



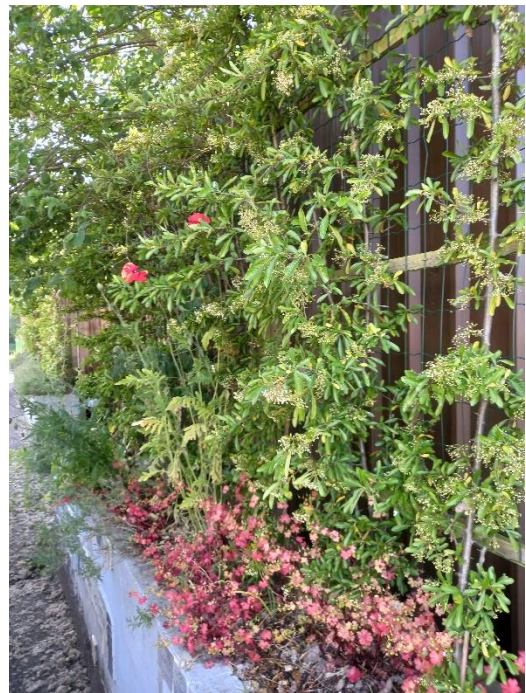
Secret Gardening

Our Secret Garden art installation brightens up an otherwise grey area by the Pidduck Street canal bridge. It contains a number of planters as well as painted and ceramic decoration.

Like any green space, it needs a little looking after sometimes. Volunteers were invited to join us for a couple of hours to weed the planters, add some more plants, and generally tidy the area up.

Weeding

We removed a few smaller plants that had died off and one or two larger plants that were dominating the planters. There was very little weeding to do as these planters are intended to be semi-wild, so self-seeded poppies were left to bloom.



Planting

We had some spare flowers from Root'n'Fruit which we added to gaps in the larger planters. We also transplanted some wild garlic, which should come back each spring as the bulbs are dying off.

The small window box planters are challenging to get plants established in as they don't have much soil to retain water or provide nutrients, and they get a lot of sun but very little rain. We researched plants that might live in such harsh conditions. We planted mint, ivy leafed toadflax, willowherb and stonecrops.

Litter picking

There was not very much litter immediately by the Secret Garden, so we spent a little time in the adjacent park clearing up where we noticed quite a bit of litter had accumulated. We collected two bags of litter and left it looking a lot better.

