



Issue 7
May 4th

FOVG Valley Gardens Watch during the Covid19 restrictions



IMPORTANT GUIDANCE from the



Further information

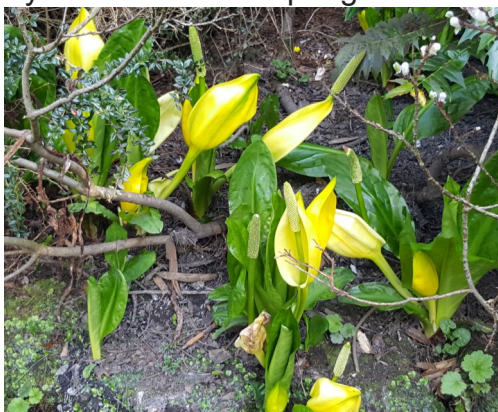
- The government's priority is to save lives and the best way to protect yourself and others from illness is to stay at home. However, exercise is still important for people's physical and mental wellbeing, for the government has said people can leave their homes for exercise once a day.
- People should follow guidance to stay local and use open spaces near to their home where possible, avoiding unnecessary travel. You should only go outside along or with members of your own household and should always keep at least two metres apart from anyone outside your household.
- Gatherings of more than two in parks or other public spaces have been banned and the police will enforce this. Dog walkers should also walk their dogs on a lead in areas used by other people.
- The survey by the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces can be [viewed online](#)



**DOG WALKERS
SHOULD ALSO WALK
THEIR DOGS ON A
LEAD IN AREAS USED
BY OTHER PEOPLE**

Should it stay or should it go? ? ?

Along the stream side American Skunk Cabbage attracts people's admiring attention with its bright yellow flowers in Springtime.



This rather masks its invasive desire to spread vigorously in wet and boggy areas, including via the stream, where it begins to crowd out native species. It is now on the Invasive Species List and banned from being sold in the UK

When normality returns is it time to continue getting it under control like we have already done in the Japanese Garden and Peat Garden?

Send your comments to Liz Chidlow at fovg@friendsofvalleygardens.co.uk

Something to celebrate When we look at the ***New Zealand Garden*** today, ten years after the late **Tony Sissons** commenced the replanting, we can appreciate how well it has matured and know that we owe him a huge debt of gratitude. The funding for the garden was a bequest from Kenneth Broadwidth, and the Pou Whenua (Maori Land Post) was donated by the City of Wellington, with whom Harrogate has a twinning relationship, to commemorate the lives of 23 New Zealand Airmen based in North Yorkshire who died in World War II and are buried in Stonefall Cemetery. The Pou Whenua, hand carved from Totara wood, is an exact copy of the one on the summit of Mount Victoria above Wellington. (see image)



Photo credit: Neil Pulling Flickr

EVERGREEN (A tree for all seasons)

Thank you Barbara for another poem.

This is a sonnet in praise of a mature fir tree in the Pinewoods which she admires. The evergreen trees in Valley Gardens give us year round structure, and provide valuable habitats for many species.

Why not send photos of your garden to :
fovg@friendsofvalleygardens.co.uk

You stand, majestic in the springtime sun,
 your callused bark boasts many shades of grey;
 your strong limbs form a path where squirrels run
 and chase and bound in courtship or in play.
 And when companion trees wear leaves of brown,
 and russet-red and orange edged with gold,
 that wither, perish, limply flutter down,
 your foliage of a silver-green will hold.
 In winter I have seen you blanced by snow,
 in spring, arrayed in darker shades of green;
 the wildlife you have housed, I cannot know,
 or just how many seasons you have seen.
 But, when the spring, to all new life gives birth,
 you stand, renewed and nurtured by God's earth.

Barbara Stone

