

Geddington Brickyard Garden (GBG) – 31 January 2017
COME AND VISIT YOUR COMMUNITY GARDEN ANY TIME!

Geddington Brickyard Garden has been developing over the last two years with the help, support, ideas and hard work of volunteers, village organisations and local businesses. All are most welcome to use this peaceful, wildlife-friendly space for rest and relaxation, nature observation and enjoyment. GBG will continue to seek ways to maintain and extend natural habitat as well as providing a venue for outdoor education, arts and craft activities. Our community garden is about 200 metres along the public byway at the end of Wood Street.



Looking back

The New Year is often a time for looking back over the year, so here's a summary of what's been happening at the GBG site since summer 2016.



It was great to see more and more folk of all ages using the community garden. The sand bowl was popular with youngsters (and adults!) as is the GBG Shed, open to all, which offers drawing activities and a great place to look out over the fields and spot wildlife. Thanks to NigelC of Site Glass, the shed is now weatherproof with plastic windows. The raised beds flourish and provide habitat for myriad insects (and sometimes rabbits!) right through Autumn and Winter.

In the Autumn, we had a great tree planting session thanks to JamesC of JDC Gardens who gave us a wealth of trees, shrubs and ferns as well as lots of timber, garden materials and wheelbarrows.

We've also planted other tree saplings, donated by local people, along the boundary. Our plateau area now has a small copse of young hazel which we hope will thrive. The orchard trees are establishing well and we even had a few tasty apples with the promise of pears and cherries when the trees mature. Even the fig tree produced young fruit.

The soft fruit area provided an abundance of raspberries right through autumn. Hopefully, the blackcurrant bushes will also fruit next season. We were delighted that volunteers established a veggie plot and managed to harvest courgettes and potatoes while our high raised bed produced tiny tomatoes galore, thanks to Sunday School help. There is a huge variety of herbs in the raised beds but sadly the Scouts' runner beans proved too tasty for the local wildlife to resist.



More exciting developments



With funding from Kettering Borough Council, Ian has almost completed the extension to the concrete storage shed. Again, thanks to NigelC of Site Glass for fitting the plastic roof and walls. When completely furnished there will be a covered work area which can be used for plants, nature study, art and crafts as well as providing more rainwater storage.

Dave of MacIron Works, who made the GBG iron totem pole, still had inspiration enough to build an iron cairn with the remaining old iron dug up from the site. Thanks to Brian and Liz, the iron cairn now stands next to the totem pole and provides another peek into local farming history

Thanks to Ian, helpers and donations of recycled timber, we now have a covered storage area which will also provide water catchment for the raised bed area.



Future plans

We look forward to another fantastic year in 2017. We hope to complete the reading circle on the plateau and introduce more wildflowers to the garden. Ian has plans to build an outdoor kiln. This year will be an 'experiment' but there may be opportunities in the future for a small pottery group to work at the site. We plan to construct a couple more raised beds and welcome any groups or individuals who would like to help with building and/or planting and maintaining. There is no lack of ideas and potential projects that have been suggested but we need more practical, 'hands-on' volunteers to make them happen.

GBG Volunteer Days every Sunday 10.30am-12.30pm Meet at the GBG site (weather permitting). Help with projects, water, weeding and other myriad jobs depending on your energy and skills! All welcome. Please wear sturdy shoes/boots and bring gloves.



‘Ad-hoc’ volunteers are also welcome. If you prefer to help out in your own time, just contact us and we can arrange. There’s no need for regular commitment. Any help, just an hour or so anytime that suits you, will be a bonus and help to keep the garden maintained.

Recycled material, plants and resources needed

Please think of GBG before you throw out any gardening tools, water butts, trellis, excess garden plants, etc. If you have a gardening/building business we are always in need of bricks, solid timber for raised beds, fence posts, woodchip, top soil, etc.

HOW TO CONTACT US...

Email: Brenda, Ian or Lynette at *gbg.action.group@gmail.com*

Phone: Lynette: 744734, **Mob:** 07553 482907

Phone: Brenda, Ian 743994

Website: See *<http://www.geddington.net/geddington-brickyard-garden/>*

Facebook: We’d like to get our Facebook page ‘up and running’ again. Any volunteers (?), please let us know.