



Press Release: New sensory garden is set to bloom

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A sensory garden designed to provide stimulation and tranquility for dementia sufferers has opened in Fawley. The space, which is also available to the public, has been built at the front of Jubilee Hall and was funded thanks to a £2,000 contribution from ExxonMobil Fawley.

Sue Markides, Deputy Clerk of Fawley Parish Council, said: "The sensory garden aims to give local dementia support groups a safe place to come and enjoy the outdoors. Although it's been developed for people with dementia, anyone can come and sit in the garden and even dead head the flowers if they wish to. It's very much a community space."

The garden was designed by Simon Llewellyn, the parish council's Maintenance and Works Supervisor, with input on planting from Copthorne Nursery, in Fawley. Simon also carried out much of the building work, helped by Grounds Team colleagues. He said: "The main feature of the garden is a raised bed that contains a solar-powered fountain and a variety of plants that are either visually stimulating or have a strong sense of smell. We also have a bed for herbs, again because of their sensory benefits. The garden has been designed to be low maintenance but will also give people plenty of opportunity to potter around and enjoy the surroundings at the same time."

Fawley Parish Council Chairman Alan Alvey also used his grant monies as a New Forest District Councillor to buy a "Tommy soldier" silhouette from the Royal British Legion to stand at the entrance. Opening the space, he said: "It is lovely to see the garden looking so amazing, it's been a fantastic effort from everyone involved. I would like to offer my thanks to ExxonMobil Fawley for providing the funding, and to Simon and his team for bringing the garden to life so spectacularly."

Angharad Vaughan, ExxonMobil Fawley's Community Affairs Adviser, said: "Dementia is a condition that we know affects many people, especially in later life. The sensory garden will bring a great deal of joy not just to them, but to other members of the public too. We are proud to have funded the project and look forward to seeing the garden flourish."

Pictured: Fawley Parish Council Chairman Alan Alvey, and ExxonMobil Fawley Community Affairs Adviser Angharad Vaughan open the new sensory garden.

Councillor Alvey, Angharad Vaughan, and Simon Llewellyn, Fawley Parish Council Maintenance and Works Supervisor.