

Fontmell Friendship Garden

Dear All,

Apologies for the later little update - I have been away for ten days and back to a beautiful Winter morning today.

While I have been away, the cold weather has meant a dormant garden, but lots of work behind the scenes.

I enclose some pictures (*see below*) kindly sent to me by Jonathan Pinder from Springhead Trust. He kindly hosted the Sixth form Clayesmore volunteers while I was away. They worked on clearing willow and will finish sweet pea supports this Friday, which will once again go into the village garden.

We will then be planting seeds the following Friday, ready for the late Spring planting for the garden.

Looking ahead - we will be planting seeds for the greenhouse on Friday February 10th at my house from 11.45-12.50. The Clayesmore students will be here and anyone is welcome to join in. Just drop me an e mail if you would like to come over for a cuppa and seed plant

VILLAGE SEED PLANTING VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to Helen Ellis, Sue Smart, Gay Mole, Louise Murchie, Judy Westgate and Michael Humphreys who have also offered to sow and grow seeds. If I have left a name off, (I am sorry) please do let me know. If there is anyone else who would like to plant seeds for the village garden, please do let me know. I am working on succession planting this year to ensure we have cut flowers through the season.

I will be delivering seeds in the next few weeks for planting. I will drop the seeds off to you in the next few weeks.

GARDEN PLANS

All the beds are allocated and have plans for planting. This year, the Clayesmore senior School students will be joining me in planting two beds completely dedicated to cut flowers with the invitation to all villagers to cut and collect. The beds will be a riot of colour to fit in with our "colours of the rainbow" theme, alongside the coronation colours around the village hall.

We will have surplus plants and posies for sale in the pop up cafes later in the season for continued fund raising.

CORONATION PLANTING

We are aiming to plant all tubs around the village hall with coronation themed colours. May 6th is a very early date for flowers - but we will ensure there are blooms around the village hall, with more to come later in the season in the garden itself.

SUNFLOWERS

This year, I have got sunflower seeds in all colours of the rainbow for the children from St Andrew's School to plant.

EDIBLE FLOWERS

Clayesmore prep School will be planting edible flowers for their beds, to sit alongside the grasses and herbs in their sensory beds and we are aiming to use some of the blooms in our cakes for pop up cafes later in the year.

With the days starting to get longer and the promise of crocus and daffodils and tulips in the next few weeks and months, we will see the garden come to life.

FUTURE IDEAS

Next week, I will be inviting all villagers to participate in decorating the garden - details to confirm next week.

LOOKING AHEAD

WARM HUB LUNCHES AND TEAS

The next sessions are Wednesday FEBRUARY 8th and Wednesday FEBRUARY 22 nd.

Please note the gap in between due to half term.

It was a very busy day last week and everyone welcome again this week. It has been an amazing community effort so far.

BRIONY LONG

Finally and most importantly, I wanted to end the update with a tribute to our dear friend Briony Long who passed away a few weeks ago.

Briony was a driving force in the garden and played a huge part in so many recent village activities - Hello Yellow Day, National Play Day, Community lunches, Pop up cafes, Planting and watering and caring for the garden. Only recently , Briony initiated so many plans and ideas for the Macmillan Coffee morning. Sadly, she wasn't well enough to attend, but her ideas and plans ensured the morning was a great success. Briony was a wonderful presence in all these activities and always had her lovely smile on her face, treated everyone with generosity and kindness and made a difference to us all. She will be so sorely missed and I thank her for her kindness and friendship to us all. We all send our love to her family.

Look forward to seeing you all at some of these events in the future.

Kind Regards

Sian x







