Weeding the paving
- Repairing the brickwork
- Making bug hotels
- Making bird boxes
- Varnishing benches