

Shirley's Pond



This is what we started with in 2001 - a wild flower garden that really lived up to its description! We had a lot of clearing up to do but at least this year we have some beautiful poppies and anemones springing up in the strangest places in the garden which I can only assume come from this source.



As usual we had drawn the plans on graph paper before we started (Shirley is never happier than when she is "designing") and had measured everything up both in inches and cms.



Tony and his team set to work and started to dig the hole. All the soil had

to be taken out of the garden by hand in wheelbarrows as there was no way we could get a mini-digger down the garden.



To give you some idea of size - the pond is approximately 9 ft wide and 20ft long. It is about 3ft 6" deep although this varies depending where you are in the pond!



The pond seemed to take forever to fill up with water and we were dreading the Thames Water bill (we are metered) but it wasn't too bad in the end.



Tony very kindly donated some irises and the pond-skaters soon moved in. Jonathon's Mum gave us an umbrella plant which seems to have settled in.



Our next "design" was the fountain. Shirley's original design was taken by Pete Wheeler and made into a workable format then made up in copper and brass. Of course, Pete didn't come and put it in place so Jonathon had that dubious task!



Our next addition was 2 lillies - one pink and one yellow. Again, Jonathon had to get in the pond on a regular basis to gently lower them.



They are now on the bottom, established and appear to be thriving. We understand from our neighbours that the flowers are at their best during the day while we're at work.



The fish arrived - all 21 of them - and I finally managed to get a picture of some of them. We've got 1 black one, 2 yellow ones, a couple of 2 coloured ones and the rest are orange - all goldfish type fish - nothing fancy as far as we know!



A stone frog keeps guard and the fish seem quite good at diving for cover if they hear anything or there's a shadow over their pond but are starting to recognise that our shoes crunching on the gravel at the side of the pond may mean food so they come up and have a quick look when they hear us.

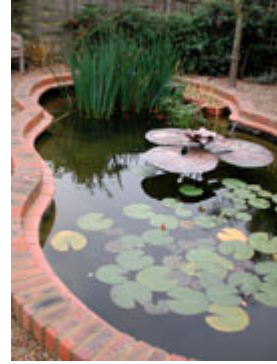


We (and Tony) weren't entirely satisfied with the edging to the pond so he and Shane came back to change it (mainly Shane this time). So it was off with the old bricks ... as you can see it looked a bit bare at this stage.



Then the tiles came in and were duly put in place. The fish seemed to be quite happy with all this activity and Shane was very careful not to get mortar into the pond in case it did them any harm.

Unfortunately, during the couple of days the nets were off the pond (before we got the wires in place) the heron swooped and nicked some of the fish. We think we have 14 left now but it's difficult to count them accurately.



Finally, it was finished and we think it looks a lot better - it hides the black liner better than before and generally looks more "finished off".



Great excitement this year (2003) as we have got our first frogspawn in the pond. Maybe our stone frog will have some "real" friends this year.

To keep up to date with any further developments, please check out our web site:

www.j.a.cuff.btinternet.co.uk/Pond.htm

Shirley Sinclair