

Well project gets a Royal seal of approval

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Members of The Friends of Valley Gardens are to be presented with an award by the Duke of York next Monday, October 22.

The Old Magnesia Well Pump Room project was awarded an HRH Duke of York Community Initiative Award in September and will be personally congratulated by Prince Andrew at a lunch event in Bridlington.

Chairman of The Friends of Valley Gardens, Jane Blayney said: "We are very honoured and very lucky.

"This year they received a lot of applicants, we didn't hear from them until a month later due to the high volume of nominations."

The HRH Duke of York Community Initiative Awards aim to recognise the excellence of community projects based in Yorkshire, last year Harrogate Hospital Radio received an award.

Winners are able to use the Royal logo of the Yorkshire White Rose on their publications and are given help and advice with fundraising activities.

The Old Magnesia Well Pump Room project plans to restore the Grade II listed building in its original style and create an information and education centre with display boards on Harrogate's spa history for visitors.

"It is the oldest building in the park, built in 1858," said Mrs Blayney. "It is important that we get the restoration right, that's why we have consulted experts with experience of restoring Victorian buildings."

Just two weeks after per-

'It is the oldest building in The Valley Gardens so it is important that we get the restoration right.'
Jane Blayney

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Friends of Valley Gardens Harrogate members Jane Blayney, Jim Clark, Bridget Boden, Tony Sissons, Simon Collier, Peter Blayney, Betty Bentley and Paula Collier with stonemason John Maloney at the Magnesia Well.

mission was granted by the Secretary of State work was underway, though Mrs Blayney predicts it could take up to two years for the work to be completed.

"It will be beautiful when it is complete," said Mrs Blayney: "The ornate barge boards will be replaced and a member

found some original leaded glass in a skip which will be used in the windows."

The Friends of Valley Gardens have raised £31,000 with the help of the community. The cost of the project was originally estimated to be £61,000, however extra work on the roof will require an additional £10,000.