

LITTLE WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB - Meeting held on 1st November 2023

Our Speaker for the November meeting was Sylvia Jiggins, warden of the Phyllis Currie Nature Reserve, Great Leighs.

Initially Sylvia, who has been warden since 2003, was faced with a most unpromising area of land to transform into a nature rich reserve. There was a plantation of of closely planted pines, a steep sided overgrown pond and a meadow of Italian ryegrass.

Sylvia and her volunteers approached each area with enthusiasm, determination and sheer hard work to produce the diverse, nature rich reserve that is there today.

Many of the pines were felled and native tree species planted in the spaces. The pond is now a picturesque lake, abounding with fish and waterfowl. From the lakeside hide, king fishers can be spotted and reed warblers in the nearby reed beds. The meadow is now rich in wildflowers such as cowslips and green winged orchids in season

The board walks enable wheelchair users a little ones in buggies to enjoy the treasures of this jewel of a nature reserve. Well worth a visit. No matter what time of year.