



Issue 6
April 27th

FOVG Valley Gardens Watch during the Covid19 restrictions



We have had a message from Alison Wilson, Head of Parks and Environmental Services, thanking us for this publication and reminding us that Simon Paula and Nick are back on the basis that they can work whilst maintaining social distancing requirements. In addition the police have requested that signs are placed on the benches to discourage people from sitting on them, as this increases the risk of passing on infection. This week we are concentrating on history rather than horticulture. Thankyou to four members for their photos which you can find on page 2.

OMWPR Bottle Collection

As Harrogate Spring Water was one of the very first waters to be bottled, as early as 1740, it is fitting that we have a collection (thanks to Peter Blayney) of historic Harrogate glass bottles in the OMWPR.



A small spirit bottle from the Dragon Hotel in High Harrogate has a connection with the recent exhibition of William Powell Frith paintings in the Mercer Gallery, as his father was the owner of this hotel and it is where he spent part of his childhood.

Because of the high pressure of carbonated mineral water making a suitable glass container was a problem, so stoneware bottles were used. Then from about the 1840s until superseded by the Codd bottle in the 1870s the Torpedo bottle was in use, made of thick glass and sealed with a cork. The cork was a problem, if it dried the seal would fail and the gas would escape, so the Torpedo bottle was designed so that it could not be stood upright and was always stored on its side. Even famous brands such as Schweppes were once sold in these odd shaped bottles.



In 1872 Hiram Codd patented a new design, the 'Codd' bottle has a glass marble in the neck which is pressed against a rubber washer by the pressure of the carbon dioxide to form a seal. Remarkably Codd bottles are still in use today in India and Japan.

Many of the mineral water bottles in the collection are marked 'Camwal Harrogate' which was the acronym for the Chemist's Aerated Mineral Water Association Ltd. Started in London in the 1870s a bottling plant was opened in Starbeck in 1884 and closed in 1960 on Camwal Road (renamed in 1915, originally called Saw Mill Street).



Sloan & Davidson

Manufacturers of the King Edward VII Gate.

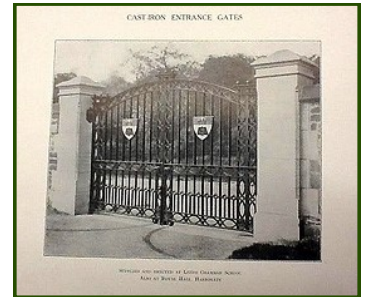
With thanks to David Mason, restoration Project Manager (edited)



Emblem on gate

Here is the page from the Sloan and Davidson catalogue who were based at the Carrick Foundry in Stanningley, Leeds, having originally started at a site on Kirkstall Road.

The gates they show in the catalogue are at Leeds Grammar and are the same design as ours but if you look carefully they are wider and have an extra 'ladder' structure next to the hinge. Because of the extra width they have to be supported on a roller wheel on the closing end.



Andrew Jordan found this extract from the York Herald dated 1895.09.12interesting.



PROPOSED PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AT HARROGATE.—The **Bogs Valley Gardens** at **Harrogate** have proved such a decided attraction to the townspeople and visitors that the Stray Committee of the Town Council has been authorised to make inquiries, in order to extend the **gardens**, as to the purchase of two fields from the late Mr. Tom Collins' trustees, and also a field to the west of the **Bogs Field**. The Corporation have also decided to add the land recently acquired from Messrs. Vickers and Close, and the Borough Engineer (Mr. S. Stead) has been instructed to lay this latter portion out to the best advantage. The formation of the present small park in Low Harrogate has been a decided acquisition to the town, and the purchase of other fields adjoining is a matter of much importance. Should the negotiations prove satisfactory, the town will not merely have the **Valley Gardens**, but a Public Park of over 23 acres in extent. The townspeople are strongly of opinion that the Council should promptly act in the matter and secure to **Harrogate** and its visitors a still further source of attraction and enjoyment.

Members garden photos: Anne Smith, G Taylor, Liz Chidlow & Alan Ridley



Why not send photos of your garden to :

fovg@friendsofvalleygardens.co.uk

