

Garden News

ALISON McCREA, Foxlowe Garden co-ordinator, reports on the latest greenfingered developments.

Despite recent cold weather, the gardeners have been making progress and the reorganised compost area is nearly complete, along with a screen for leaf mould and non-compostable garden waste. Two cycle planters are being moved to make space for more event boards in front of the building.

They needed to be completely emptied to reduce their weight and then have their soil replaced, with particular attention paid to the dreaded wine weevil.

We were fortunate to have a temporary student volunteer from Buxton and Leek College to help with this. One planter is now done and the other will follow when its plants have finished flowering. Thanks, Ben!

It was good to see so many garden supporters at the documentary film *The Botany of Desire* in April and to be reminded of the pitfalls of monoculture and the need for biodiversity.

We were also pleased to see good turnouts at the March and April Seed Shares, especially the interest in the heritage seeds. We are now collecting plants to be added to the seedlings for the Plant Share on May 11 and look forward to seeing what our visitors bring. However, there's no pressure for you to bring plants if you have no spares – donations are equally welcome, especially if they are of the cake, jam or chutney variety.

So far there's been at least one wedding using the garden this year, with



more to come.

With this in mind, we have planted two climbing roses (Maigold) on either side of the wedding arch. Admittedly, they won't be very well advanced by the time of the next wedding but we have also planted sweet pea to fill the gap, until the roses are better established. With luck, the late frosts won't have damaged them too much.

A lot of insect activity has been noticed already this spring, especially around the bee hotel, so perhaps the new dandelion tolerance is paying off, along with all the other early flowering plants.

We look forward to seeing many more insects, especially around the hay meadow, a favourite habitat. The fruit tree blossom is another draw for pollinators, a timely reminder of this autumn's Apple Fest (October 12). It's always a great event with lots to do but we also need plenty of helpers, so do let us know if you are able to join in.

To get involved with the garden, contact Alison on 07753 172564.



Gallery News

The next Foxlowe Gallery Exhibition is entitled 'Inspired by India' and will showcase the work of four artists.

Jayashree Jaipal, Stephen Richman, Ann Roach, work in a range of media, in representational, semi abstract and abstract styles. Subject matter and exciting colour palettes reflect travels in India. Meanwhile Anil Suren will display sculptural works. His challenge is "Placing clay in spaces."

The preview evening for 'Inspired by India' will take place on Friday May 10 from 7pm until 9pm.

The exhibition will run until Saturday July 6 with opening times: Wednesday to Saturday from 10am until 4pm, and also on Sunday, June 2 from 11am until 4pm.



Gig Gallery

Foxlowe volunteer Giles Metcalfe is often spotted snapping away at the multitude of gigs at the Foxlowe Arts Centre. Here is a selection of his creations from over the past few months.

