

Homes & Gardens

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The history and future of the Cottage Garden

Wimborne Horticultural Society had an excellent attendance for their harvest meeting at their new venue at the CLARC Centre. Speaker Neil Lovesey told how in the 15th century the commoners and peasants would have lived and worked in the country estates of feudal lords and staying alive was the biggest issue. Living in poor, damp, windowless houses every plant had a use of medicine, food and clothing. As the centuries went on, topiary, box, knot gardens and formal gardens increased but the cottage gardens survived. The next meeting will be the annual meeting on 10th November at 7.15pm followed by 'Dorset through the Year'.



Councillors with Beaucroft Gardeners. Photo by KD Johnson

Students lend their green fingered helping hands

In the October sunshine, students from Beaucroft Foundation School in Colehill donned their high-vis vests and gardening gloves, and came to help improve a section of their weekly walk into town.

Allenview car park's flower bed was in need of some TLC, and with the help of Knoll Gardens a new wildlife friendly, perennial planting plan was devised. The students were invited to help, with the aim of engaging them with the joys of gardening, and aiding a better understanding of the natural world.

The planting took place along with the grounds maintenance team from Christchurch and East Dorset Council. Previously, this patch had been planted seasonally with geraniums and marigolds, and proved to be costly in both plants and upkeep. The new plan is not only a finance and time benefit, but is also more valuable to wildlife and as it matures will develop into an attractive focal point, with a community



A young gardener from Beaucroft School

link. The Beaucroft students work now joins the rose bushes of the WI.

The planting was attended by representatives from East Dorset Council, Wimborne Town Council and Neil Lucas from Knoll Gardens. All were impressed with the students' work ethic and enthusiasm.

East Dorset District Council chairman, David Shortell said "It's so nice to see how much they're enjoying it, and it's going to be a great improvement."

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