

The Roman Garden

A report on the progress of the Roman Garden and Gordon's Memorial

The Garden at Upper Row Farm was originally inaugurated by Time Team and designed by Claire Ryley (see *Figure 3*). Although work remains to be done it forms an important element in the numerous educational visits to the Farm. Thanks to generous donations from BACAS members, progress on the Garden which incorporates the memorial to Gordon Hendy has been remarkable.

Les Hayes Thanks to the many volunteer helpers, enormous progress has been made on the garden in the last year and it has almost doubled in size. Many more attractive features have been added such as the rustic stone seating and an *impluvium* (a small formal pond) enclosed within a box dwarf hedge (see *Figure 1*). Flagstones join the elements together and the gaps will be covered in a weed resistant metallised membrane.

Gordon's Memorial features a curved stone seat set against a mound which is topped with water worn boulders. The sides are flanked by rockeries which will be planted up by Jess Hendy. An inscribed plaque framed within Bath stone ashlar will be positioned just above the centre of the seat (see *Figure 2*).

Footpaths built to be wheelchair accessible link all the features from the improved bridge across the stream (which as this is written, is flowing with crystal clear water) to the top of the site. Several tons of Forest Marble cobble stones lie alongside the footpaths. They amount to 75m in length and will have to be inset on the sides of the paths to form firm edging. They will have to be cemented together to prevent movement and to resist weed encroachment.

Figure 1
The Garden showing the rustic stone seating, the *impluvium* pool, the four vegetable, herbal, medicinal and decorative planting beds and in the distance the statue of Venus.



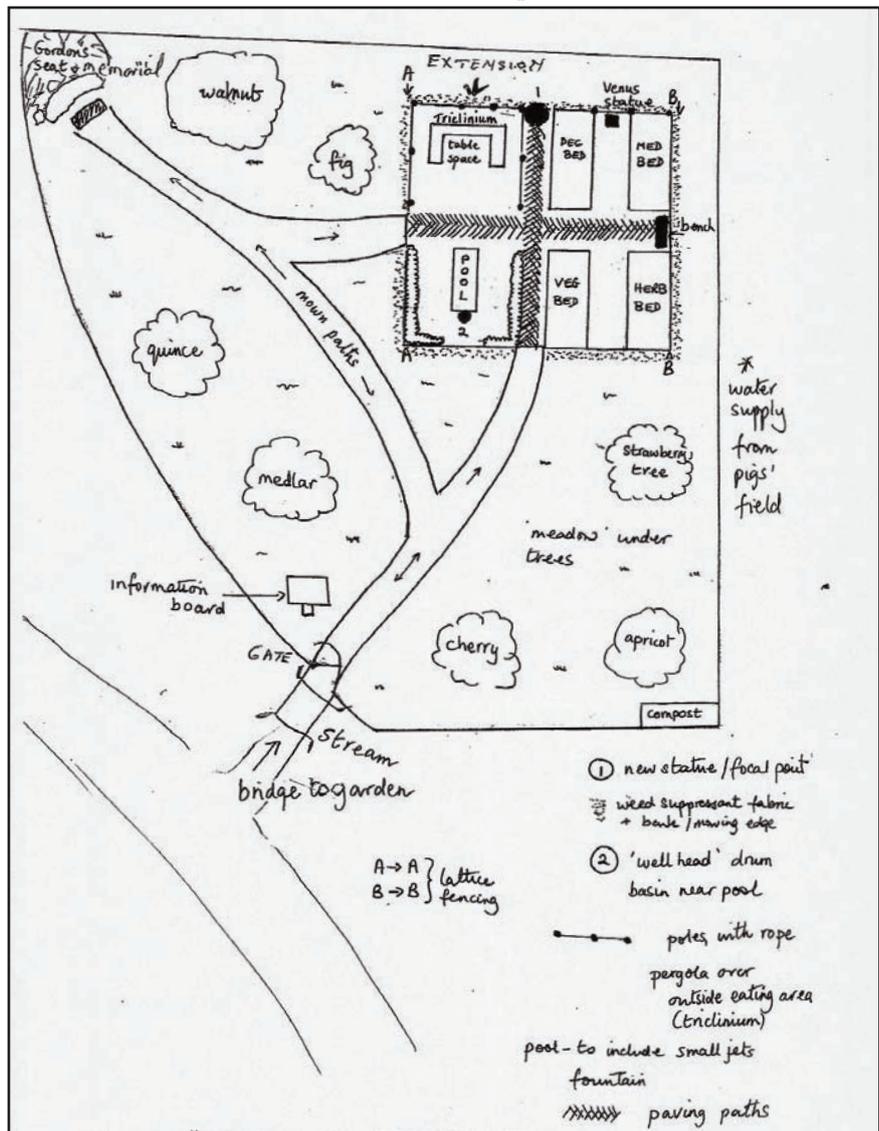


All this work has been achieved by volunteer labour and by the skilled hands of Bob 'the Builder' Watts using the monies kindly donated by members. We will need extra funds estimated at £350 to purchase materials for fixing the cobbles, extending a footpath and improving the surfaces of existing footpaths. Volunteer labour will be sought and I will be recruiting help once the weather and temperatures improve.

The aim is to complete the garden by the Summer, but we need to secure that extra bit of funding. Please assist us with the completion of the Roman Garden by making a donation made payable to BACAS, gift aided if possible, and sending it to our Treasurer Garry Pratt.

Figure 2 top
Gordon's Memorial seat
 surrounded by a rockery; as shown on the garden plan in the top left hand corner.

Figure 3 right
The Plan for the Roman Garden.



Six ornamental and fruit trees appropriate to the period have been planted at strategic points and the open areas will mainly be sown with meadow grass but with camomile next to the 'pond'.

An explanation of the area is needed, otherwise the Garden will lack meaning. A display board detailing the culinary, medicinal and decorative plants introduced by the Romans and featured in the Garden will therefore be erected by the entrance. There will also be two further boards illustrating the extent of the Roman plant invasion.