

Gardening Activity

Work Session Late Spring/Early Summer

After all the activity in 21 (hiring folks with chainsaws, and a serious amount of DIY chainsaw work) we took it easier in 2022. A group of volunteers did a good morning's work on the East side of the courts keeping the more mature shrubs hacked back to manageable size. This was moderately well supported – thanks to all who participated.

We took out a lot of shrubs on the North side which had fallen victim to the Box Moth Caterpillar and between Monica and myself (mostly Monica) we kept the verges in reasonable condition.

We have cut down and mostly removed the 4 enormous grasses which were damaged by the frost and bought bark and sheeting to surround them to tidy up that inside Eastern edge of the courts. Also taken some cuttings in case the original plants don't survive.

We planted a Fuschia plant in memory of Ron Cowdry and also installed a bench both gifted by his family.

We cut back the shrubs inside the fence on the Eastside and Mon has kept the West side verges trimmed as well as time and bin space allowed. Mowing rota worked well with new volunteers – thanks to them all...

Equipment / materials

Replaced old broken bench.

The club was also gifted a bench by Chris and Michaela. Thanks

Maintained existing equipment.

Nothing new bought. (Will need to buy some heavy duty gardening implements this year to help keep the larger shrubs and other plants under control.)

Received gift of petrol powered Strimmer from Chris and Michaela. Thanks again.

Seed and treatments for court 2 purchased and used earlier this month.

Plans for 2023

Continue with Green thumb treatments for Court 1 and DIY treatment for Court 2 - as before.

Service both the mowers.

Continue support for Mowing Rota volunteers and reminder service. Encourage new members to sign up if fit and willing.

Encourage the fit and willing to roll the courts whenever possible.

Scarify at end of season – impossible with commitments and filthy weather to get it done so far and now too late.

As in previous years, we will not cut the grass areas to the sides of the courts until June/July in order to help our local bees.

We will organise the usual gardening morning in early June to:

- take on some of the larger shrubs and keep them at a more manageable size once the birds have stopped nesting.
- Replace half of the Ivy which has been encouraged to grow up the fence posts with Jasmine plants I am growing for that purpose. These look better and have a nice flower and perfume.
- Reroof Shed.

Review the hedge at the Southern End of the Courts with regard to removing if too heavily infested with Box Moth. It survived last year but now shows signs of re-infestation. Treatment is expensive, time consuming and largely ineffective so I am not willing to commit to that. If others feel they would rather treat then we can reimburse any costs.

Hire someone to remove the Compost pile. It is not really composting, composed as it is of grass and quite large trunks.

Mowers: Continue with the ad hoc service arrangements for the two main mowers.

We keep threatening to buy a new roller mower (£1500 - £2000) but I am not yet sure we need to so will keep under review – we have the funds to do this if needed.

Scarifier: Either hire (£35/day) or purchase an electric machine capable of doing the job. (£350). I think it is easier and more cost effective to hire especially since we will only use once this year.

Social Event Support: We do now need a new BBQ and I will purchase one within the next couple of months. Estimated costs £200 - £250. I have seen one I think will do the job and not be too heavy to get in and out of the Shed for it's annual outing. ***CosmoGrill Deluxe 4+1 Gas Burner Grill BBQ Barbecue incl. Side Burner***

The Gazebo continues to do what we need it to and Paul's replacement poles have not yet snapped so I don't propose to replace it unless people feel we need a new one.

Potential costs of proposed activities:

Materials for DIY lawn treatments and seeding of Court 2: £100

Professional Treatments for Court 1 £250

Equipment: c£200

For Shears, Loppers, Saws, Pruners, Spade, Fork.

BBQ: £250