



Issue 8  
May 11th

## *FOVG Valley Gardens Watch during the Covid19 restrictions*



### *Another week another edition:*

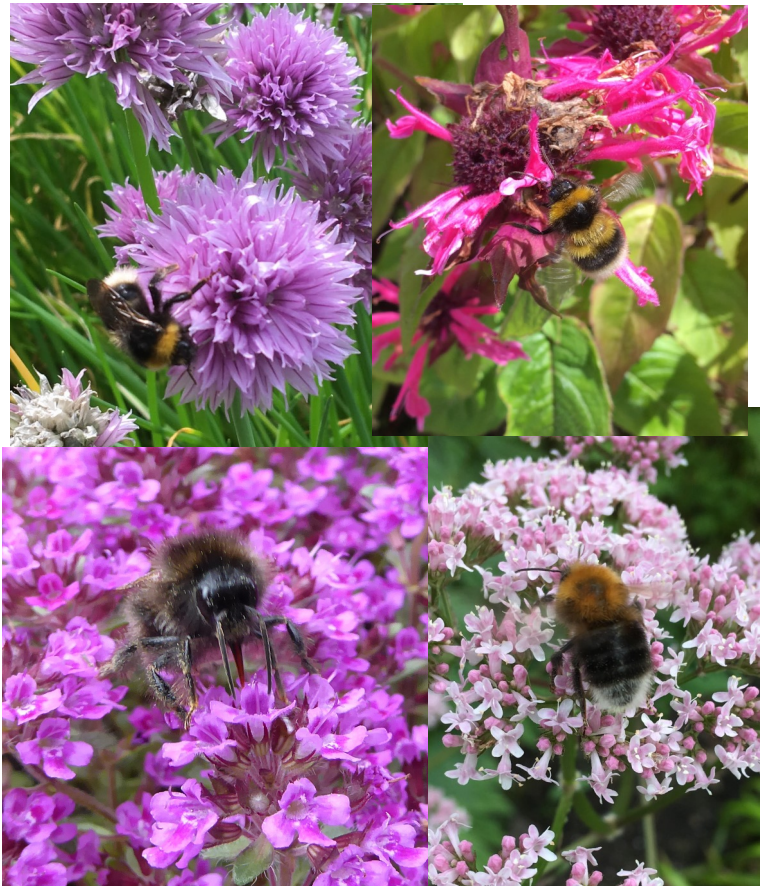
*Thank you for your continued positive feedback. This week, with VE Day + 75 we look back to how the Valley Gardens were used during WWII. Bees are in evidence now and Liz talks about her observations last year. Members pictures this week have an overseas theme.*

*A special thank you to Simon and his team for managing with reduced numbers of staff at such a busy time in the garden year; the comments I hear during my exercise walks are 100% positive and visitors are enjoying the garden responsibly. There are still issues with some dog owners who feel that their dog needs to run free in the formal areas.*

### *Bees like herbs as well as us!*

Last summer bees were busy feeding on nectar and pollen and pollinating the plants in the Peat Garden. On its Sensory beds the bees feasted on the herbs Chives, Monarda (sometimes known as bee balm) Valerian and Thyme which you can see in the photos from top left then clockwise. A Tree bumblebee we think was spotted on the Valerian, a bee first recorded in Britain in 2001.

Chives are eaten in salads and other meals and have a mild onion taste, thyme has diverse medicinal uses and is good with poultry and fish. Monarda is a source of the antiseptic thymol and Valerian helps with sleep disorders. How fitting to have such herbs near the magnesia well and it's pump room where the magnesia water was drunk for health reasons.





## *War Time Gardens*

Mr William V. Bishop, whose photo is on the garden history board in the Old Magnesia Well Pump Room, came to Harrogate as Parks Superintendent in 1945. In the archive we have an article from the Yorkshire Illustrated by H Eason Smith titled 'A Gardener with a Plan' recording an interview with Mr Bishop which uses a photo of the Scree Garden, one of the first areas to which Mr Bishop turned his expertise. Mention is made of the "barbed wire static water tanks and air-raid shelters which were in occupation of the gardens up to 1945" We also understand that the area now occupied by the Dahlia Bed was used to grow vegetables.



### *From our members:*

We have too many photos to include them all this week but will show some more next time. Here are three, Andy Bolton's Japanese Style Garden in Tockwith, Anne & Robert Grange's son's garden in Singapore and Tom & Marge Holleman's Azaleas in North Carolina. Regrettably we have had to postpone the Friends trip to Johnsons of Whixley when we had hoped to include the opportunity to see Andy's garden until next year.

