

End of Season Report

Sept 2020

The reserve continues to flourish thanks to the trustees, the 200 club members, volunteers and Duke of Edinburgh Students.

In addition to the general work done every year which includes laying chippings on the footpaths to keep them safe and repairing the steps, the following work has been completed. Trees have been felled on Orchard Bank to open up views of the lake and reduce the shade they gave to the orchard. Brambles have been reduced next to the lake on the West side to open up the view of the lake and create a site for the renovated bench we have moved from the South Bank and the other seat giving a view to the other side of the island has been resealed.

Orchard Bank and the flower bank have been stripped of brambles to reduce the competition for light which will increase the flower population. (Good for insects and bees). The bench seat on the South bank overlooking the flower bank has been replaced.

The SSSI and the sand bank in front of it have been stripped of growth to enhance the habitat for solo bees and arid loving insects. (see the separate report)

The Northern Boundary hedge does seem to be responding to having the fence for protection from the deer. The plants look healthier and are bigger. We have topped the field maples to encourage growth and tied down the side branches as an experiment to thicken up the hedge. Watch this space, it's not thick enough for birds to nest in yet, perhaps next year.

The flooding of the footpath from the gate on Rabbit Lane has been alleviated. We raised the level of the path and created a runoff to the hinge side for the puddle on the parking area. The water comes from the manhole in the road. Over the summer we have created a soak away inside the gate and reduced the vegetation between the road and the gate. This will help to stop the parking area and path flooding and freezing in winter. Any water entering the soak away will be filtered before it reaches the lake.

Whilst moving wood chippings for the footpaths last winter we uncovered a snake nest, just the egg cases in December, so even the resources have become habitats.

Enjoy the reserve and stay safe. It's a great place to breath and be calm.

Tina Warden.