



Inside this issue:

<i>R&amp;B Web site is live!</i>	1
<i>Fundraising at R&amp;B</i>	2
<i>Water Perry Gardens</i>	2
<i>Woodworking workshop</i>	2
<i>A Safe Place to 'be'</i>	3
<i>Tammy Jane</i>	3
<i>The Garden Picture</i>	3
<i>Contact Details</i>	4
<i>Thanks to...</i>	4
<i>Future Plans and Events</i>	4

## *The Root & Branch Website goes live!*

On Tuesday 16th August, after many months of deliberation, tweaking, revising & general head-scratching, the Root & Branch site finally went 'live' in it's own domain.



*The Root & Branch home-page - <http://rootandbranch.info>*

For several weeks prior to launch, it was up for testing & feedback in a private web-space. No one knows how relieved I was that it was finally live. I like things to be as perfect as possible. It all started a good year ago when Liz the Manager of R&B knew that I am heavily into computers and gave me the chance I never thought I would get, I just could not believe it, I became a behind the scenes Volunteer & then booked on to two courses for Web Design one after the other so it took twenty weeks of study and then I was on my own. R&B funded the courses. I started to create the design while I was doing the courses. I was well away-no stopping me! I enjoy learning the different things you can do with computers. Also my partner Sue Jones attends as a gardener two/three times a week since Oct 2003 and seeing how much good R&B has been for her gave me the chance to thank all at R&B for helping and supporting her. All the gardeners, volunteers and trustees have said it is brilliant and easy to use. So go and have a browse-it is well worth a look!

*Would you like to know more?*

**Visit [rootandbranch.info](http://rootandbranch.info) today!**

*Do you have a site we could link to - with a reciprocal link back?*

### Gardening Tips (Patsy Dyer):

- We are herb lovers at Root and Branch and winter is the time to sow the seed of several perennial herbs. Try the following during the winter months: Arnica, Sweet woodruff, yellow iris, poppy, soapwort, sweet cicely, hops, sweet violet. Sow in trays, cover with a fine layer of sifted compost cover with glass or leave in a cold frame outside.
- Well-established perennial herbs can be divided in the winter months. Use this propagation method to increase stock or to provide lovely Christmas gifts. Divide Alecost, marjorams, chives, lemon balm, Lady's mantle, hyssop, bergamot, camphor plant, lovage, sorrel, sage, oregano, pennyroyal. It is not advisable to do any division if there is heavy frost or lots of snow however.

## *Fundraising for Root & Branch, Mark Eborn (Trustee)*

For a while now, a number of Root & Branch Trustees meet on the first Thursday of the month at Westmill, to advance the raising of funds through grants and trusts applications. With a plethora of large and small organisations out there, providing funds for many varied recipient groups, we endeavour to decide which applications may be looked on favourably. The fundraising sub-committee has invited a number of guest speakers with experience in the area of fundraising to advise us

on methods and effective approaches.



Although we have learned much about fundraising, much of the work can feel like roulette at times, where the stake is the time and effort in preparation.

However, some recent successes have been very encouraging. In May the Garfield Weston Foundation granted us £5,000 for general use and in July the CHK Charitable Trust forwarded another £5,000 to Root & Branch for core costs. We have listed all the trusts that have donated to us recently on the back page. Thanks to all these organisations for their generous support. If you would like to get involved in helping with fundraising, please contact Root & Branch.

## *Visit to Water Perry Gardens, Paul*

On 22 July members of Root and Branch visited Water Perry Gardens near Wheatley in Oxfordshire. After stopping off for a cup of tea in their café we walked around the gardens. We admired the stunning herbaceous border, then in full bloom,

walked around the Mary Rose garden and the Formal and Alpine gardens before looking at some of the collection of plants for sale and the interesting artwork in the galleries and shop. I've been a volunteer at Root and Branch since April

and have enjoyed spending time out from my studies to time learn about lots of different plants and gardening techniques as well as having the opportunity to try out beekeeping and willow work.



*Another good day out*

## *New Woodworking Workshop, Liz*



*Strange owls on the box*

Root & Branch have recently been awarded a generous grant of £2,000 from the Oxfordshire Community Foundation to set up a woodworking workshop. This money will be used to buy a wide selection of tools and wood. The new workshop will be set up in one of the farm cow-

sheds that have recently been made available. Gardeners will have the opportunity to develop woodworking skills, as they get involved in making numerous items for the garden. On the list of things to make include compost bins, bird tables, garden furniture, bird boxes,

raised beds and a pergola to support climbing roses and honeysuckle. This project will compliment what we currently offer and will provide gardeners with the chance to develop a wider range of skills.

## *A safe place to be, Katherine*

I have been attending Root & Branch for about a year now & during this time have really benefited from the project. I find the staff & volunteers friendly, supportive & understanding. Earlier this year I was discharged from the mental health team before I was ready, which left me feeling

incredibly let down & rejected. Root & Branch however, did not reject me & have been there for me when I needed support the most. It is a place where I feel accepted for who I am, rather than a problem to be dealt with. I am respected & listened to & the people here do not try to make decisions for me, but allow me to come to

my own conclusions & seem to value me for having my own mind. The support I have found at Root & Branch is ongoing & does not depend on me taking advice or a particular course of action. The countryside in itself is therapeutic & so are the people here. All in all, it is a safe place to be.



*R & B  
the place to be*

## *Become a Trustee for Root & Branch, Liz Rothschild*

I have been involved as a Trustee with Root & Branch horticultural therapy project at Watchfield since it began in 2001 and it has been so exciting to see it develop and open its doors to gardeners, staff and volunteers. Every meeting we come to we seem to see a new development in the building, garden or team of people involved. It is very rewarding to come along when the project is working and meet everyone and help with

activities. I have done bread making, willow lanterns and felt making and people are always happy to try new things out or show you around. Being a Trustee has taught me all sorts of things about what is involved in running a charity of this kind and it is wonderful to hear from gardeners how much coming to Root & Branch has meant to them. It really can make a difference to people's lives and by being a Trustee you know you are part

of making that difference. If you would like to find out more about Root & Branch and how to become a trustee come along to our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 17 January 2006 at 7pm at Coleshill Café (Coleshill Village Shop, the Old Carpenter's Yard, Coleshill, Swindon). If you would like further information, please call Root & Branch on 01793 780380.

## *The Garden, Patsy*

Sitting outside at tea break, allows time to look around the garden and bask in the lovely results of our labour. The beds which have been partially completed around the dry stonewall are looking beautiful with autumnal displays of colour.

Deep pink sedums, icy blue 'cupid's dart' and yellow clematis flowers, which clamber over our woven willow obelisks. There are also pastel-pinks of the Japanese anemone, purple salvia

and delicate pale yellow spires of a rare foxglove. Very welcome colours now the main flush of flowering in the garden is over. More importantly, this display is the result of the gardeners and volunteers' dedication to plant propagation from donated material. Thanks to Mrs Jane Anne Morrison who recently donated a magnificent collection of plants and seed. I shall tell you more about these in our next newsletter!



*Reaping what we sowed*



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**Charity No. 1088493**

We are supported by:

- The Big lottery Fund
- Oxfordshire County Council
- British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

DO YOU HAVE...

- Blacksmith and carpentry tools
- Digital camera
- Computer
- Old sewing machine?

... you would like to donate to R&B?

Financial donations are also greatly appreciated!

*Many Thanks in this issue to:*

- Garfield Weston Foundation £5K Donation
- CHK Charities £5K Donation
- Woodward Charitable Trust £2.5K for Salaries
- Mr & Mrs JA Pye Charitable Settlement £500 Wildlife Observation Platform
- Bookbinders Arms £250
- Sir Jules Thorn £500 donation
- Bartlett Taylor £100 donation
- Sandford Trust £250 Garden and craft equipment
- Vale of the White Horse District Council £350 towards the Blacksmith Forge
- Allen Lane Foundation £5K Core Costs
- Awards for All £5K Blacksmith Forge
- Carol £150 sponsored walk
- Tom Hall £50 donation
- Woodroffe Benton £500 Core
- Ormonde Charitable Trust £300 Donation
- Oxfordshire Community Foundation £2,000 Wood-working Workshop
- Mrs Jane-Ann Morrison for a fantastic selection of plants, seeds and dried flowers
- Hills for a donation of 11 tonnes of organic compost.

## *Future Plans and Events with R & B*

- Candle Making Workshop  
18<sup>th</sup> November 2005
- Felt Making Workshop 2<sup>nd</sup>  
December 2005
- Xmas Party 23<sup>rd</sup> December
- Annual General Meeting  
17<sup>th</sup> January 2006
- Pizza & bread making 20<sup>th</sup>  
January 2006
- Basket weaving workshop  
3<sup>rd</sup> February 2006
- Visit to Mattocks Roses 5<sup>th</sup>  
May 2006
- Herbalism workshop date  
to be confirmed
- Art workshop - 'Portraiture'  
date to be confirmed.



*Support your local tomatoes*