

FARRINGTON GURNEY WI

A Member of the Avon Federation of Women's Institutes

The 2009 WI Resolution 'SOS for Honey Bees' gave us the idea to have a Community Bee Garden in Farrington Gurney. After much discussion at our meetings, in the summer we applied to Yorkshire Tea for a bursary. One of our members, Sarah Lewis, did all the ground work for this and we were delighted to find out we had been successful and we received our cheque for £500.

A piece of derelict land owned by the Farrington Gurney Memorial Hall Committee was identified, and permission was obtained to build the garden. A letter was received from Carole King our Federation Chairman congratulating us on being awarded a Yorkshire Tea bursary, and for the work members were doing on the WI Community Bee Garden.



1 Railway sleepers mark site on derelict land

During the February half-term, railway sleepers were used to make the raised beds, and then they were filled with soil.



2 The soil is put in place by WI members

Manure was donated by Farringtons Farm Shop to ensure that the plants had a good start.

With the beds prepared and ready to plant up, plants and tools were brought on site to begin the planting on 24 April.



3 The tools arrive!

Members of the community responded to appeals for suitable bee-friendly plants and shrubs, and together with those from members' gardens, a fine display was ensured.



4 Young and old at work!

Many members and families came to work on the garden that morning, and much watering was done to make sure the plants would have every chance of becoming established.



5 Many hands make light work

Bark was added to the raised beds to finish off the garden.



6 Planting completed

The Official Opening of the garden took place as part of the Farrington Gurney Village Fun Day on 4 July. Carole King was invited to open the garden and judge the fancy dress competition.



7 Cakes galore on opening day

On a breezy, overcast afternoon, members were kept busy selling home-made cakes on a bee theme.



8 A 'buzzy' cake plate

All the watering and tender loving care had certainly paid off. Our garden looked magnificent with many flowers to attract the bees.



9 My, how our garden has grown!



10 A new bee arrives

As a nice finishing touch, the husband of one of our members made some 'bee-hives' to add some realism to the proceedings.

Carole King (centre) was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Alice, the daughter of Sarah and Gary Lewis, with past President Barbara Sims (left) and President Veronica Vause (right) looking on.



11 Presentation of flowers to Carole King

After wishing the WI and the community of Farrington Gurney much enjoyment of the garden, Carole King cut the ribbon and declared the garden open.



12 Carole King cuts the ribbon

The winners of the fancy dress competition for the best bee costume were awarded prizes by Carole King.



13 Carole King with prize winning bees

At the meeting of the Memorial Hall Committee in July, thanks were expressed to the WI for all their hard work in setting up the Community Bee Garden. Everyone agreed that the derelict land had been transformed into a beautiful community asset as well as performing a valuable service to the bees. Other organisations in the village, inspired by this project had begun to extend the area, continuing what the WI had started.

Many thanks are due to Yorkshire Tea for making this project possible, and to all those who helped in any way to make it such a success.

Barbara Edwards

Secretary Farrington Gurney WI

Registered Charity number 1018253

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