

## Your Park Needs You

*"The man who has planted a garden feels that he has done something for the good of the world."* -  
Vita Sackville-West, poet and novelist.

Well the men and women who form the Bingham Park gardening group hope that they have started something for the good of the local community – with the emphasis on **started**.

In the months leading up to Christmas, the gardeners tidied up the beds, planting bulbs, digging up pelargoniums for over-wintering and cutting back shrubs. But perhaps the most visible change was the creation of a low level fence around one of the beds.

A small working party of gardeners received instruction on how to create a woven willow fence from Meike Weiser of Croydon's Parks Department. They learnt how to grade the lengths of willow and then determine those most suitable to bend to form the curved border. The final task was to weave thin strips of willow through the frame.

It was a fun session and the group enjoyed learning a new skill. It is hoped park users feel it enhances the appearance of the bed. Another aim was to create a deterrent to inquisitive dogs.

As Spring arrives, and carpets of crocuses appear in the park to delight local residents, thoughts turn to maintaining and improving the flower beds.

2016 was the start, but plans for 2017 can only progress if we 'grow' the gardening group and increase the pool of volunteers. To find out more, or to express an interest, please email [secretary@theaspra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@theaspra.org.uk)

Here are just some of the ways you could get involved:

- Join working parties for planting and weeding
- Assist with completing the willow fences
- Donate seeds, bulbs and plants
- Organise refreshments for weekend working parties