

Leechwell Pool Meeting 1.4.2011

Present: Roma Church, Dave Mitchell, Shirley Prendergast, Di Reeves, Jill Tomalin, Liz Warnes
Apologies: Pruw Boswell Harper

This was the first meeting of the Pool Project group: other key input will come from archaeologist, John Clipson, and garden design expert, Alex Whish. Previous feedback from the community was shared, the EH requirements for a scheduled monument aired, and the key elements of the project discussed.

It was agreed that:

- we need to make the area mysterious, quiet, and discourage children for safety reasons.
- dense planting and shade would be desirable if the archaeology allows.
- some sort of fence with spring loaded gate is probably desirable, not necessarily the current one, or in the current position
- trees traditionally associated with water are there or could be planted
- continuing planting along the bank outside the current fenced area of the pool area might be desirable, and might link up well with Rosie Musgrove's artwork (?).
- the actual limits of the scheduled area is just one metre around the pool. However we would want to protect possible archaeology underground beyond this, particularly along the possible line of the leat, and stick to non invasive planting in these areas. Within the scheduled area, we cannot go below the top soil.
- We probably need some sort of stone surround immediately adjacent to the pool.

An outline plan to take this forward was agreed:

- the pool project will be featured at the AGM in mid May, by way of interesting and involving others, and highlight.....
- a garden design event to be held in Birdwood House, which will allow anyone wanting to contribute ideas to the design to be involved.
- meanwhile, the archaeological requirements identified by John Clipson will be pursued, notably emptying the pool, so that these two parallel aspects of the project can develop and inform each other.

Actions:

- Jill to write minutes (and follow up with Alex and John re emptying pool etc)
- Dave to update website re project and identify any suitable photos he has of the area
- Shirley to investigate examples of other pools elsewhere
- Shirley to send briefing paper to Di for forwarding to Heritage group members (and anyone else she considers appropriate)
- All to seek out ideas, pictures, material for possible planting and design ideas

Next meeting: 2.00pm, Friday 29th April, 1 Gill's Nursery, to compile and develop information for the AGM and plan the following event.