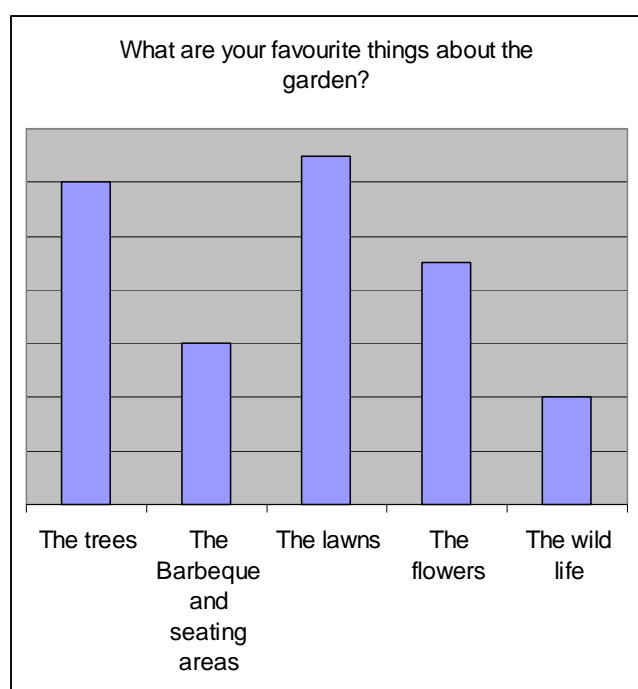
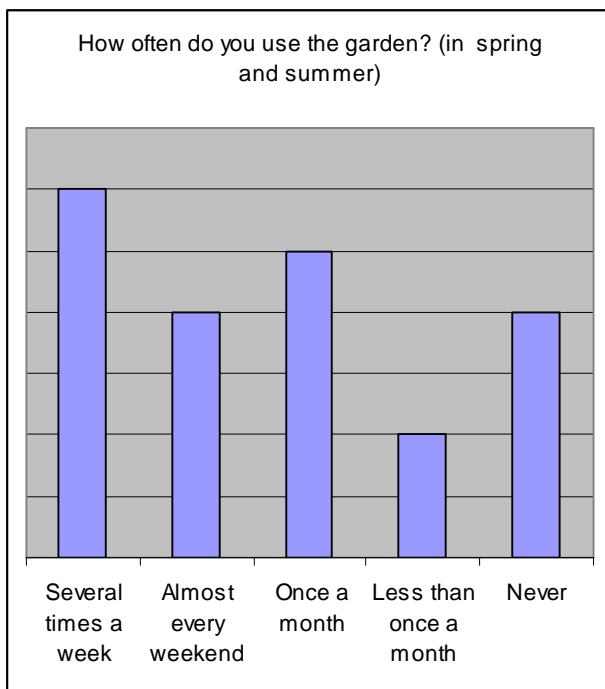
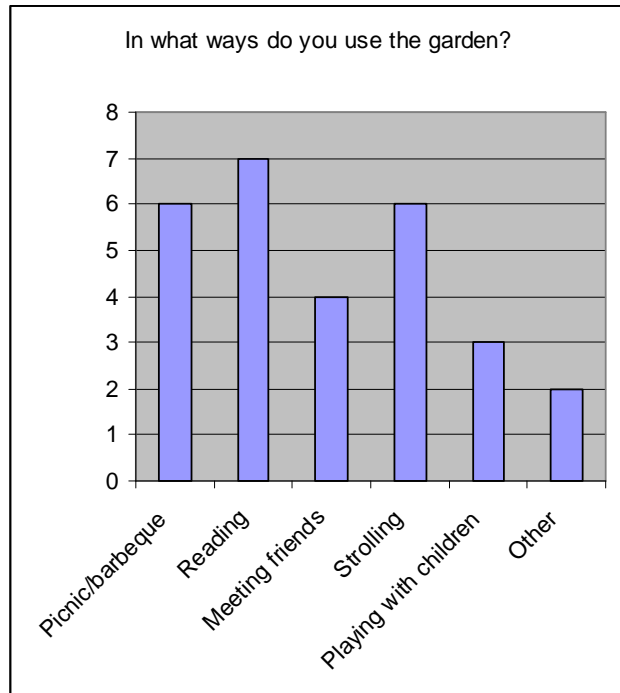
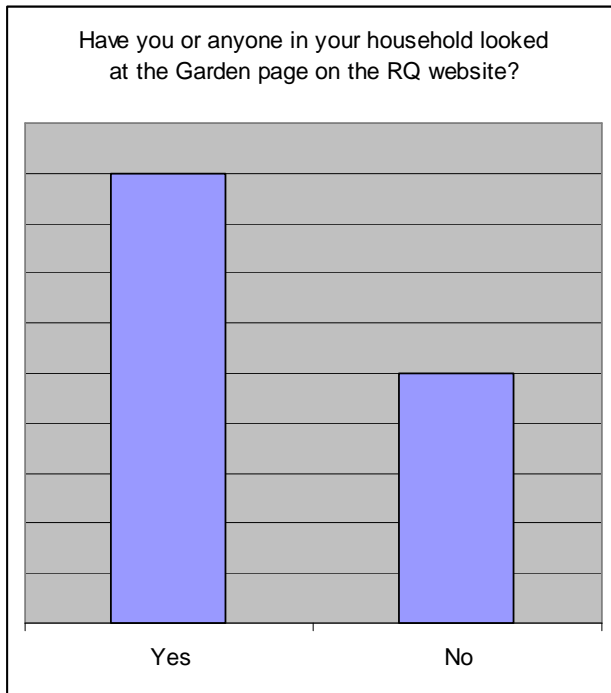


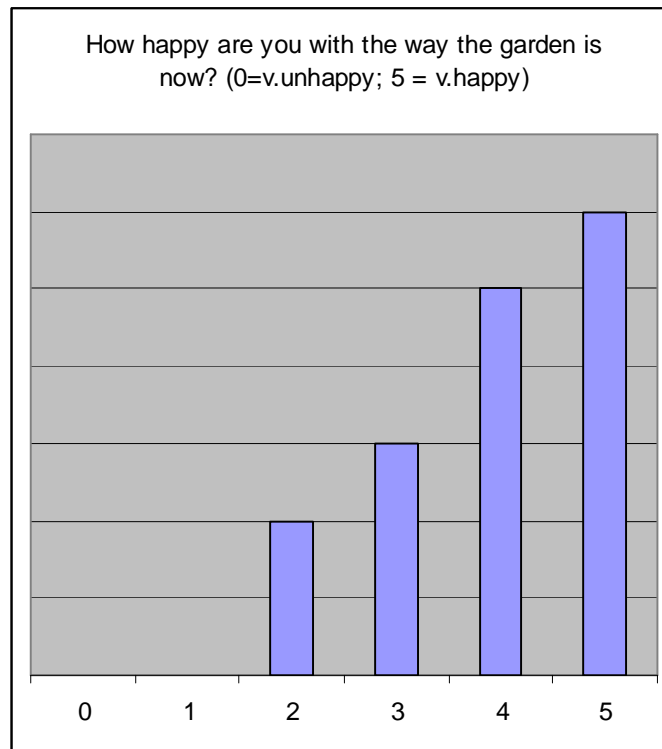
## January Garden news:

During December most of our efforts were concentrated on controlling bindweed in the herbaceous beds and Elin also made a fence system to support some very special edible berries which will go around the new bed near the entrance to the West Garage.

During January, work in the garden is difficult but Elin will concentrate on clipping and controlling the ivy which has overcome several areas along Rope Street and the dock side. She is working short days to make the most of the light. While the snow is on the ground, she has also been spreading salt to reduce the possibility of slipping on the ice.

## Results of Garden survey – 2009-2010





104 copies of the questionnaire were distributed. Two of the staircases were not accessible at the time due to a problem with the keyset.

18 responses were received. Most of these were very positive. Here is a summary and discussion of the points raised:

- *Flowers. More flowers in empty spots.* We have made good progress during the past year on planting flowering shrubs and biennials. In particular a number of large flowered white Hydrangeas and a collection of tree peonies have been planted. These will take time to mature.
- *The beds fronting onto Rope Street and the Dock are a mess.* We are working on these beds over the winter and are investing in a good measure of compost as well as new plantings. The ivy beds are being clipped. The bed on the right of the approach to the West Garage is being transformed into fruit and vegetables.
- *Clear footpaths of weeds.* It is not possible completely to clear the footpaths with weedkiller because this always drifts into adjacent plantings. Therefore some of the footpaths can only be controlled by hand weeding and/or mowing. Where possible we are going to use mowing plus removal of noxious weeds by hand.
- *Footpaths are uneven.* Two problems here: in some places there has been subsidence of the silty soil below. In others ants are undermining the paving. The solution is to raise the paving and make up the levels with compacted fill, sand and a little cement to discourage the ants. This is on the list of major repairs required. The worst spot for subsidence is the vehicle gateway to the West garden. An estimate is being obtained for correcting this.
- *More space to sunbathe.* It seems to us that we have struck a reasonable balance. If the trees and shrubs were cut down to make more space there would be less privacy – I mean there would be less separation between the parts. Willing to debate this if required.

- *Locked bike storage in the garden.* On the whole I feel this would detract from the appearance of the garden and is not desirable, since the garages offer plenty of bike storage and it would hardly be any more secure to have them in the garden.
- *More lighting to garage steps.* We will pit this on the projects list and it will be done if and when the directors feel that its priority is great enough and the money is available.
- *More vegetables.* There will be progressively more fruit and a few vegetables. These need a lot of maintenance and so the quantity will not be great, and we will concentrate on a few types. Who knows, one day we may have another 'dig for victory', and in that case we would need a full time gardener and rationing!

Chris Todhunter  
12<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Tel. 020 77402535 if you would like to discuss anything.