

Restoring the Garden at the Churchill Hospital Heather says it with Flowers

Everyone was delighted when the Oxford University Hospital Board finally confirmed their decision to move ENT cancer services to the Blenheim Suite on the Churchill Hospital site, alongside other cancer services in Oxford in a complex dedicated to cancer care.



You may not know that in the centre of the Blenheim Suite sits a lovely tranquil garden, a calm serene place where patients undergoing treatment can sit peacefully and unwind. The sad news was that whilst the debate about how the suite would be used was going on, the garden had suffered through lack of attention, become neglected and was badly in need of some attention.

Hacking through the Undergrowth

Enter Heather Derkacz and her team of willing volunteers. Armed with pruning-shears, forks and clippers, they have given up time over the last few weeks to fight their way through the undergrowth. The amount of cutting-back that had to be done was amazing, producing great piles

of off-cuts that then needed to be cleared. Heather drew up a detailed renovation plan and then set about re-vamping the garden. She persuaded past patients and local businesses to donate cash and the materials needed for the project. Other people gave up their time and skills to

help with the restoration effort.

Transformation!

One issue that required some extra effort was a drained fountain. The question now was 'what should happen to it?' With a bit of imagination it has been transformed into a raised flower bed, surrounded by a wooden seat and topped off with a stone urn.

The transformation is a joy to behold as it slowly returns to its former glory.

However the work is not finished yet and money and materials are still needed.

If you would like to make a donation or are able to contribute trellis, shrubs or compost, please contact Heather at heather@hflowers.co.uk.

Ray Derkacz

Community Connect

A free, friendly service for people in Chipping Norton district - Community Connect volunteers can help you find out about local services and support. **You can talk to us by phone or invite us to visit you.** We can help you find out about organising a lift to the shops if you need it or help in caring for a loved one. We can

help you feel safer at home and much more. **Just Ask!** on: 01608 648099. We work in strict confidence, helping older people improve their quality of life.

Funded by Oxfordshire County Council. Managed by West Oxfordshire Citizens Advice Bureau.

Locally driven by local people.