

Martin Norwood talks about his role in the Friends of the Jellicoe Water Gardens.

Interviewer:

Mmm, OK , So you got involved in the FOWG to sort of help with the restoration. What caused you to to want to get involved in that project?

Martin:

Well having recently retired at that point, and friends and, my wife certainly, got involved with other voluntary things i thought that it was something that I could get interested in. I do enjoy going fishing. I don't go very frequently but I do enjoy it, and I just thought that, over the years you've seen the deterioration of what I took to be fish life in the river. Anywhere right the way through from one end to the other really, and if there was something there that I could get involved with, as I got older, then that would be something good for me, so my initial approach to this was to get involved with the bird and the bat boxes, having been,um, a cabinet maker in my early years and then worked in furniture, until my retirement, I just thought it was something that I could offer back into the project group.

Interviewer:

OK. Can you tell us a bit about that that part of the project?

Martin:

erm Yeah, Well, we started this project, back in January when they, the trees were being felled. It was interesting morning, watching the forestry guys taking this, these trees down and, slicing them up for us into planks and then converting them down into smaller pieces. Yeah, it was, it was very rewarding to be able to produce something from the trees as they were being cut down. And we've still got more to do. So, it was just something we could do. Something to just .. keep us.. interested really I suppose, got time on our hands, and , yeah it was interesting and it was a good thing to do.

Interviewer:

OK and what about the future now? What are your hopes for it?

Martin:

For the gardens themselves? (Interviewer Yep) Well, I sincerely hope that people will appreciate the work, and the time that's gone into the gardens, that they don't get damaged , by other people who don't , or show little or no respect for this kind, this kind of work. And that they can continue over the years to be funded for their upkeep to be maintained; That's my, that's my biggest fear and that is the fear that a lot of my friends have, that all this money will get spent, and after the period of time, 5 years or whatever, then everything will just go to wrack and ruin, And more and more work is being relied upon volunteers .. to do this kind of thing, day in day out. So, that is my only fear, that all this money will get spent, and people will not come to, appreciate what's been done, and let's hope they don't fall back into disrepair again.