

SAINT FELIX SCHOOL SUNK GARDEN PROJECT

Dear Old Felicians,

The Sunk Garden, in the school grounds, was designed by Miss Silcox during 1919-20 as a memorial to Old Felicians who died in the First World War. Many of you will have enjoyed spending time in the garden while at school. Perhaps it was the backdrop for some quiet reading or some more active pond dipping? Sadly, in recent 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.

Under the leadership of Mrs Jo-anne Greenacre, the school intends to refurbish and reinstate the Sunk Garden. The project has been scoped, with support and assistance from Neil Ludmon and Eloise Waters, Garden Designers. The design will initially focus on refurbishing the long double border on the western side of the garden. 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.

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 you are warmly invited to come to school for a day or more between April 25th -28th to work in the Sunk Garden. You do not need to have any gardening experience as full training will be given. You will, however, need to bring spades, forks and gardening gloves with you.

Reinstating the Sunk Garden at Saint Felix School is such a worthwhile project. It will become a safe and pleasant space for use by the whole school community and for the 'long generations (which) will come after us'. It will also be 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. In addition, some research will be done to uncover information about Felicians who undertook war work during the First World War and who survived to write up their diaries and memoirs.

We hope very much that this project will capture your imagination and that you will wish to participate in the restoration of the Sunk Garden in some way. Full details of the plans are now on the school web site and details can be found there, letting you know how Old Felicians can contribute to the refurbishment.

Please do make sure all your Old Felician friends are aware of what we are attempting to achieve this summer.

Many thanks,

Fran D'Alcorn
Chairman of the OFC

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This view of the Sunk Garden was painted by an Old Felician in the early 1920s

