

Welcome to the Prairie Garden

The Prairie Garden is situated on the slope between the Dovecote and the River Pinn.

Previously a wildflower meadow, to accommodate an archaeological dig some plants were moved to Long Meadow and a plan was made to replant this area with a mix of grasses and perennials.

The Prairie was created in late 2016 by the volunteers of FEHG using top soil and grit supplied by the Council, compost donated by The Forresters residency transported by the Council to the gardens and leaf mould produced at the gardens. A mix of grasses and perennials was planted, these being chosen for their suitability for an exposed, sunny, well-drained site.

The main grasses are varieties of Miscanthus, Stipa, Cortaderia, Hakonechloa, Festuca and Panicum. Thanks are due to Eastcote Residents Association for a donation towards the cost of purchasing the grasses.



Cortaderia - Pampas grass

This garden comes into its own during the late summer/early autumn when the grasses look magnificent and are surrounded by yellow Golden Rod and Sisyrinchium, the purple of Michaelmas daisies and Verbena bonariensis, red Persicaria and ferny Fennel. Other notable plants are Acanthus and Crambe, with a supporting cast of poppies, lilies, irises, anemones and geraniums.



Seeds such as knapweed from the former wildflower meadow continue to add to the mix and contribute to the many sources of nectar and pollen that attract visiting insects.



Frogs are often found seeking refuge at the base of plants and the profusion of colour attracts numerous species of hoverflies, bumblebees and butterflies such as Orange Tip, Gatekeeper, Red Admiral, Speckled Wood, Comma, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell. A rare visitor is a Hummingbird Hawkmoth.



Speckled Wood

The centre piece of the Prairie Garden is the Ransomes single furrow iron plough, painted in its original colours. It was horse drawn, and produced by Ransomes of Ipswich from 1908 until the 1920s. The plough is on long term loan from the London Borough of Hillingdon's collection of historic farm machinery and was installed in the latter half of 2017.



The Prairie Garden



A selection of leaflets about various features in and around the gardens and Long Meadow is available at www.eastcotehousegardens.weebly.com

