

Five a day keeps the doctor away

Our Fruit and Vegetable Kitchen Garden has gradually been developed from an area of waste soil and hardcore to a very productive area that is home to a variety of fruit and vegetables. The garden kitchen is relatively small but successfully demonstrates what fruit and vegetables we can grow in our village – a lot! It is designed for education purposes and gives us the opportunity to practice organic and permaculture methods. The first thing that we planted was 19 grape plants, both table and wine varieties. It has been interesting to examine how these grow in our climate and with different soil conditions. Kiwi and Asparagus have been planted nearby and should be ready for harvest next year. Ferns from the Asparagus give a nice contrast to the large leaves from the Banana and Rhubarb plants. Another section of our allotment is devoted to annuals, with the bean family playing a vital role, living in symbiosis with nitrogen bacteria that improve soil quality. This helps carrots, lettuces, tomatoes and melons thrive. Onion, garlic and leek are also essential to the garden as they help with pest control.

Peter Pan comes to the Pines Garden this August

Tick, tock, tick, tock.... Time's running out for you to get your tickets for the Chalkfoot Theatre Arts production of J M Barrie's Peter Pan at The Pines Garden on **Wednesday 8th August.**

The year before last *The Wind in the Willows* was shown in the Garden to great acclaim.

This year's open air production should be great fun for all the family. It has been adapted and directed by Philip Dart and designed by Michalis Kokkoliades.

Gates open at 6:00pm and you are welcome to picnic on the lawn. The programme commences at 7:p.m. Tickets cost £7 adults, £6 concession, £5 Under 16's.

If you book a week or more in advance you receive £1 off ticket prices. Tickets for the production are available from The Garden Café opposite the Pines Garden.



New features at the Pines Garden

We have two new features in the Pines Garden, one being a Vertical Garden!

Yes, we need another brick in the wall – a green one...

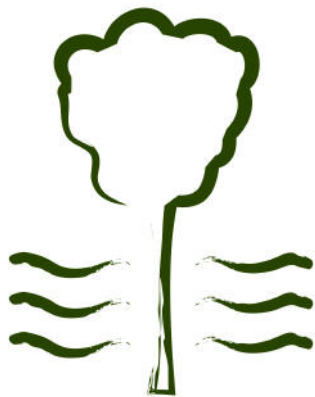
The Vertical Garden is a trial green wall using the principles of *hydroponics*, built from easily accessible and recycled materials. One side is planted with sun loving plants and the other with shade tolerant. The plants are constantly watered using a micro-drip pipe. In the future a pump placed at the bottom will recirculate all water. If the trial is a success then the vertical garden concept may be used as our final vegetated covering to the wall be-

tween the domes of the Pines Calyx, adding further to local biodiversity.

The water quantities required are small – all from our sustainable borehole source.

Hydroponics?.... This is a method of growing plants using mineral nutrient solutions instead of soil. Terrestrial plants may be grown with their roots in the mineral nutrient solution only or in an inert medium, such as perlite, gravel or Rockwool.

Plant physiology researchers discovered in the 1800's that plants absorb essential mineral nutrients as inorganic ions in water. In natural conditions, soil acts as a mineral nutrient reservoir but the soil **Cont...**



New Features Cont....

itself is not essential to plant growth. When the mineral nutrients in the soil dissolve in water, plant roots are able to absorb them. When the required mineral nutrients are introduced into a plant's water supply artificially, soil is no longer required for the plant to thrive. Almost any terrestrial plant will grow with hydroponics, but some will do better than others. It is also very easy to do; the activity is often undertaken by very young children with such plants as watercress. Hydroponics is also a standard technique in biology research and teaching and a popular hobby.

The second new feature is the Poetry Path, which is located close to the Entrance and has been developed using only recycled materials, including cardboard from the Coastguard Pub and Seashells from Whitstable's Oyster Beds.

Over the past year we have had two internationally renowned artists who expressed interest in working on installation pieces within the garden. These artists, along with a number of local artists, are now preparing a fascinating range of installations for the Garden for August.

The Pines Garden is holding a National Garden Scheme day on **Friday 24th August**. The scheme was founded in 1927 and raises funds by opening gardens to the public throughout England and Wales. This year the Scheme celebrates its 80th birthday. Last year in Kent the scheme raised over £115,000 for its beneficiary charities which include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Help the Hospices, the Queen's Nursing Institute and the Royal Gardeners' Orphan Fund to name but a few. All admission fees from the Garden on the 24th will be donated to the Scheme.

Bright blue Dragonflies and beautiful water lilies have been in abundance at the lake area throughout June. We are also really pleased to have a healthy amount of frogs and newts in the lake, as numbers have been considerably lower in previous years. The garden during this period has also been filled with Foxgloves, Iris, Cordelyne, Peonies, Aquilegia, Romneya, an assortment of Grasses, and a nice show of Erigeron.

The St Margaret's Museum is now open everyday 10.45-17.00 throughout the summer and 10.45-17.00 Wednesday to Sunday throughout the winter. Entrance into the Museum is through the Garden Café. The Museum is hosting an exhibition with visual displays from architecture students at the University of Creative Arts Canterbury. A core theme of the displays is sustainable architecture.

The Pines Calyx is now open for viewing on a number of Saturday and Sunday afternoons thanks to the loyal support of our volunteers. Please see the gazebo at the Pines Garden entrance for opening dates. For a presentation and tour of the Building please contact the Bay Trust to be added to the mailing List.

The Annual Open Air 'Railway Swing Band' Concert took place in the Garden on Wednesday 27th June. Despite the wind and the occasional light shower, a good time was had by all. Dave White's band delivered a range of new numbers as well as some old favourites and Dave did his best to get some audience participation! The funds from the concert will go towards what will provide the Looking Ahead team with the resources they need to kick off a new venture. A local village resident recently visiting the Chapel commented to the Looking Ahead team that they thought the village should have its own '**box scheme**' (a distribution service for locally grown fruit and vegetables). As the team at both the Old Chapel and in the Pines Garden have started growing a range of vegetables it seemed that this idea could be implemented. The Pines Garden team are assisting with their know-how – being applied through the new kitchen garden plot (with 40 different specimens of fruit and vegetables showing exactly what our 'poor' soil will support). If you would like to get involved then drop in at The Old Chapel and leave your details or email james@baytrust.org.uk.



The Pines Calyx hosted a public event as a part of British Architecture Week 2007 on Friday 22nd June. The event, "Sustainable Architecture and Regeneration in Dover District", had a range of interesting speakers including Michael Pawlyn, the Architect for The Eden Project who is now working on projects in East Kent in partnership with Helionix Designs, the Pines Calyx's design team.

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