

## **Gardening Volunteers Report**

Due to ill health Tony Sissons handed over the baton of Volunteer Gardening Co-ordinator to Liz Chidlow earlier in the summer. Particular thanks to Tony for the tremendous work he has done in the Gardens with the volunteers and of course the restoration of the New Zealand Garden, which is now reaching maturity. We have reviewed the volunteer e mail contact list and currently have 20 volunteers on the list, including two new members, to whom we extend a warm welcome.

The number of volunteers coming along on a Tuesday has ranged from three up to ten and averaging five.

During the spring and summer the volunteers have been kept busy in the Peat Garden, planting up the bog and woodland areas and adding additional plants to the sensory and rock gardens. Industrious watering in of the plants and weeding has followed, plus some trimming of the trees and shrubs. We have also had to deal with several dwarf pines being stolen and some plant damage by dogs and children, although overall the plants are establishing well, and from month to month people have enjoyed the flowers.

In the New Zealand garden the hedges and paths have been maintained and weeding carried out. The Maori Pou carving has been damaged and requires repair.

The volunteers have also helped with digging and dead heading in the dahlia bed, weeding in the Scree garden, the removal of winter and planting of summer bedding, including tying in the sweet peas, as well as pruning of shrub beds and clearing brash from some of the drains.

There was volunteer presence at the 'In Bloom' judging on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

So it has been a busy few months. New volunteers are always welcome. Contact Liz Chidlow e mail: [liz.chidlow@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:liz.chidlow@hotmail.co.uk)

Liz Chidlow  
Volunteer Garden Coordinator

9<sup>th</sup> September 2015