



LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

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RHS IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



Newsletter January 2018

This was one of the significant years in the history of Flower Bank. Much carried on as before but there were notable changes.

Support continues to be forthcoming with compliments and donations from the public regularly received. If you are a Facebook user you'll have seen our regular posts which generate a lot of positive feedback. We are very grateful for that backing and also that for our specific fundraising.

Christmas tree shredding was again a great success, raising over £600.



Thanks to Josh, contact@kingtreebristol.com tree surgeon

For the second year in succession we have been judged *"Outstanding"* in the **RHS It's Your Neighbourhood Award** – the top of five categories.

In its first full year of operation our formal committee is working well. Our relationship with the Parish Council continues to flourish. Many thanks to all concerned with special mention of the **Parish Clerk, Julie Smart**, who is so helpful and has accepted the increased workload without complaint.

Our new **website** is now fully functioning thanks to **John Filer** - do give it a go - <http://flowerbank.org.uk/>

The major changes to be noticed are the lovely large trailer and the container for storing all the tools and machinery. We are delighted that the **Allotments Committee** have allowed to use their site. Their help is appreciated.



From the perspective of the Flower Bank it has been an unusual season. An extraordinary long, hot and dry summer rather compressed the time it took for the flowering plants to bloom and set seed. This was followed by enough moisture and warmth for the grass to grow strongly.

This meant extra mowing to reduce the aftermath to ensure the wildflowers have a chance next season.



However some areas are being left uncut to ensure homes over-wintering invertebrates.

For the first time we employed Simon Butler to mow some of the steeper areas that have become a bit of a challenge to increasingly less nimble workforce.



Our winter task is well under way with a second section of Pearl's Patch being coppiced and some large trees removed. This has opened up areas to lessen the shading of the ground flora and to produce a more diverse habitat for other wildlife. This seems quite dramatic but it was always the intention to do this, with the trees planted deliberately close. This is standard practice to encourage the trees to grow tall and straight.



Our team of volunteers has regularly turned out to ensure that all the tasks needed to keep the Reserve in top condition are completed. Without them we would not be able to achieve such continuing success. **Thank you.**