



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



President: Martin Fish

**Treasurer's Report, Gardening Volunteers Report, and Membership
Secretary's Report for Year Ended December 2013**

Treasurer's Report:

In 2013, as in previous years, our focus was to raise money to restore the Old Magnesia Well Pump Room and surrounding peat garden.

I feel we have had a successful year, as our net income from fundraising in 2013 was £6852, £5336 of which was raised at the 1940's day. A breakdown of our fundraising income for the year is available for anyone who wishes to see it.

The 1940's day is obviously our major fundraising event, which is to be repeated this year on 29th June. We are hoping to raise substantially more as the event becomes more established but it is very labour-intensive and requires a large number of helpers.

Grants and donations received in 2013 amounted to £12,277. Mainly thanks to Jane and her enthusiasm for completing applications to grant-making trusts. She has also been successful in securing a number of grants, which will be released when the relevant works have been completed. These include £3,000 from Arts and Heritage for work to the windows, doors and floor, £1,000 from Yorkshire Garden Trust for work in the Peat Garden, £450 from Harry Bolland Trust to provide an access ramp and £10,750 from WREN for footpath works.

Despite greater media coverage and increased footfall around the pump room membership numbers have dropped and income from subscriptions has fallen to £626 from £893 in 2012. This is very disappointing. We now have a new membership secretary and we have produced a new Friends application form, so we are hoping to attract more new members this year.

We have also introduced Text-giving this year but have only raised £5 to date.

We are able to claim Gift Aid from the Inland Revenue, which is currently 25p for each £1 given to us in the form of membership, donations or sponsorship. If you are a member and/or have made a donation, please complete a Gift Aid Declaration form. If you haven't already done so I have some available if you would like to see me at the end of the meeting.

Our costs have all been associated with works carried out on the pump room. Actual work on the exterior of the building and the peat garden amounted to £19,860 in 2013.

The bank balance at 31 December was £13,535, £7,000 of which is ring-fenced for work on the peat garden, leaving a balance of £7,535 toward the interior of the building.

We are hoping that 2014 will be an even more productive year, and with help from our members I'm sure we can make it so. For those people who aren't already members, application forms are available.

Anne Grange: Treasurer

Gardening Volunteers Report:

We have seen an excellent response by gardening volunteers again over the past twelve months. Much useful work has been done in support of Simon and his professional team. The biggest project undertaken has been the clearance of much of the Peat Garden in preparation for the construction of the rockery around the old reservoir. On-going maintenance in the NZ Garden has included the trimming of pittosporum and coprosma bushes, spreading fresh wood chip, winter protection of cabbage trees and ferns and some additions to the planting. We have again assisted in a big way with the “knocking out” for summer and winter bedding. The dahlia beds have received their on-going share of attention in and out of season. Weeding and rose pruning have been on the year’s rich agenda. At the end of the season attention has turned toward shrubbery and herbaceous maintenance and hedge cutting.

The highlight of the year was our contribution to the ranking of the Friends as “outstanding” by the Yorkshire in Bloom judges and our award of the Larchfield Manor Trophy by Harrogate in Bloom in recognition of our achievement.

Well done everyone!

Tony Sissons: Gardening Volunteers Coordinator

Membership Secretary’s Report:

We currently have 152 members, a number which has been “static” for quite some time. Income from subscriptions has reduced indicating that a proportion of members did not pay their dues last year. We see the 1940’s Open Day as a huge opportunity to increase membership this year as we are moving to annual membership commencing from the month of first joining and we will shift our focus from reminding and chasing non-payers to promoting the benefits of membership. In this respect it helps enormously if more members pay their subscription by Standing Order. It also increases income if more members were to allow us to collect Gift Aid on their subscriptions.

Jon Collins: Membership Secretary