

David Waspe clearing old snowberry and other bushes on 22 March 2019 (Extract video of work MOV_20190322_1038506)



Id Verde removing three truck loads of vegetation from the site (Extract video of work MOV_20190322_1205181)



David Waspe replanting hazel bush moved on 22 March 2019 (Extract video of work MOV_20190322_1318176)



Id Verde last load of vegetation from the site (Extract video of work MOV_20190322_1540272)

Site now cleared of old overgrown leggy shrubs and main debris including bindweed, other weeds and old stumps, yew tree cut back to expose trunk and create tree from overgrown bush



Final pick over of surface shows the large area covered 22 March 2019 (Extract video of work MOV_20190322_1541170)



And (Extract video of work MOV_20190322_1541536)



Dan with Hudson and Skye from Activlives on day one of the root and weed digging with six bags removed 26 March 2019 (Extract video of work MOV_20190326_1501010)



Lord Andrew Phillips of Sudbury stopped and gave us an impromptu history lesson explaining the importance and interest of the brickwork of the wall to the garden (MOV_20190326_1502465)



About 13 further bags of roots removed on 27 March 2019 (Extract video of work MOV_20190327_1459588)



The ground is starting to look like prepared garden soil with all the digging!
(MOV_20190327_1459588)



Preparation starting for the structure in the centre of the garden – Hand digging! 9 April 2019
(MOV_20190409_1216282)



Framing up for concrete and reinforcing for blockwork on 10 April 2019 (MOV_20190410_1515549)





12 April 2019 - Blockwork being laid on top of concrete base to form the back of the structure

29 April 2019 - The tree has a large hole near the branches. Other dead wood was removed with the top. The tree was growing away from the yew tree and over the car park. Roots were affecting the path. What an opportunity to get carving!





29 April 2019 – the heritage wall had a hole in it behind vegetation. Now repaired by the bricklayer.

4 June 2019 - Hand dug and hardcore applied the path is taking shape





19 June 2019 - If someone suggests making a wavy path with a circle at the end out of rectangular blocks do not listen to them! These blocks do not work with a block cutter! Also, if you have very deep topsoil, you need a lot of hardcore compacted in layers to form a long-term base that will not move before you lay the blocks. Main dye plant planting started.





19 July 2019 – Tree has been removed for carving – Pathway edging repaired – New concrete base drilled from cardboard template ready for future use – watch this space!

25 July 2019 – Path surface removed and hardcore compacted including new area of surfacing dug out and hardcore with new edging to marked line. Curved to match existing lines and tracked area that would not maintain grass and leading towards structures in the garden.





25 July 2019 – asphalt applied over hardcore ready to take final surface

2 August 2019 – Final coat of resin bound aggregate applied over the top of asphalt.





2 August 2019 – Now that looks so good!

28 August 2019 – If Edinburgh can have Greyfriars Bobby, why can't Sudbury have its Weavers' Piece Talbot?!

Well here he is! That space by the bench explained. Talbot's leaflet explains more. This dog has found the hearts of many visitors to the garden and calms some tempers through his unruffled look. How could you misbehave in his presence?!





29 August 2019 – Two days after Talbot arrived here comes the Silk Lady tree carving. Carving could not take place in the park as the tree was too close to houses for hours of chainsaw work over a prolonged period. The tree was drilled before being cut down so that new steel rods could be used to reassemble the tree as it was in its original position. John Moore Tree Services supervising finalising the work.

29 August 2019 – Doesn't the Silk Lady look good!





7 September 2019 – Sudbury Silk Festival attracted hundreds of visitors to the town to hear speakers and visit displays in St Peters Church. As part of the celebration of silk a montage was put together showing the display intended and the reason for this. The garden was also part of the silk festival walking tours which sold out well before the day. The walks visited the garden, along with many other visitors, to discuss the dye garden and the existing displays. The garden was manned throughout the day and was a great success. Future walking tours will also visit the garden as a talking point for visitors and to show the range of silk and weaving related displays. Talbot's leaflet was published the day before the event so that this could be handed out at the Silk Festival.

The Sudbury Silk Festival brought a wide ranging audience from London and further to hear about the businesses in the town that have been producing quality silk furnishings and clothing for approaching 300 years. This essential industry and the quality product that it generates is worth celebrating and encouraging and is the essential reason for this garden's focus.



31 October 2019 – If someone offers you a job tiling a structure in the middle of a public garden with no water and no power available, working in a cage with tarpaulins and with a requirement to take all materials and tools home at the end of each day and the work runs towards the winter it is best to say no! Delays with sourcing panels and contractors who said they would fit in work but then could not – what more can be said – someone had to do it! When you get to the end of a long day and suddenly think “I must take a photo” it does not always work out well! Still we are making progress.

7 November 2019 – The back wall of the structure is tiled and panels covered to avoid grout – the colours are looking good but note – grey grout on back and black on sides – more later!





4 February 2020 – The difference between the tiles in the previous photo and this one is that the anti-graffiti coating – Urban Hygiene easy-on clear glaze. This has lifted the colour and sealed the grout giving it a long lasting improved appearance and added protection. This was mixed in small quantities so that areas could be treated in stages. What fun (NOT!) camping out in the park in the middle of winter! You must heat the resin whilst mixing so heat to 25 degrees C necessary.

8 February 2020 – preparation is everything so a clean and clear and dry surface must be achieved at all costs! Even the office vacuum cleaner must suffer the consequences!





Noticeboard before renovation above and after renovation below – Not for the faint hearted!

This was the worst of the panels at its worst but shows that there was a need for renovation. Some would say throw it and start again but that would be expensive. So dismantle and take back to the office, clean and clean again. Carefully remove all dirt from all of the scratches and lightly sand down rough edges. Then lay as flat as space permits in the back corridor and treat with anti-graffiti coating – Approximately an egg cup full mixed at a time. Careful measurement required. The end result was a new looking hard resin coating that should last for several years. Two coats at least and then a week in a warm corridor to cure after treatment before taking back out.

Is it worth it? – A lot of time but materials were sparingly used and it looks good!



After all of this work we had an official opening on 14 March 2020. The outcome of this shows the work that we carried out. Sudbury in Bloom held a work party the previous week and work continued up to the opening to transform the area and bring its to peak condition. We hope and anticipate that thousands of people will enjoy this small park that so many have walked past and ignored. We hope that all visitors will find something in the garden to enjoy, appreciate, think about, reflect upon or just to help them relax. So for now we let the pictures speak for themselves – enjoy! We did!



