



*Friends of Valley Gardens "Harrogate"*  
**Harrogate's Award-Winning Park**  
**Charity No: 1148369**



President: Martin Fish

### **Chairman's Report 2013/2014**

This has been a busy year. The re-claimed Yorkshire stone paving round the Old Magnesia Pump Room has been laid. Robert Grange produced the design and supervised the laying of both the paving and drainage works in the area on behalf of FOVG. The windows have been removed, re-glazed and the cast iron strips restored. Security lights are in place on the outside of the building. The fall pipes and the newly installed Waterloo safety bollards have been painted by Tony Sissons.



Paving installed round Pump Room



Rockery re-construction

There have been two tranches of tree clearance by the Harrogate Borough Council arboriculture team and their gravediggers, who have installed the drainage trenches round the rockery area. The rockery, built 1906/7 to cover the unsightly reservoir, is now rebuilt. Local sandstone has been used. The planting, besides being suitable for the acid soil, will also incorporate some planting reflecting the early twentieth century. Liz Chidlow has drawn the rockery design and Jenny Travena leads on the plant research. Jo Makin, retired Garden Design lecturer has acted as volunteer consultant on the rockery. The Sensory Garden south of the rockery is due to be planted in spring/summer 2014. The Volunteer Gardening Team along with the Yorkshire Building Society volunteers, who have donated monies towards the sensory garden, will assist in the planting. The plans for the restored and extended pathway are pegged out ready for installation. The paths will be 1.5metres wide to accommodate wheel and pushchairs

### **Treasurer's Report 2013**

Anne Grange, Treasurer, will give the financial report .

### **Fund Raising Events**

I wish to thank the members and volunteers who attended and supported the numerous funding raising events, 40s Day, Heritage Open Days, Refreshment Day at St Peter's, Nidderdale Charity Sponsored Walk and Marks and Spencer's Bag Packing.

Kim Wilson has taken over as organiser for 2014 40s, day assisted by Jon Collins.

Simon Roberts is again organising the military vehicles and Helen McCallum the bandstand activities. Paul Mayo of Echo42 fame, besides bringing his band to entertain us all again, is acting as marketing consultant. 20,844 persons attended a very successful event in 2013.

**40s Day will be Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014.** Stands are still available for hire and advertising slots are available in the programme for the day. Contact Kim 01423 561618

### **Membership**

Jon Collins, Membership Secretary, will report.

Neil Hughes is stepping down as Vice Chairman and as a trustee.

Jon Collins has offered to stand as Vice Chairman from March 2014.

Jon Collins and Anne Grange have offered to become Trustees as from March 2014. Anyone wishing to become a trustee contact Secretary Peter Blayney.



Volunteer Gardeners on Yorkshire In Bloom Judging day.

### **Volunteer Gardeners Report**

Tony Sissons, organiser of the volunteer gardeners, will give the volunteer gardener 2013 report.

### **Harrogate Borough Council Supporting Officers**

Mark Coston has acted as Clerk of Works for the Pump Room and Trish Mc Laughlin for the surrounding Peat Garden. Simon Collier, Valley Gardens head gardener, has tutored and supervised the volunteers. All have given FOVG enthusiastic support throughout 2013.

### **The Way Forward**

- The paths are presently being restored and some new ones created.
- The restored windows should soon be re-installed.
- The external painting completed, in two shades of green as in the Victorian era.
- The rockery replanted.
- The Sensory Garden to be created and planted.
- Plans are underway for a bigger and better 40s Day fund raising event than in previous years.
- Plans for the design of the inside of Pump Room to be drawn up and funds raised.

### **Jane Blayney (Chairman)**

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