

## **Final report in regard to wildlife meadow at Glyn's Garden 13.9.2023**

We ordered the wildflower seed as soon as we were notified that we were going to be getting the grant.

The volunteers worked to prepare the ground we had selected to reseed with native wildflowers as it was poor quality soil in an area that would benefit from increased biodiversity. It was also near to the area we are proposing to grow vegetables and fruit with clients who have mental health problems and learning disabilities. We felt the wild flowers would increase the number of pollinators visiting the site and so improve the pollination and yield of our crops. The wildflower meadows will also add a lot of interest to the project for those visiting the site.

A local farmer who has experience of preparing land for planting wildflower meadows kindly came with equipment to harrow the area, helping us to loosen the top layer of very impacted ground. Once he had completed the harrowing a group of volunteers carried out further work to remove the thistles and nettles from the area, as well as coarse grasses, to ensure the wildflower seedlings were not competing with aggressive, fast growing plants.

Having removed the unwanted plants from the area we then raked to level off the soil and trod it down to flatten it to an appropriate surface for spreading the seed. Once the ground was prepared we mixed the seed with an appropriate substrate and scattered it, working systematically over the area.

The Spring was quite cold and very dry which affected the way the seeds we had planted germinated. They were very slow and sporadic but we continued to remove any unwanted plants that would dominate the seedlings. We chose not to water the area, apart from the small number of plug plants we had received in the package from Boston Seeds, as we felt this would require the use of too much water to justify through a very dry period.

Once the rain started the wildflower seed began to germinate and with our continued removal of the thistles and other 'thugs' they have gone on to produce a good display. The annuals included in the native mix have been particularly successful and have encouraged pollinators to visit the site. The National Trust had also supported the project by supplying yellow rattle seed and this also germinated and went on to flower, producing seed which is good news for our meadow project.

Due to the slow start and late germination we are yet to do any cutting in the newly seeded area. However, we have continued to monitor the site, removing thistles that are very persistent. We will be looking to do some gentle trimming and cutting once the plants have finished flowering but will avoid heavy cutting this year because of the slow start.

We anticipate the germination will continue next Spring with the nature of the meadow altering as it matures. We have been delighted to have been able to plant such good quality native seed to support the other work we have been doing on site getting it ready for use as a therapeutic gardening space for the community.

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