



Friends of
Valley Gardens
Harrogate

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Harrogate's Award-Winning Park



President: Martin Fish
Charity Number: 1148369

OFFICERS' REPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

Treasurer's Report

As I am sure you are all aware that in 2014, as in previous years, our focus has been to raise money to restore The Old Magnesia Well Pump Room and surrounding peat garden.

I feel we have once again had a successful year as our net income from fundraising in 2014 was £6,756. This included £471 raised at Heritage Open Weekend. We opened the Pump Room for four days to show people the building and the work we had carried out. Visitors were very generous with their donations, and we had very positive feedback.

The 1940s day was once again our major fundraising event, raising £6,005. It is to be repeated this year on 28 June. We are hoping to raise substantially more as the event becomes more established. It is very labour-intensive and requires a large number of helpers. We could have raised substantially more money had we had more people to sell programmes.

Grants and donations received in 2014 amounted to £14,249. Mainly thanks to Jane and her continuing enthusiasm for completing applications to grantmaking trusts. We received a very generous £10,000 from The Bramall Trust. The Northern Horticultural Society promised a grant of £1,000 towards bulbs and plants for the peat garden. £500 has been received and the remainder will be released when additional plants have been purchased. In 2013 Arts and Heritage had promised a donation of £3,000 for work to the windows, doors and floor. This was released in September 2014 on completion of the works. Also in 2013 The Harry Bolland Trust promised a grant of £450 to provide an access ramp. When built, the ramp cost substantially less than anticipated and the Trust agreed that the balance could be used for internal display boards. The display boards will be produced shortly. The £450 will then be released. £10,750 was granted by WREN for footpath works. This is not shown in our accounts as it was paid directly to Harrogate Borough Council.

However, despite greater media coverage and increased footfall around the pump room, membership numbers are still disappointing and raised £639.

We claimed Gift Aid from HM Revenue and Customs of £226. We are able to claim 25p of each £1 given to us in the form of membership, donations or sponsorship if a member or donor is a tax payer.

Our costs in 2014 were all associated with works carried out on the pump room. Actual work on the building and the peat garden amounted to £25,573.

At the end of the year the bank balance was £8,703. This money will be used over the next few weeks to pay for works to the interior of the building. We still need to raise approximately £2,000 - £3,000 to allow us to purchase information boards for the exterior of the building and additional plants, and so the fundraising continues.

Anne Grange: Treasurer

Membership Report

In recent months we have reviewed our membership files and removed the records of those who have not been in touch with us and have not paid membership fees for some years. As a result our membership numbers have slightly decreased to 70 but our income from membership remains roughly the same year on year. As all charities must give thought to the kind of support and supporter they can expect in the future, it would be beneficial if existing members spread the word about membership and encouraged family and friends to join so we can continue to make progress with new projects in the Park.

Jon Collins: Vice Chairman and Membership

Gardening Volunteers Report

The Wednesday Gardening Volunteers consistently provided 6 to 8 and as many as 11 helpers to work alongside our professional gardeners throughout the summer. The transformation of the Peat Garden is evidence of the magnificent work done. We contributed a valuable part toward Harrogate's Gold Award at the Britain in Bloom ceremony in October.

To accommodate some for whom Wednesday is a problem, in January we changed our volunteer gardening day to Tuesday. We welcome more volunteers. If you can join us on alternate Tuesdays please send an email to: tony@sissons.demon.co.uk

Tony Sissons: Gardening Volunteer Coordinator