

Friends of Glen Goyle
2023 Annual Report
November 2023

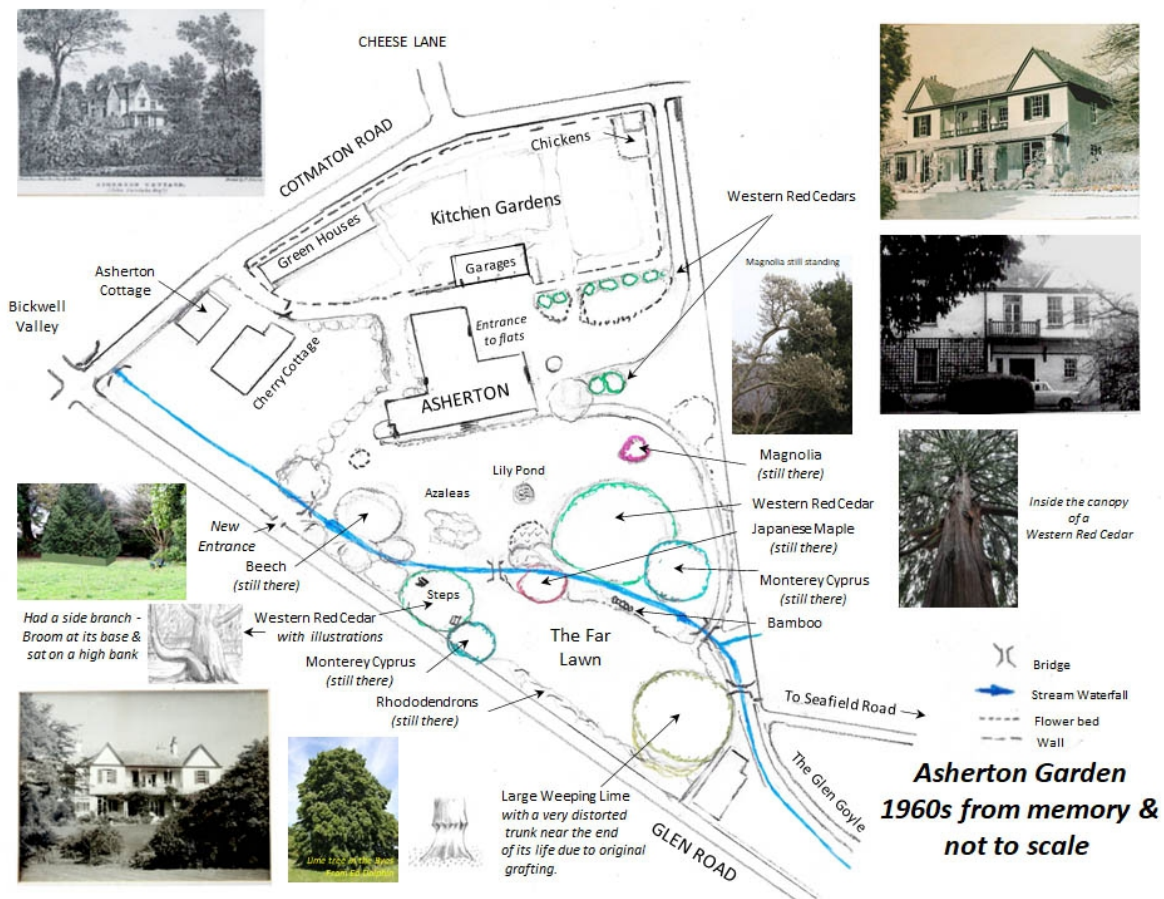


The Friends of Glen Goyle volunteers and working party started work in the early summer of 2022. This was after over a year of set-up work by the VGS and one of our founder members, John MacGregor. Glen Goyle had been neglected for many years. EDDC was contacted with suggestions as to how to bring the area back to life in order to recreate the special place it once was.

With the help of the EDDC horticultural officer, Paul Fealey, work began on the southern area of the Glen, clearing the area of brambles, ivy, some of the bamboo and thick undergrowth. This was the part planted by the Victorians, and, as the work continued, some of the Victorian planting was revealed. More light flooded in, encouraging specimen plant growth.

Even though so much has been cleared, the area remains a shady spot to walk through on hot, sunny days and during the cooler seasons more light shines on the borders where new plants and bulbs have been planted.

Every Thursday people walking through say how much they appreciate our work, often stopping to chat about the project. One of these passers-by turned out to be David Bassett, whose grandfather used to own Asherton House (now demolished).



Asherton House - Friends of Glen Goyle

David and his sister used to spend holidays here. The northern part of the Glen above the bridge was in fact their garden; he was able to give us many details about how the garden once looked. We were very intrigued and excited! Very generously, David has given us a donation for enhancing the Glen and we have started spending this by ordering two of our signature plants, the Crinodendron/Chilean Lantern Tree, to be planted at either end of the Glen. The family has also donated bulbs, which have now been planted.

The group meets every Thursday morning. There can be up to 12 volunteers when there is a special task to be completed, such as last week when many plants purchased by Paul were planted.



9th November 2023 - Friends of Glen Goyle

The EDDC has also provided bulbs this autumn and more will be planted this week. Usually there are five or six of us and there is always plenty to do. The support from Paul and the team at the council is very much appreciated because as well as providing professional advice and plants, they remove the green waste every week.

Now that the areas which were dark and overgrown have been planted with suitable shade-loving plants, we have noticed that many more types of bird and insect frequent the Glen. There are foxes and badgers, too. And the area has encouraged important visitors. We have won an Outstanding Award from the Britain in Bloom judges. In September Jon Wheatley from the RHS came to visit. He was very impressed with all that had been achieved, calling Glen Goyle a 'little gem'.

FOGG working party volunteer Katie Frost and FOGG colleagues