

## Friends of Valley Gardens News - Welcome to 2019

Following the retirement of Friends of Valley Gardens (FOVG) Chairman Jane Blayney and Trustees Peter Blayney and Jim Clark in late 2018 two new Trustees have been appointed, Andrew Jordan and Ann Beeby who have joined Anne Grange and Liz Chidlow to form a Trustee Committee to run FOVG. We are delighted that Martin Fish will be continuing as our President and Tom Holleman managing the website.

FOVG will continue as a Charity concentrating on maintaining the gardens, with the focus on the completed restoration projects, and the garden's history and heritage. No more major restoration projects are planned.

The Friends will aim to assist the Council's gardeners in maintaining the Valley Gardens, notably the plants and areas of the garden restored by FOVG, to retain and enhance its high floral and landscape quality. In doing this we will support and enhance the wildlife of the Valley Gardens.

FOVG will also aim to support public knowledge and enjoyment of the plants and heritage of the Valley Gardens through opening of the Old Magnesia Well Pump Room (OMWPR). The OMWPR will be opened with a manageable programme for up to two Sundays a month and Bank Holidays.

FOVG will continue to have a presence on Social Media with Facebook Twitter and Instagram accounts, and the website is full of information about the gardens and their history.

[www.friendsofvalleygardens.co.uk](http://www.friendsofvalleygardens.co.uk) We plan to produce an online news-letter every six months, and send hard copies to a few of our members who are not online.

Please feel free to contact us at any time through the new email address:

[FOVG@friendsofvalleygardens.co.uk](mailto:FOVG@friendsofvalleygardens.co.uk) . We always welcome any help from our members, there are many activities which you could be involved in, not just manual labour!

### Happy New Year from The Trustees

Anne Grange, Treasurer; Liz Chidlow, Volunteer Gardening Co-ordinator, Ann Beeby, Secretary and Andrew Jordan, OMWPR Co-ordinator.

FOVG will be producing some new leaflets and continue guided walks, presentations and activities for the benefit of its visitors. This will continue to help promote the Valley Gardens and material about the Valley Garden projects and general FOVG information will be archived.

The Trustees are looking for ideas to extend the benefits available to members and would welcome suggestions, for example garden visits, and opportunities to share your knowledge and skills. We plan to work closely with other local community groups and schools, and fund any new plants and maintenance of features in the restored areas of the garden through membership fees, donations and legacies.

The constitution requires us to hold an Annual General Meeting and this will take place in March 2019, venue and date to be agreed. Special General Meetings could be added as required.