

HUNTLY GARDENS - GARDENS REPORT for 2023 AGM

ON-GOING

THE PLANNED Rhododendron 'hedge' effect can now be seen, particularly on the north side of the gardens. Pruning will continue, in order to enhance this and to ensure maximum flowering.

WE continue to attract a variety of birds, thanks to Dorothy Gillespie's fidelity in looking after the feeders. She has now added in Niger Seed feeders which we hope will attract Goldfinches.

LAST YEAR

MORE garden furniture was provided, in the form of moveable tables and chairs, giving the extra seating discussed at the previous AGM. It would be much appreciated if residents would leave the furniture in tidy fashion after use, and keep matching sets together.

THE area around and behind the shed, and inside the shed itself, was cleaned up and the area is now both more attractive and more manageable. If residents' BBQs become no longer useable, it would be helpful if they could be disposed of by the owner, and not dumped behind the shed.

TO COME

GAPS around the perimeter will be filled with a mix of Elaeagnus and Mahonia. The former are evergreen, giving all year round interest. The latter is also evergreen and winter flowering too, so has the added attraction of providing food for insects during the cold months.

A CURATED wild area to encourage and support bio-diversity is planned for the bottom lawn area. Foxgloves are being grown on, which will hopefully seed themselves around once established. A self-seeded Hawthorn at the north gate is earmarked for transplantation to that area. Wildflower seeds will be scattered. And we may even attempt a living willow structure!

NOTES ...

DISAPPOINTINGLY, there has been an increase in litter in the gardens. This has included food wrappers, take-away coffee containers, the remnants of picnics and, on one occasion, a dirty nappy and baby wipes plus a bag of dog excrement (despite there being no dogs allowed). Residents are asked to please take ALL their litter home with them and not leave it for someone else to clear up.

THERE was an unpleasant incident towards the end of 2022 when a large number of teenage boys (in school uniform) were in the gardens making an unacceptable amount of noise, playing football and generally disturbing residents. There appeared to be some adult supervision at the beginning, but then not. The brave resident who eventually went over and asked them to leave encountered intimidating behaviour and was verbally abused. Children should not be left unsupervised in the gardens.