

## CVCC Site Maintenance Update December 2020

*05.11.2019 – AGM minutes point 15 Site Maintenance – as the development of the club continues it will be necessary to maintain the site. It is proposed that we have 3 or 4 days each year set aside for this purpose. It is envisaged that members will form a working party to tidy and clear the outdoor areas. We have had an offer from the local young farmers who have volunteered to lay the front hedge.*

*An environmental organisation from Coniston has been taking samples from the reed beds at the edge of the lawn and wish to continue to do so. A full risk assessment was carried out before they visited the site as the organisers brought students with special educational needs to participate. Sandra Cornes reported that she received a donation of a number of plants for the border near the river.*

From early 2018 to-date

Objective: to tidy lawn surrounds, creating a positive habitat to attract bees and butterflies. To create a welcome space to match the proposed new clubhouse that could help to attract more members and visitors. Add plants to assist (natural) water drainage in wettest areas.

Working groups have varied size but consisted of the then chair, several committee members and other club members. People have collaborated to maximise results however, during covid lockdown attitudes were more laissez faire, as some members self-isolated and others continued in their social bubbles.

Work completed / still ongoing:

- Cut down and tidy all rough ground to the east of the lawns (river) boundary, creating beds to house butterfly & bee friendly plants along with wild-flower areas
- Beds planted with initial donated plants – ongoing development to find rabbit repellent plants
- Long grass cut down and daffodil bulbs planted outside entrance gate
- Vegetation along roadside boundary cut back and ground tidied in preparation for hedge laying – ongoing work as rubbish is regularly blown into hedging
- Introduction of a boules court (requested by club benefactor/committee member) alternative sport
- Sodds removed for boules court used to raise dipped ground around oak tree – now thriving
- Removal of brambles to the southern (road) boundary, in preparation for the removal of tennis court railings / creation of car parking facilities (part of clubhouse build project)
- Removal of other railings alongside southern (road) boundary to lawn 3 and cut down / removal of brambles & weeds in preparation for planting – ongoing / consideration for shadows on lawn 3
- Reduction in reed beds (by Coniston group) along western boundary ditch (approved by chair) to maximise lawned area should the club grow to require 4 full playing lawns – any planting should take this into consideration and not hinder extension to lawns
- Southern boundary ditch dug out by an additional 4" from gate to corner pipes

- Ground above trench arch cordoned off and roughly levelled, prepared as wild-flower bed. Work ongoing as ground needs raising to accommodate proposed lavender border
- Installation of 3 planters outside clubhouse to restrict parking thus maintaining view of lawns from clubhouse and additional seating area to front (requested by chair)
- Installation of three composting areas, for grass cuttings and leaf mould, to be hidden behind hedging planned (with chair) to run along the raised mound to south side of lawn 4 and lawn 3. Planting options discussed to reduce water levels along western boundary and to hide view of water sewerage site.
- Ongoing discussions with environment agency as to best course of action to improve drainage off site ensuring 'gate' into river does not get blocked by debris
- Additional ditch dug alongside southern boundary of lawn 3 to test water table level
- Leaves removed from southern boundary ditch (at exit point) circa every other day; leaf fall during autumn equates to roughly one barrowful per day
- Rough ground along northern boundary cut back, brambles and ragwort (continuous job as poisonous to cattle) removed in preparation for planting
- Ragwort removed from along flood defence (eastern boundary) as environment agency only responsible for maintenance and not removal of deadly weeds
- Bog ground alongside (unused) lawn 2 dug over to remove aggressive grasses
- Planting commenced autumn 2020 of trees and shrubs, scheme attached
- Western / northern boundary ditch digging commenced Q4 2020

## Observations

- Removal of the reed beds has increased the level of standing water experienced in both the western and northern ditches
- High tides and prolonged rainfall (changes in climate) are impacting usage of all lawns
- Lawn 3 currently holding more water despite additional ditch not showing water
- Removal of tennis court cages & brambles has opened-up lawns to roadside noise
- Commitment to layer hedge along southern boundary not fulfilled

## Planting considerations (not exhaustive)

- To reduce excessive water experienced on all lawns during 2019 league play when lawns 1 & 4 had to be brushed clear of water for play to continue.
- No cost to the club; all plants to be donated or grafted cuttings from existing stock
- Evergreen planting to minimise leaf fall / maintenance and debris on lawns
- Non-invasive root structure for planting close to lawns and trench arch
- Future potential lawn expansion (lawns 2 & 3) not to be hindered by planting
- Butterfly and bee friendly blooms, scented to deter mosquitoes by standing water
- Intermittent wind break along northern boundary to reduce 'tunnel' effect through valley
- Ornamental and practical value; enhance surroundings whilst providing solution



- Growth habit: slow growing, column style along northern boundary; faster growing and water loving for east/north corner; bushier with/without flowers for eastern boundary; restricted height for southern boundary to avoid shadow on lawn
- Intruder deterrent for southern boundary behind clubhouse and garage; bushy / low growing behind disabled parking
- Low maintenance where possible, to maximise the natural environment and to avoid formal hedging; exception will be layered hedgerow along roadside

## Summary

CVCC is a CASC open to all for enjoyment of croquet (and now boules) and relies heavily on volunteer labour (although volunteering is not a condition of membership) to complete the various tasks incumbent on this croquet club. Nominal formal committee meetings over recent years has resulted in little documented evidence of discussions and agreements surrounding maintenance of the grounds. This document aims to bring the current committee up to date with work, excluding lawns, carried out over the last 24+ months.

Land is leased (expires 2040) and any changes to grounds (introduction of trees / plants) requires Landlords input and approval, prior to any work taking place, due to his animals inhabiting the field adjacent to lawns along the western & northern boundaries.

Material changes to the grounds have been made in the current best interests of the club (to enhance the environment, improve drainage and reduce water retention) however, plants and shrubs evolve therefore future custodians of the club may be required to take action should any detrimental effects be experienced.

## Plant Britain Campaign

The Countryfile episode aired 29.11.2020 launched a 2 year programme to protect the planet and fight against climate change. Their plan to protect and restore the natural environment, and to leave a legacy for the next generation, links to the current governments' green industrial revolution.

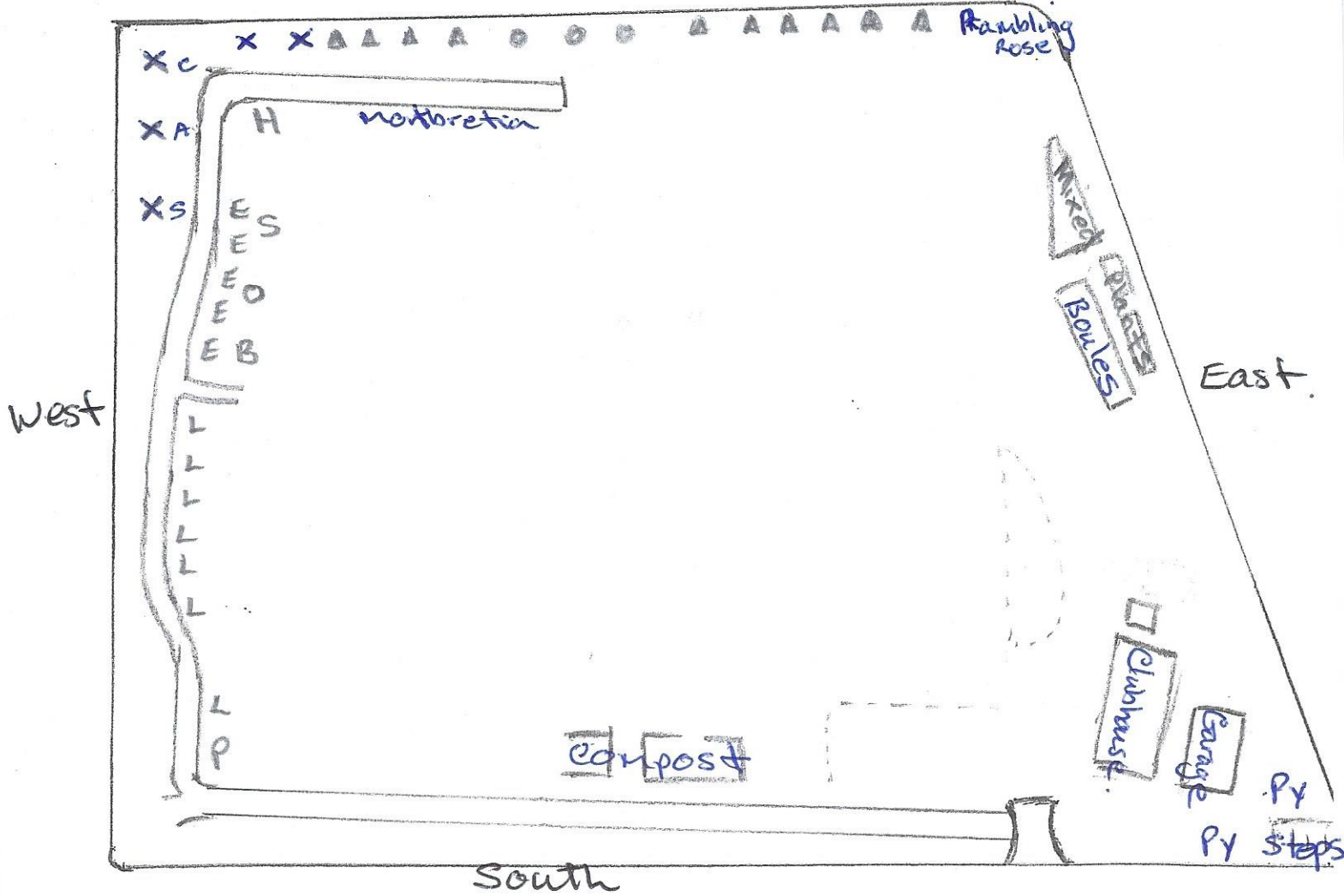
Trees are an integral part of the battle against climate change; they give us oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide as well as providing natural habit for wildlife. During the programme, presenters launched an interactive map for people to record their contributions to the scheme that will provide a national picture of environmental improvements.

I would like to add the CVCC planting scheme and our reasons (to improve drainage) to this programme of works as it could provide national exposure for Crake Valley, Cumbria and Croquet in general as a healthy outdoor activity. The Countryfile web page states that where more than 20 trees are planted, this will be flagged to the production team for review and could provide exposure for the club.

Sandra Cornes - 30.11.2020

Not to Scale

North



----- Future plans to hedge Carpark + flower meadow.

- △ *Cyressus sempervirens* x 10
- Monterey Cypress Goldcrest x 3
- x *Eucalyptus* x 5 *Cardata*, *Aggregata*, *Silver Dollar*, *camphora*, *subcrenulata*
- H self pollenating Holly tree
- S Sycamore
- oak
- B Birch
- E *Escallonia rubra macrantha* x 10
- L Cherry laurel x 10
- P *Pieris forrestii* frame.
- Py *Pyracantha* - 3 red - 3 orange - 2 yellow - 2 holly