**HALESWORTH IN BLOOM**

**AGM**

**16th April 2024**

**RECENT ACTIVITIES**

* New plantings and continued watering and maintenance of Town Park entrance beds.
* Donated plants added in various places in the Town Park.
* Maintained and added plants to the roundabouts at Hooker House, Angel Link and the Co-op.
* Maintained and added to the Memorial Garden (see separate report from Lisa).
* Maintained and added digitalis to the Wherry bed in the Town Park.
* Watered and maintained the planters at the Sorting Office. The silver birch had to be removed as they were blown over by high winds.
* Watered, maintained and added to the planters in the Thoroughfare.
* Added 2 new planters in the Thoroughfare next to the Angel.
* Planted daffodil bulbs last Autumn.
* Maintained and added to the London Road recesses.
* Anthea Warne has taken over the Herb Garden and is landscaping and adding many plants and shrubs.
* Tamsyn’s memorial bed has been maintained.
* Hooker House planters and wall basket watered and maintained.
* A small but very successful Open Gardens in September.
* Pruning and tidying roses on Station Road.
* Some boys and staff from Bramfield House who now come and garden on some Tuesday mornings have weeded in the Thoroughfare and at Hooker House, collected leaves to make leaf mulch, planted bulbs and helped tidy Station Road.

**Report on Memorial Garden for HIB AGM**

Firstly it has been great to have Maggie’s company, so much more fun with two of us. The other people who contacted us, a Lorraine and a Lisa, who wanted to volunteer at a weekend, have sadly not been in touch. A Saturday does not really suit me or Maggie but I am willing to give it a try if necessary. We mostly work on a Friday afternoon, once a fortnight or three weekly.

There are, of course, lots of problems. Recently we have been forced to use a green bin, which then took a while to be emptied. We cannot work if it is full as we have nowhere to put the waste. The bin also gets used for other rubbish that then has to be emptied. It also took a very long time to get the big acacia pruned but it happened eventually. The graffiti cleaning was very quick once I reported it! And the broken plinth stone too, done in time for Remembrance Sunday, very impressive. Its repair prompted an HTC inspection of the memorial and a plan to one day improve the drainage and possibly put a chain link fence round it to deter skateboarders. The whole site will be transferred to HTC eventually. The stone memorial was professionally cleaned last year.

The problem with green waste has encouraged me to poison the very large buddleia, as it was always needing to be pruned. A smaller type has been planted on the other side, where we have also finally cut down the dead bamboo. The roots are still there, a job for Reuben? I should like to plant a replacement but not sure where to source one. Reuben has also done a great job this last week of digging out the over large phormium and replacing it with a box. A brilliant job, and he also has pruned the sarcococca. Many many thanks.

We have also had problems with getting the grass cut since Martin retired. I believe Norse are going to cut it occasionally now, as organised by Stephanie. However I did it myself several times last summer and expect to do the same again this season, as their service seems to be erratic.

Maggie and I keep trying perennials for dry shade – I have just bought 5 new ferns for under the winter flowering cherry. And we have a plan for blue hardy geraniums under the roses. All the rhododendrons are still alive and all have flowered now. We replanted the one in a container and it seems to have survived.

We almost always get appreciative comments from people walking through and it continues to be a very satisfying place to garden.

Lisa Simmonds

March 29th 2024