



Friends of Valley Gardens

Harrogate's Award-Winning Park



President: Martin Fish
Charity Number: 1148369

4.2.15



OLD MAGNESIA WELL PUMP ROOM: January 2015

Chairman's Report 2014/15

Another busy year has been completed. There were 7 objectives for the year 2014 to be completed within the year have been completed and more.

1. The path network outside the Pump Room has been restored and extended to the Wellheads to the rear of the building. The paths are of high specification and are of required standards for those in wheel or pushchairs.
2. The windows of the Pump Room are restored and repainted, in 2 shades of green
3. The outside of the Old Magnesia Well Pump Room has been painted.
4. The Rock Garden has been re-planted following the completion of its rebuild.
5. A Sensory Garden has been built for those with sensory impairments.
6. The 40s Day had an increase in attendance, 27,000 people visited in 2014, whereas 20,844 visited in 2013. Funds raised were £6,000, an increase on the £5,000 the previous year. The weather was again kind to us!
7. Plans for the inside development of the Pump Room were drawn up and the decoration and light installation completed. Also a bench has been constructed and installed on the northern wall.

Further developments in 2014 were as follows

1. Much of the Peat Garden was cleared and trees removed.
2. The East side was sown with grass.
3. West side topsoil and mulch imported and landscaping started.

4. 8,500 bulbs were planted on the East and West of the Peat Garden with the assistance of children from Western School.
5. Two Garden Tours took place, a Gardening Group from Wisconsin USA and a Heritage Tour for Western School children.
6. An increase in number of presentations on the project to Community Groups, Meeting of Duke Of York Awardees and Gardening Clubs.
7. Moveable Disabled Entrance facility.

Trustees 2014/15

Jane Blayney (Chairman), Jon Collins (Vice Chairman),
Anne Grange (Treasurer), Peter Blayney (Secretary), Jim Clark

Executive

Jane Blayney (Chairman) Jon Collins (Vice Chairman) & (Membership Secretary)

Anne Grange (Treasurer) Peter Blayney (Secretary)

Sally Haslewood (Young Person's Representative) Kim Wilson (Marketing and Publicity) & (40s Day) Web Site (Tom Holleman),

Tony Sissons (Volunteer Gardening Co-ordinator)

Membership

The membership list of has been reviewed and lapsed members and honorary members who have not been active removed from the mailing list.

Funding/Grants awarded

- To date £76,000 has been raised towards the project.
- As already reported 2014/15 has been a year of putting to use our monies raised towards the development and progression of the restoration project.
- £13,500 in Grants has been awarded from Bramall Trust, HBC Arts and Heritage Trust and Northern Horticultural Society. A further £1,193 is to be claimed on completion of works from Harry Bolland Trust, Northern Horticultural Society and HBC Commuted Sums.
- Applications are presently being lodged for £4,500 in funding to complete the external planting and an external Information Board. Volunteer Gardeners will erect the Board.

Events

1. Friends Of Valley Gardens opened for 4 days this year for the National Heritage Open Days rather than 3 as on the previous year.
2. Sadly, Marks and Spencer ceased to offer their venue to community groups for Bag Packing and our day at Asda was not financially successful. Asda does however gives financial support for the 40s Day Cake Stall.
3. 40s Day, Our thanks to:
 - a) Kim Wilson for organizing the stand sales, Helen McCallum for organizing the Bandstand entertainment, Simon Roberts for organizing the military vehicles, traction engines and veteran cars, Paul Mayo of Echo42 who designed our programme, the sponsors who supported the programme, Chris Rodgers

volunteer First Aider, Mike Middleton, Harrogate Borough Council liaison officer, and the 40s Committee, a small band of hard working members who kept the show on the road.

b) Hale's Bar led by Amanda Wilkinson generously donated £2,000 of their takings.

c) The Mumblers led by Sally Haslewood whose organisational prowess increased the tombola revenue to £1,300.

d) The Yorkshire Building Society, who provided several volunteers for the Cake Stall throughout the day resulting in a healthy £1,600 profit.

e) The repeated appeal to waive the cost to FOVG for the £495 hire of the sun Pavilion for 40s Day is under review for 2016. A deposit had to be paid last year to reserve the building and the balance prior to the day. All monies raised by FOVG 40's day are used to restore a HBC building and surrounding Peat Garden.

f) Photographic journalist Roy Hampson took photographs for FOVG and publicized in Down Your Way getting 'Cover' publicity.

g) Sponsors Harrogate Spring Water, Newnham St Garage.

Old Magnesia Well Pump Room Committee

As reported above this has been very active this year. Robert Grange, retired builder, led on the building aspects of the Pump Room internally and externally and the path construction in the Peat Garden. Jon Collins and Peter Blayney have been responsible for the internal information boards, display materials and furnishings. Liz Chidlow and Jane Blayney to produce information for the Garden development information boards.

Anne Grange our Treasurer watches over the finances with an 'eagle eye'.

Volunteer Gardeners

Tony Sissons FOVG Garden Coordinator organizes with Simon Collier the fortnightly attendees and allocates the fortnightly tasks.

Presently there are 15 listed members, who now meet every other Tuesday.

Due to pressure of works needing doing in the Peat Garden some meet more frequently. A special thank you to Liz for all the hours she puts in both on site and preparing plant spread sheets. The tasks including previously mentioned Peat Garden restoration completed by the Volunteers are under the supervision of Simon Collier (Head Gardener) and his wife Paula. Also the volunteers do general maintenance of other areas of the Valley Gardens including maintenance of the New Zealand Garden, Scree Garden, Dahlia Garden, pruning roses, hedge and grass trimming, gulley cleaning and seasonal planting out.

Harrogate Borough Clerks Of Works and Supporting Officers.

Friends Of Valley Gardens wish to express their gratitude for the support of Mark Coston (Clerk of Works) and Wayne Trott (Electric Works) for the Pump Room, Trish Mc Laughlin (Clerk of Works), Peat Garden Simon and Paula Collier, (Peat Garden), HBC Grave Diggers (drain digging) and Arboricultural Team led by Paul Casey (tree felling and trimming)

The Way Forward 2015

1. Recreate Water Dispensing Scenario
2. Install Information Boards outside and inside Magnesia Well Pump Room.
3. Clear and plant West side of Peat Garden
4. Procure a wood-burning stove of Victorian design (need not be functional)
5. Procure additional display materials for the Pump Room
6. Progress promotion of Valley Gardens as a Disabled Friendly Venue.
7. Continue support for dissuading the public smoking in the Children's Playground and presently awaiting report and analysis of the survey.
8. Increase number of Valley Garden Tours and Project Presentations, promoting the Restoration Project, Spa History of the area and development of the Valley Gardens.
9. Obtain more sponsors.
10. Produce information leaflets for Education and Information Centre
11. Produce an archive of the project and personnel who worked on it.
12. **In conjunction with HBC select the Next Project for FOVG**

OPEN THE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CENTRE - September 2015

Jane Blayney (Chairman)