

SAINT FELIX SCHOOL SUNK GARDEN PROJECT

Dear Parents,

The Saint Felix School Sunk Garden, in the grounds to the southwest of the school buildings, was designed by Miss Silcox during 1919-20 as a memorial to Old Felicians who died in the First World War. Sadly, over the years the Sunk Garden has become virtually derelict. The borders have become overgrown with weeds, the paths are badly damaged and the supporting walls are crumbling.

We would like to refurbish and reinstate the Sunk Garden. The design will initially focus on refurbishing the long double border. A physical boundary will be created using poles and ropes, as existed in the original garden (see painting overleaf). Each post will have a climbing plant near it which will be trained to both the post and the rope. Between each post the planting plan will repeat to provide visual impact. The paths and brick retaining walls will be repaired or replaced. Where possible and practical we will retain the original planting. Otherwise we will purchase new planting that reflects the original scheme but is low maintenance and is, as far as possible, rabbit proof.

The project has been initially scoped and we have received support and assistance from Neil Ludmon and Eloise Waters Garden Designers. Clearly there will be a cost to refurbishing the Sunk Garden and turning it back into a pleasant space that can be enjoyed by the entire Saint Felix family. We have identified the following materials and items that will be required to complete the initial phase of the project:

10 X 6ft posts, met-posts, finials, cement
10 x 4ft posts, met-posts, finials, cement
80m x 36mm synthetic hemp rope and fixings, ends caps x 4
Post rings x 20 and hooks x 4
Bark chipping mulch
Path pea shingle, wooden shuttering, weed control fabric
Plants for outside border
Plants for inside border

Details of the specifications of the materials and items above can be obtained from the project leader, Jo-anne Greenacre. If you or your business is willing and able to donate any of these items or materials it would be very much appreciated and acknowledged.

We would also like to give you, your family or business the opportunity to sponsor the Sunk Garden project. Sponsorship can be made at the following rates and attracts permanent acknowledgement within the Sunk Garden:

£400 sponsors a complete 4m x 1.5m section with dense planting and is acknowledged by a wooden plaque at the front of that planting.

£50 sponsors a post with climbing plant and wooden plaque marking that post.

£30 sponsors a specimen rose with a wooden plaque.

£10 sponsors a shrub for the back section of a border.

£5 sponsors a plant for the lower and mid section of a border.

Donations of plants from the planting lists would also be very helpful in May and June. Planting lists are available from the project leader and will be available to view on the school website.

This is a significant project which will require the assistance of the whole school community. We will need as much hands on help as possible and will be inviting you to come and work in the garden. A list of dates will be published shortly. You do not need to have any gardening experience as full training will be given. You will, however, need to bring spades, forks and gloves with you.

Reinstating the Sunk Garden at Saint Felix School is a worthwhile project to create a useful, safe and pleasant space for use by school pupils, staff and visitors. It will also refurbish a fitting memorial to Old Felicians who lost their lives during the First World War in the year that marks the Centenary of the Armistice in 1918. This project, with ongoing support and maintenance will turn the Sunk Garden into a space that will be available to the school for generations to come.

Please send your donations (cheques payable to Saint Felix School) to Mrs Greenacre in an envelope marked 'Saint Felix School Sunk Garden Project' and include what your donation is for and what you would like to be written on your small plaque.

Your assistance in whatever form is appreciated.

Many thanks,

Jo-anne Greenacre
Project Leader

This view of the Sunk Garden was painted by an Old Felician in 1924

