

Old Magnesia Well Pump Room, Report 2017-2018

As I have just taken over the OMVPR all the successes in 2017 are down to Peter, who managed the OMVPR so well, thank you to my predecessor. Also thank you to John and Stephen whose generosity, energy and commitment especially over Easter and Christmas will be greatly missed, good luck in Scotland.

A big thank you to Ann, Liz and all the volunteer gardeners, as well as Simon and Paula who keep the Peat Garden looking so good.

The OMVPR is open for the first and third Sundays of the month from spring to autumn and just the first Sunday in Winter, each open day is split into a morning and afternoon shift. This new arrangement (Peter's idea) is fairer to the fantastic team of volunteers who give up their time. It is great to welcome new volunteers to the OMVPR who quickly learn the ropes and soon become "old hands".

Bank Holidays and special events which draw larger numbers of visitors into the Valley Gardens have proved very successful to the OMVPR in the past but we can only open if we have enough volunteers.

Although we took £3,000 in donations (and mug sales, thank you David and Peter), I think the greatest success of the volunteers in the OMVPR was to enhance the visitors experience in the Valley Gardens, which is one of the key aims of the FOVG. This is highlighted by the many favourable entries in the comments book.

On March 10th we are joining the Pump Room Museum for a Science Week Event with experiments and tours in the OMVPR.

On April 27th we are giving 50 members of the Warrington USA Garden Group a guided tour of the Valley Gardens.

To book or enquire about making a donation to the Friends Of Valley Gardens for a guided tour, please contact Jane Blayney or Andrew Jordan.

Ideas for the future;

- More school involvement.
- Offer guided tours of the Valley Gardens, tailored to group interests.
- Recruit more volunteers.
- Increase donations.
- Improve the donation boxes inside the OMVPR.
- Provide an outside donation point, available when the OMVPR is closed.
- Improve the heating in the OMVPR.

Comments please.

Andrew Jordan

andreejor@googlemail.com