Botanic Garden Report 2017

January 2017
- Using land surveys prepared by Waterwise Gardens, laying out network of pathways, planning and researching planting zones after meetings together with Marilyn and Gerhard.
- Identifying gaps in the existing vegetation. Checking plant nursery lists and local sources.
- Cleaning path routes on site. Help from visiting agroforestry students, Franz & Rinetta.

February/ March
- First big delivery of plants from Sigmetum, native plant nursery from Lisbon.
- Some plants sourced locally and major push for planting, volunteer & professional help as needed.
- Initial watering and then regular sessions, once every month to six weeks through the summer.
- Pathways defined and first lot of stone spread onto the paths, great help from volunteers.
- Our President makes his first planting on the site.
- Spring Fair includes group visit and guided tours of the garden, in ENG and PT with Teresa.

April
- Visit by Olivier and Clara Filippi, very supportive and encouraging, good ideas about plant associations and future maintenance. Requested seed from some plants new to him.
- Visits during spring months to survey plants and keep photographic record of what exists.
- Bristol University Student group visit to Quinta and the garden (Chris Thorogood, Simon Hiscox, 2 staff members and 18 students)
- Almancil school group visits to Quinta and the garden

May
- in celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May we held an Open Day at the garden. Well supported and garden looked wonderful. Great lunch at the Quinta.
- Very pleased to see Dra Manuela David , Dr Ricardo Canas from Uni of Algarve and Cor. Rosa-Pinto join us for that event to launch the garden. They also identified and collected our first Herbarium specimen from the Scabious family, from the garden – Lomelosia simplex ssp. dentata
- Article in The Resident on the Garden Open Day on May 21st

June 2nd – special visit to the Botanic Garden with Cor. José Manuel Rosa Pinto. Many plants identified.

July - Following discussion and approval by the Board, MGAP signed the garden onto the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) as a Member and supporter of the scheme.

October
- Article and drawings by Burford on the Botanic Garden included in the MGS October Journal.
- Visit from Prof Gren Lucas OBE (ex Herbarium/Librarian at Kew Gardens). Enthusiastic response to the garden and future developments at the Quinta. Good talk with Gerhard in the library.

November
- bulb planting, sometimes with a crow bar ... and a watering can. Native bulbs sourced from UK and Holland such as Scilla peruviana, Narcissus papyraceous, Bluebells etc.
- purchase of metal stems and plant labels for engraving, agreeing plant names and list with Dra Manuela and initial set of labels engraved.
- Identify losses of summer and draw up list for supplemental planting. Rabbits on site!

December
- another phase of tree cleaning and pruning using professional company for heavy tree work, followed by shredding, both the remaining heap and the new materials, for later use on the garden.
- A further planting session of woody and other plants including Coronilla glauca, Rosa canina, Phyllerea angustifolia and Quercus ilex. Also seed sown earlier in the year provided plants of Clematis flammula and Nepeta tuberosa to add to the diversity on site.
- First set of engraved plant name labels inserted on site.