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Gardening Tips

- Hang old Compact Discs above beans and leafy veg to deter birds from lurching on them.
- Use old lengths of hose pipes as soaker hoses—simply increase the number of holes in the pipe and lay in amongst your veg and flowers, turn the tap on and leave until your plants are watered.
- Sprinkle bran around base the base of beans and leafy veg to prevent slug damage.

SUMMER EDITION



ROOT & BRANCH

New, Crazy (baby)-paving patio (Dave Rogers).

This very easy project was started last summer, so really in the context of back injury has not taken too long to complete! Owing to the concrete like soil created by last summer's fantastic weather our efforts to remove the surplus soil to the correct level was a Herculean task.



Creating Our Fantastic Crazy Paving Patio.

Many biceps were increased in this effort – well done everyone who helped to conquer this mass. The original idea was to create a patio that was neither a crazy paving type of finish nor a more formal straight lined design. After much discussion a vision appeared, helped by much tea and biscuits (alcohol is banned). A star arrived from the northwest bearing the name of Trevor from BOG (Bridewell Organic Gardens) - from this point it was all hands on the patio. Digging was completed end of May/beginning of June so it was on to the delicate art of laying the actual recycled paving stones, kindly donated by Rogers Concrete of Faringdon.

The paving was laid on a hardcore base of scalplings three/four inches deep, using a mix of two parts sharp sand, two parts builder sand to one part cement (I saw this on Ground Force - Tommy said this was what to do!). After about a couple of weeks of intense tea drinking and putting the world to rights (should they have invaded Iraq, and do Sue's socks really match?) plus much whip lashing, the paving was finished. The next idea was to grow some ground covering plants in between the stones. This was accomplished by in-filling with compost and then covering this with gravel chippings. This seemed to be a popular activity, maybe because it was the end of a physically demanding project.

To sum up, it has been a very, if somewhat puzzling, crazy paving project.
Well done all !

"If you always look to the light, then all shadows are behind you" S.N.- 2004

**This issue is funded using money raised from
a sponsored moustache-shave.**

Open Day



Woo-Hoo!

Root & Branch will be holding its annual Summer Fête on Sunday 25th July from 1.30 – 4pm. We will be running lots of activities for the whole family (predominantly but not exclusively related to gardening and wildlife) including: learn how to make a bird box and use

a lathe; find out about Wormeries; composting workshop; willow weaving; storytelling; dream catchers; games; live music; plant sale; raffle; tea and cakes, and more.....

The event will be held in our beautiful garden, where people can admire the vegetable garden,

hanging garden, patio, wildlife hedge, planters, and more. There will be plenty of people who will be able to tell you more about what we do at Root & Branch. Entrance cost is 50 pence.

Willow Lantern Workshop (Liz Rothschild)

As an original Trustee it has been very exciting to watch first the building being restored, then the workers being appointed and then a group of volunteers and gardeners starting to come and use the project and share their skills and experiences with everyone. When we come to our meetings each time we are aware of new

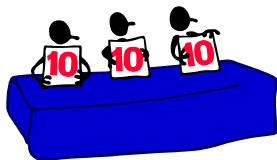
decorations on the wall, little and large changes inside and out. But we of course don't know what goes on day to day so it was very good to be able to come along whilst the project was working and meet people and share an activity and experience everyone's enthusiasm at first hand.

I love making lanterns and it was very satisfying to see all the beautiful lanterns people began well under way when I left at lunch time. It felt a very welcoming and friendly group to work with and I shall be looking for the next opportunity to come along and share some time with everyone.



Working with Willow

Volunteering (Jane Willcox)



*R & B:
Full Marks*

“I’m too busy!”

We are all familiar with the saying, it seems we all run on hyper drive often without the desired results in life.

To some, volunteering sounds like a daft idea, giving up precious time and energy for others, “what would be the point?” you might say.

Try and approach the concept from a different angle: there are lots of reasons why volunteering may be just what you’re looking for.

Volunteering gives opportunities to contribute not just your time, but your skills and life experiences as well.

It allows one, as a person, to develop both personally and professionally, often with other benefits along the way, such as new friends and lots of humour & fun!

The Hanging Gardens (Patsy Dyer)

It doesn't matter how small your garden is. You can create something rewarding even if you only have a window box.

The gardeners at Root & Branch have been helping create a hanging garden this summer. Vegetables of many varieties have been grown and planted in colourful olive oil tins

donated by restaurants in Oxford. A great way to bring recycling into the garden!

With drainage and hanging holes, these will be placed along the wall of the vegetable garden. The vegetables chosen are gourds, hanging tomatoes, amaranth and courgettes.

The vegetable garden itself is looking beautiful, thanks to the gardeners regular check for slugs and flea beetle. We make slug pubs and cloches to help protect the crops.



8th Wonder of the world?

Poem (Ann Sweeting)



Mmm Tea!

Fruit, fungi ferns;
Rabbits, rain, rosehips;
Insects, ice, ivy;
Earth, earwigs, eggplant;
Nettles, nesting-boxes, nutrients;
Dibbers, dog rose, dandelions;
Snails, snow, spades;
Herbs, hedges, hanging baskets;
Iced-tea, ideas, individuals;
Poppies, pots, poly-tunnel;
Slugs, sunshine, seeds galore...

Not to mention our all-time favourite biscuits & tea, A combination I'm sure you'll agree For friendships to blossom, many I foresee, Of the everlasting variety.



Funding for Bees & Wildlife Pond (Liz Clarke)

Root & Branch was recently successful in an application for a grant from BTCV People's Places Award.

We have received nearly £8,000 for running a number of activities over the next year, including Bee keeping, creating a wildlife pond, developing a sensory garden, and running a bird and bat box making workshop.

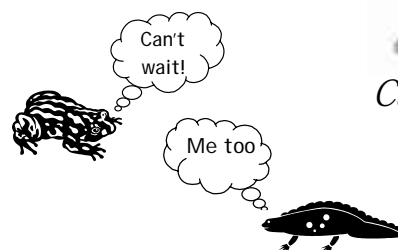
We expect these projects will compliment the work already undertaken here at Root & Branch, and will provide numerous learning opportunities, both for those directly involved with Root & Branch, and for the local community.

Next April 2005 we intend to have a workshop on creating a

wildlife pond, and we will invite the local community to attend – so if anyone is interested in creating their own wildlife pond – this is an event not to be missed!



Can we move in yet?





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Many Thanks in this issue to:

BKI Europe in Reading for copious amounts of wood & glass, freely delivered!
Mr. John Remington, for a fruit cage, loads of books, bric-a-brac & more!
Kingston Bagpuize with Southmore Parish Council.
Rogers Concrete of Faringdon, for the crazy paving supplies.
Not least to Phil for sacrificing his moustache, to raise funds for this newsletter!
The Vaults Restaurant & Cibo for the tins used in the Hanging Garden..

We are supported by:

- *The Community Fund*
- *Lloyds TSB Bank*
- *Oxfordshire County Council*
- *Lankelly Foundation.*

DO YOU HAVE...

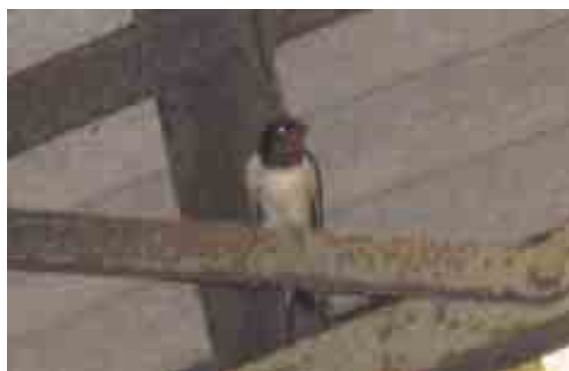
...any gardening equipment, blacksmithing equipment, carpentry tools and art & craft items you no longer need and would like to donate to R&B?

We are also looking for a working desk-top photocopier, a digital camera and a scanner, so if there are any floating around that are looking for a home, please contact R&B.

Financial donations are also greatly appreciated!

Future Plans and Events with R & B

- Dry stone wall
- Wildlife pond
- Greenhouse
- Woodcraft Workshop
- Herb Garden
- Forge
- Fruit Garden
- Bee Keeping
- Mosaic Workshop
- Visit to Banbury Herb Garden.



Welcome to Root & Branch !

"Do not fear to be eccentric in opinion, for every opinion now accepted was once eccentric." - Bertrand Russell.

"Doubt is not a pleasant condition, but certainty is absurd." - Voltaire