

I have been in the garden a lot recently and several visitors have said how good it is looking. I think it is too and that's down to the hard work put in by everyone.

I would like to thank everyone who turned out for the working parties to tidy the garden, and grew plants for, the Open Day. Likewise I would like to thank everyone who endured the rain on the Headington Festival Sunday to interest people in the garden, and sell some of them plants. Ken has done a grand job on the strawberry bed onions, and Marianne has managed to keep the herb garden under control, something she will get some help with at the next working party. Tom's beans have cropped heavily despite the black fly, and the squash and courgette beds are beginning to look encouraging as the weather warms., thanks to the ministrations of Jennifer. Karen has the potatoes well advanced with the earlier ready for harvesting. Despite the cold spring and lack of water, some beetroot and carrots are swelling and are ready for harvesting.

Wires have been put up on the east and west walls to support the trees, and the wiring on one section of the west wall has been finished. The rest should be done soon. At the same time the soft fruit trees have been pruned, the apples summer pruned, as well as the new growth tied in. The leaf curl was also attacked.

As a result of the expressed concern over spraying I strongly suggest we set out a firmer policy on what sprays we can use, with risk assessments, and make sure that they are recorded as used and on what. The formulation of this policy, which should be guided by our stated commitment to "aspirational organic gardening", should be made by the more experienced gardeners, Karen, Jane and myself, and I am happy to produce risk assessments where needed. All sprays must be stored off site, as per our policy. Any list of such treatments could be considered at a full meeting of the committee.

With respect to the identification of disease within the garden, and its appropriate treatment, I suggest that the same group above act as arbiters of the possible malady, and suggest treatment.

Perhaps a working party to weed then paths could be convened, to minimise our need to spray?

Harvesting:

Early Potatoes: The ones with the tops off, two rows

Artichokes

Raspberries

Broad beans

Lettuce

Courgettes

Don't forget the herbs too