

## **THE BRIDGE GARDEN**

The area of land at the rear of the new Bridge building is slowly being developed into a garden for the Community of Countesthorpe. There will be 2 access points – the steps at the rear of the Bridge and the ramp at the side of the building.

The first area nearing completion is the Peace Garden - an area at the rear of the garden which is surrounded by a yew hedge. The garden will be accessed via a wooden bridge over a stream flowing through pebbles and rocks. The area will be simple and uncluttered with seating for those seeking space and solitude. The simplicity will enhance the opportunity to think, contemplate or just simply to listen to the rustling of the leaves, the birds singing or the rippling water.

A 3 tier water feature will feed water into a cascade and then down through a series of pebble and rock filled smaller pools before flowing in front of the Peace garden. Here the water disappears out of view before being pumped back to the water feature.

The central area of the garden will be paved with an outer pathway in the shape of the Christian symbol of a fish. Lavender will be used as a small hedge between the pathway and the central area – lavender being a plant that gives off a wonderful aroma when rubbed up against.

The northern border of the garden will have an assortment of ‘climbing plants’ many of which will have berries not only giving colour as winter draws in but also to feed the birds in Autumn and Winter.

Over the years this area has been a picture in February and March with a carpet of Snowdrops. Many of the Snowdrops are still in the garden and along with a variety of other bulbs and shrubs being planted will enable the garden to offer visitors something different to enjoy through the seasons of the year.

Conversations are already taking place with the local Primary School about how they might use the garden.

The design of the garden lends itself to be a place of natural beauty for brides to have their photos taken after their wedding.

It will take time for the work to be completed but steady progress is being made by the garden team.

Watch this space for updates and progress reports.