

Great Maplestead Mindfulness Garden

The Parish Council have been working towards a mindfulness space on the playing field. Last year we planted some shrubs and fruit trees to provide interest and, in the future, some fruit for parishioners to enjoy, as well as providing for pollinators. Early this year we also installed a willow dome, which provides shelter and a place for all to enjoy, especially children. It is sprouting well already. The planters and bench were largely funded by a grant from BDC.

In the last few weeks we have installed some planters and there is a bench due to be installed shortly. The planters and bench were largely funded by a grant from BDC.

At the end of April, 3 groups of year 5 pupils from St Giles school gardening club came to help plant up the planters with some beautiful plants. This activity will help them on their way to achieving their RHS level 4 certificate. The plants were mainly sourced from Perrywood Garden Centres who kindly gave a £250 voucher towards the project. Choosing the plants was interesting. We tried to select plants that are drought tolerant, attractive to insects and pollinators but far less attractive to deer and rabbits!

The ongoing care of the garden will be by volunteers from the village, including the Autumn Show committee. All the volunteers who have helped already deserve a massive thank you for all their hard work. If anyone feels they can help towards the care of this space it would be very welcome.

We hope that as many people as possible will enjoy this space for years to come.

There will be ongoing costs for compost, plants, etc but most of the plants are perennials in order to ~~keep~~ reduce ongoing replanting costs.