



Issue 15
September

FOVG Valley Gardens Watch during the Covid19 restrictions



This month's main feature is on our completely renovated website and social media accounts. (see page 2)

We can also report :

- The Trustees are planning a 'soft opening' of the Magnesia Well Pump Room where the doors are open and a volunteer is in attendance but the public will view from outside to maintain social distancing.*
- Three members of the gardening team worked alongside members from the Pinewoods and HASAG to pull the invasive Himalayan Balsam alongside Ebor Rise for a morning. Due to Covid restrictions we were unable to address this problem earlier in the year before the seedheads formed but hope to do better next season. You will be aware that it is spreading widely and restricting the native plants.*



On the left the Himalayan Balsam seedheads, these are now ripening and will explode their seeds over a wide area; the Cranesbill on the right however is not so powerful and would be crowded out if we don't remove the Balsam. HASAG are monitoring this area for biodiversity which is enhanced by native flora.



Pam Grant, Chairman of Harrogate in Bloom, came back to us after the August edition and said that the Dahlia 'Kilburn Glow' is indeed named for Patrick Kilburn, and he had been presented with a bunch of the flowers on a special occasion.

Sue Wood tells me that the begonia which is looking so strong in the Well Beds this season is being trialed for a seed company it has certainly grown well for us in Valley Gardens and I expect we will see it again.



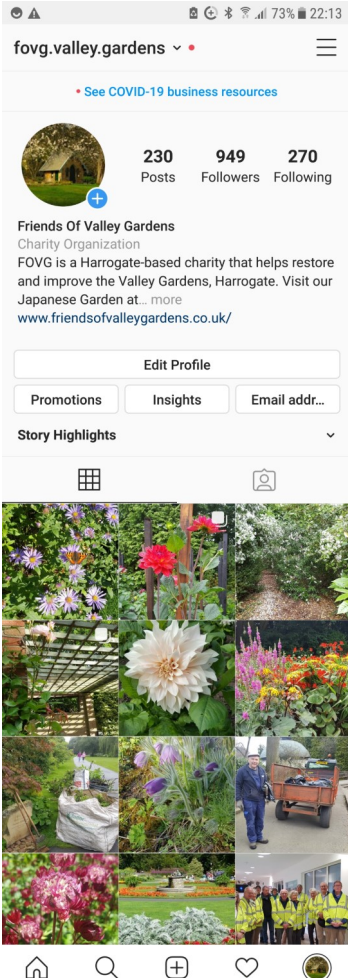
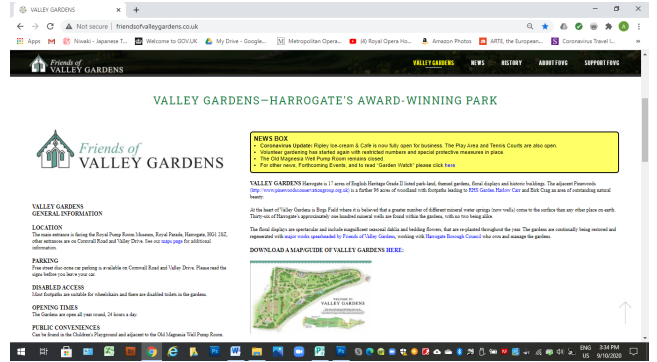
Website & Donate Button:

Friends of Valley Gardens now have an excellent website thanks to Tom Holleman in the US. If you have not visited it recently please take a look.

We realised that the ability to accept donations was missing from the site so we searched for a suitable solution. Now, if you wish to make a donation, this can be done by pressing the 'Donate to FOVG' button on our website. Your donation will be processed by a local company in Leeds called Nochex. They will, by asking a few simple questions, process your donation. If you are a UK tax payer and complete the Gift Aid section they will reclaim 25p for every £1 donated from HMRC on our behalf.

You can also support us by joining the Local Lotto (details on our website). 50% of the money pledged by you is given directly to FOVG and 10% is given to other local charities. We currently have eight supporters and three of them have won £25 with a further 14 winning three extra tickets!

We have also produced a new membership leaflet. This can be downloaded and printed from our website or we would be happy to post one (or more) to you.



SOCIAL MEDIA: Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

During the last three years three companies have come forward and offered to look after our social media accounts, and we thank them all, but each one only managed about 6 months before finding the work too time consuming. We provided most of the material and they added their professional expertise.

Is anyone interested to take on Facebook and Twitter? Forties Day and the big events in the garden were the main driver for followers in the past, since then we have tried to encourage membership and flag up the volunteer work, but not been very successful. We would love to hear from you!

INSTAGRAM

We are running two Instagram accounts at present as you will see from the screenshots. With the number of followers gained we feel that probably both are worth continuing. If any members have photos they would like to add to the main pages please send them to Ann Beeby on ann.beeby@googlemail.com.

