

## Eastcote House Gardens.

### Walled Garden Renovation Project.

The grant to re-plant the Walled Garden, has a time limit for us to complete the work. Therefore, the clearing of the herb beds, and borders needs to be carried out as soon as possible.

The biggest problem is the state of repair of the Wall. Sarah Harper, Principal Conservation Officer, Hillingdon, Damien Searle, Green Spaces and Lesley Crowcroft, Chairman, Friends of Eastcote House Gardens, visited the Walled Garden Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July to assess the Wall, which is Grade II listed.

In places the foliage is so rampant the Wall cannot be seen, so this will be our first urgent job, to clear the wall so that Sarah can assess the work needed, and to ascertain if we can go ahead and re-plant the perimeter beds.

To re-plant and then find all has to removed for renovation work to the Wall would be futile. If the state of repair is so bad to necessitate the delay in planting, I will have to negotiate with the Heritage Lottery Fund for an extension of time in which to complete the project.

Obviously, we cannot just rip the planting out, we will have to cut back as far as we can, without damaging the Wall. Some plants e.g. Yew, Ivy, Virginia Creeper have rooted into the Wall, so we cut back as far as we can, enough to reveal the Wall, and further removal methods will then be considered.

To just throw all the plants away would be a disgrace, therefore, some will be 'Heeled' in temporarily in another part of the garden for later replanting, the remainder can be split, potted up, and at a later date we can hold a Plant Sale, and the monies raised used for planting elsewhere in the Gardens. Any unwanted flower pots, especially larger pots will be gratefully received, clear out your shed and garages, for a good cause.

This operation will require extra work days, we already have scheduled Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September, SATURDAY 5<sup>th</sup> September 9.30-1230pm has been designated as an extra session. This will give those at work during week chance to take part in this exciting project, no previous experience necessary. Our regular volunteer gardeners will be on hand as team leaders.

So if you can, cut back foliage, dig out plants, split and pot up please make a date in your diary and come and join us. Refreshments will be provided, as will all necessary tools. Tell your family, friends, neighbours, organisations, look forward to seeing you all **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2009 9.30am-12.30pm.** Meet in the Car Park Eastcote House Gardens.

Happy Gardening. Lesley.  
Lesley Crowcroft, 020 8866 8436.