

13th December 2009 - News Update

Despite the very wet weather, we have managed to have 3 work sessions for members and other volunteers in the walled garden. We have gradually cleared a path from the door to the end wall that is in most desperate need of repair. As this path runs immediately behind the south wall, we have also cleared as much ivy off the inside of this wall as possible.

Brambles, ivy and stinging nettles are the main obstacles to accessing the damaged areas. We have almost cleared this mass of vegetation and will next work to level the ground sufficiently for our security fencing. This will be a job for mattocks, forks and spades.

Once the ground is sufficiently level, we will be able to carry the fencing panels and their concrete bases to that end of the garden. We are thrilled to be able to announce that, at last, we actually have possession of our 10 panels of Heras fencing! They were delivered to the Bohemia Road fire-station on Monday, 7th December and are now safely stored within the walled garden. We now feel confident that we can proceed with exposing the damaged area completely and no longer need to rely on the brambles & ivy to deter intruders.

Please come along and see how things are progressing. We meet every Sunday morning at the walled garden and work from 10 until 12 (weather permitting). We bring a selection of tools, but we suggest that volunteers might like to bring a favourite pair of secateurs or loppers.

NEWS 24th November 2009

Now that we have our "Tenancy at Will" agreement in place, we are able to invite volunteers into the walled garden to help with the clearance. We have notified the members on our e-mail list that task days have been scheduled for every Sunday morning from 10 until noon, weather permitting. The invitation will be extended to all local residents via the "Bohemia Village Voice".

So far we have had only one such task day, due to the recent wet weather. An additional task day is planned for Wednesday afternoons, from 1 until 3. This is at the request of Darren Pooley, who teaches at the Hastings College in the Construction Department. Bob Hart (treasurer) and I (secretary) went to the college to speak to a classroom of students, to explain our project and invite any interested youngsters to come along to help. At this stage, they will simply be helping to create some sort of order out of the chaos in the garden. In the future, it is hoped that some of the brick-working students might assist in the restoration of the damaged walls and reconstruction of some brick steps leading down to the door.

We have also been contacted by the Hastings Trust, who read of our plans and progress in the Bohemia Village Voice. They have offered us a variety of gardening tools and some wheelbarrows which are left-over from a previous project, on the basis of a permanent-loan. This will supplement the tools we have acquired through BTCV.

Before the end of the year, we plan to install the security fencing that our HBC "Small Grant" has enabled us to purchase. Our order with Heras will be confirmed and delivery scheduled once we have cleared the damaged area of the site; the fencing, rather than the brambles will then provide the perimeter barrier.

As it is now November, our progress is very dependent on the weather. We continue to plan for the next steps forward, with a major event scheduled for the spring. 24th November 2009 END