

HYDE PARK SQUARE - GARDEN REPORT FOR 2013

Robert explained how the weather had an enormous effect on what the gardeners were able to achieve in the garden and the knock-on effect that these extremes of climate (extended periods of hot/cold, dry/wet) had on the general health and vitality of the plants and trees.

2013 had for once, been a 'normal' year weather wise, the spring being cold and wet but the summer dry and warm which was extremely beneficial to the plants and residents alike.

The year (2013) started as usual with the planting of 1400 tulips and 226 scented dwarf narcissus. Existing plantings of narcissus and snowdrops were naturalising well and drifts were getting larger. Highly scented spring flowering shrubs such as Daphne, Viburnum, ornamental cherries and Sarcococca all did their best to outdo each other.

We also removed all herbaceous perennials from the two long borders, dug in more than six tons of horse manure and replanted the plants. This really paid dividends with the refreshed perennials giving a marvellous show, plus we added 76 new perennials and dahlias.

Four new Acer, two magnolia, one Cornus Kousa and two Robinia trees were also planted around the garden. Also exciting additions to the woodland included the giant Cardiocrinum and the strange looking Ariseama.

Robert explained that his planting ethos was to extend periods of interest such as fragrance and colour but also to attract wildlife with sustainable planting. By increasing the bio-diversity of the garden a balance is achieved which in effect reduces the need to spray insecticides or fungicides. By providing natural nesting sites for birds with our thorny hedges full of berries and increasing insect life by providing log stacks and high nectar plants, it all adds to the general wellbeing of the garden.

The lights and the irrigation system, our recent major projects had been important factors within the garden that year. The irrigation unquestionably kept plants alive and flourishing through the hot summer, and the electricity allowed us to have a wonderful display of Christmas lights.

Next year (2014) it was hoped that the pergola would be finalised and constructed and more planting would take place in that area.

In conclusion, the garden was in great shape and with the continues support of the committee the future looked rosie.