

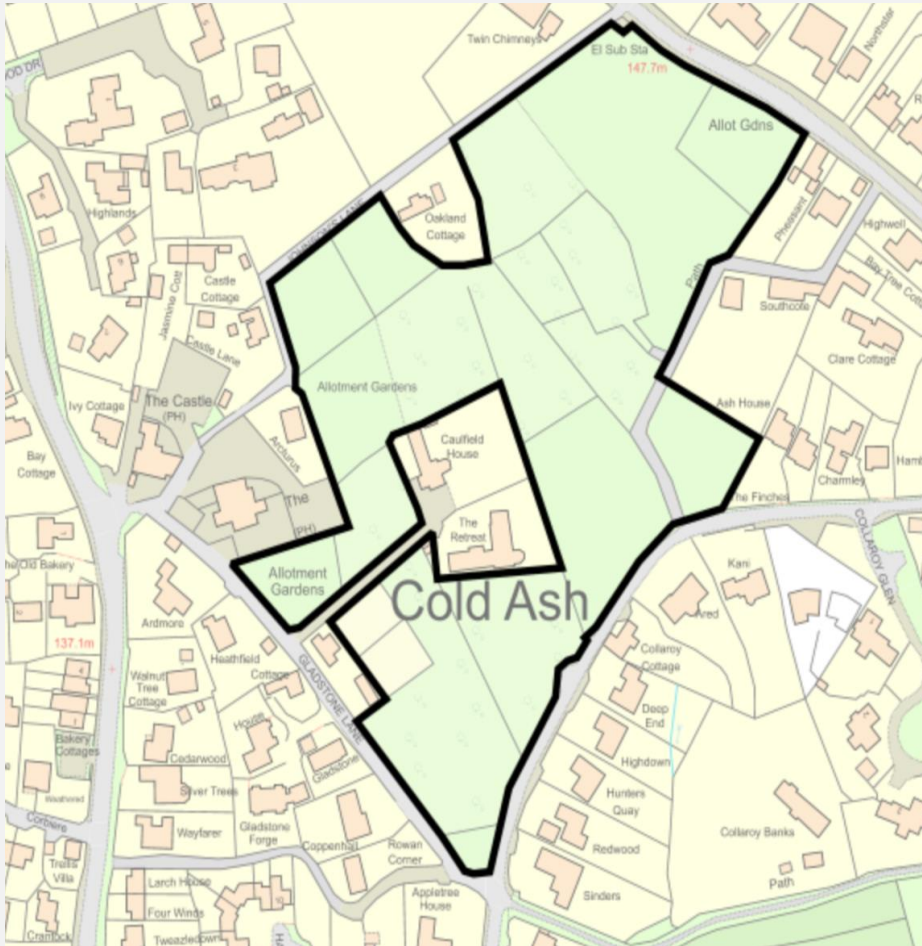
WILDLIFE ALLOTMENT GARDEN

Ivor McArdle

What I will cover

- Cold Ash 'Wildlife Allotment Garden' – the catalyst for change
- Focusing on the Climate Change agenda
- What has been achieved
- Working with other bodies
- Summary

Cold Ash 'Wildlife Allotment Garden' – the catalyst for change



A 7.4-acre site in the centre of Cold Ash village

Owned by a charitable trust – Parish councillors are the trustees

By 2019 it had become little more than a cut-through and some allotments

Dominated by invasive species (Himalayan Balsam) and dead wood

Many paths were unwalkable

Half of the site was inaccessible

Focusing on the Climate Change agenda

Realising the need to establish a purpose for the site, and the work of the volunteers, we aligned it to the Climate Agenda:

- Fully supporting Biodiversity in the area
- Making it a great place for people to enjoy the countryside, get exercise and rest
- Developing a rural feel through the introduction of livestock

The project focussed on the mental and physical wellbeing of parishioners and the health and wellbeing of the flora and fauna that make the site it's home

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED

Tidied up the site

Removed barbed wire

Cleared invasive species

Cleared fallen trees and
managed dead wood

Repaired and replaced
fencing

Worked to maintain and
improve nearby footpaths

Cleared the watercourse



Improvements for wildlife

Put up bird boxes, bug
hotels and stag beetle
loggeries

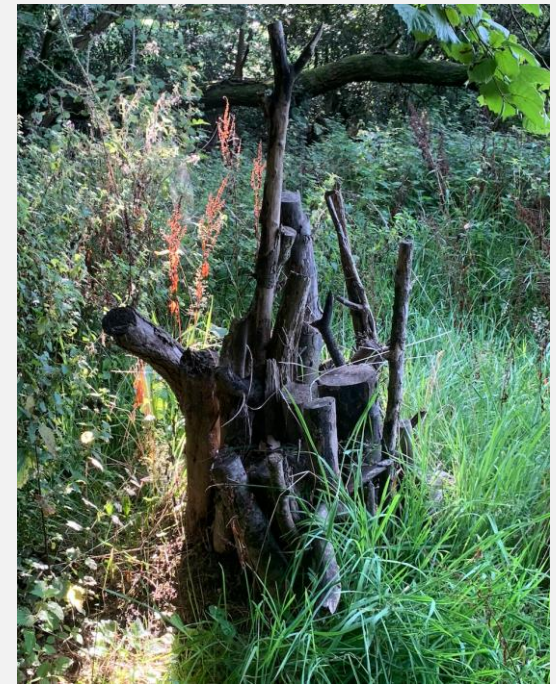
Restored meadows and
seeded wildflowers

Cleared for biodiversity

Planted trees and hedges

Maintained the
watercourse through the
introduction of 'leaky dams'

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED



What has been achieved

Introduced Livestock



**WE OPENED UP AREAS THAT
HAVE BEEN INACCESSIBLE FOR
DECADES...**



A derelict space....



Became a haven....



The 'Quiet Garden'

Events are staged.....

Stick Making



**Queen Elizabeth's
Jubilee Beacon**



Kings Coronation



Bank holiday Monday 8th May



Keep the date free!

And more.....

**The Cold Ash Wildlife Allotment
Gardens will be buzzing with fun, animals
and activity**



More to be revealed soon.....



*Photos - Bob Feuillade
Ivor McCardle Jacky Akam*

We established a base...



Tool / materials store

Meeting place

Coffee / Socialising

**Which we aim to turn into a countryside venue for
schools and societies...**

We've improved the paths...



Who has done this work ?

- Cold Ash Countryside Volunteers
- Green Gym
- West Berkshire Countryside Society
- Individual local parishioners



We thank...

- **The Trustees of the Poor's Allotment and Recreation Trust for their support**
- **Cold Ash Parish Council for providing the funding, via an annual grant, to provide the materials for maintaining the site**
- **The Cold Ash Countryside Volunteers for the hundreds of hours they put in each year to maintain the site as a beautiful and biodiverse area for parishioner to enjoy**
- **Our parishioners – it's part of the funding that they provide to the parish council, through the precept, that funds the trust and work done on the site**