
WOOLTON VILLAGE

Residents Association

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AFFILIATED TO:
BRITISH TRUST FOR CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS
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SPONSORED BY THE MERSEY FOREST CCI.

The 2004 Green Flag judging has recently taken place, with our group being complimented on our natural environment work by the judges, who were surprised at the amount of in house practical work we carry out on site, often in conjunction with council contractors.

The Residents Association is a member of Woolton in Bloom Steering group for the Woolton Village entry in the NorthWest in Bloom competitions. We planted an experimental wildflower bed this year adjacent to the main Park entrance, using granite stone chip substrate overlaid with carefully controlled high grit denatured soil to promote take-up. The area chosen had always previously been swamped with grass seed and airborne invasive species, preventing wild flowers establishing themselves.

We were rewarded with a dense yellow and blue crop of annuals (Corn Marigold and Cornflower), which was complimented by the judges, one of whom specialised in horticulture and intended to try the methods we were using to establish wildflowers in his flower business.

The use of a professional brushcutter and herbicide sprayer is essential in the management of wildflowers on a large scale. The equipment has also enabled members to trim down and weaken significant growth area of invasive Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam threatening the natural woodland habitat, thus encouraging further wildflower propagation in the central woodland area.

We are presently carrying out crown lifting work in dense areas of Holly growth, and the brushcutter has again proved invaluable in removing entangled bramble growth, ensuring members have a safe working access to the Holly trees themselves. When our youngest member has completed and passed his NPTC chainsaw course, one of the jobs we will be moving on to is Holly Tree removal to open up the windflow through the woodland, and increase light ingress.

The capability and strength of the group has been enhanced by the new equipment purchased / training being undertaken, and enabled us to arrange for chainsaw training for our younger members to NPTC professional standard.

SUPPORTED BY MORECROFT'S SOLICITORS OF WOOLTON
