

2016 Quarter 1 Update from the Nonsuch Voles – as at 15 March

The Voles have carried out the following activities in the last Quarter:

In and around the Mansion House:-

- The usual winter maintenance of beds and borders continued and the magnificent Wisterias have been given their annual winter prune.

- To take forward the plan for the sustainable planting scheme, the Voles helped to plant box hedging around ten beds in the garden, and box spirals and Pittosporum shrubs in the 8 beds around the central urn. This will form the structure of the bedding scheme.

- From our funds, we have purchased 40 Anemone × hybrida 'Honorine Jobert' plants at a cost of £74. These are being grow-on in the greenhouse, before being planted out in the 8 beds later in the Spring.
(This has been listed as a 'perfect for pollinators' plant by the RHS).

- We have worked with Peter Steel to devise a list of bulbs and other flowering plants for the 8 beds. Thanks to an introduction from Sally Williams, we have met with Ali Hyde-Blake of the Sutton Runners, who have kindly offered to contribute towards the purchase of these plants.

- Using Hawthorns grown in our tree nursery, we have filled gaps in the boundary hedge on the west-side of the formal garden.

- We have continued weed clearance work around the trees in the Pinetum.

- Using Hazel coppiced at Warren Farm, we have made some low, rustic fences to discourage people from walking on flower-beds.

In the woods:-

- We have made good progress on the Voles tasks associated with the woodland management work in this year's coppice area in The Wood. We will complete as much work as possible in the Boundary Copse wood (along the old concrete road) before the bird-nesting season begins.

- From our tree nursery, we have planted about 50 saplings of various native species in The Wood. These include oaks grown from acorns dropped by the magnificent pair of trees near the Mansion House.

Other activities:-

- We have planted about 50 Hawthorns from our tree nursery to supplement gaps in damaged hedging around the Cheam dog-free zone and helped with pruning the other hedges around this field.

- The Voles held a wood-craft stall for the first time at the Bourne Hall Herald of Spring.

Volunteer hours: Total for 2015: 3749

So far in 2016: Garden group 301 hours; Woodland group 438 hours.