



*Friends of  
Valley Gardens*

# **Friends of Valley Gardens First “Annual Report from the Chair”**

**Tom Holleman  
17 Mar 2011**





*Friends of  
Valley Gardens*

## **Annual Report from the Chair - 2011**

- **A Brief History of FOVG**
- **FOVG Objectives**
- **Projects**
- **Events Supported by FOVG**
- **Fundraising Events and Grants**
- **Issues Discussed with HBC**
- **Planning for the Future**
- **Thanks**



## Brief History of FOVG

- Start of FOVG\*:  
14 Oct 09
- Election of Officers:  
25 Feb 2010
- Constitution:  
8 Apr 2010

\* Let's not forget the contributions of our predecessor organization, Friends of the Valley Gardens, formed in 1987.

Original Flyer by HBC to create a Friends Group for Valley Gardens

*Harrogate*  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Working for you

### **Valley Gardens was awarded the Best Public Park Award by the Britain in Bloom Judges 2009**

Lets keep this park wonderful together

Please come along to a public meeting to discuss the setting up of a Friends Group for Valley Gardens

**Sun Pavilion, Cornwall Road**  
**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009**  
**7.00pm**

Everyone is welcome, there will be a short presentation giving feedback from recent consultations, some background on Friends Groups, followed by the opportunity to meet representatives from the Parks Team

For further information please contact Kate Dawson via email [customerservices@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@harrogate.gov.uk) or call our Customer Services Team on 0845 300 60 91



# **Annual Report from the Chair – 2011**

## **FOVG Objectives**

**FOVG is established for the public benefit for the following purposes in the area comprising Valley Gardens, Harrogate. In collaboration with the responsible Local Authority, the aims of FOVG shall be:**

- To promote and encourage the involvement of the local community of all ages in the enhancement, management, and maintenance of Valley Gardens**
- To work towards improved safe access for all to the park and to promote safety for all park activities**
- To conserve, enhance, and promote the park area for the benefit of people and wildlife**
- To advance the education of the public in the flowers, trees, wildlife, and heritage of Valley Gardens by encouraging them to participate in the management of the park and various activities.**
- To promote high standards of planting**
- To promote high standards of tidiness**
- To develop a management plan including an ongoing status survey in conjunction with Harrogate Borough Council**
- To raise funds, apply for grants and invite/receive contributions to further the objectives of FOVG**
- To identify operational problems, such as drainage, lighting, litter, and anti-social behaviour, and suggest solutions**
- To protect and enhance the biodiversity of the area**
- To work with, and facilitate communications among, the local authorities, organisations, voluntary groups, and the public to further the above objectives**





# **Annual Report from the Chair – 2011**

## **FOVG Projects**

- **Current Project:**
  - **Old Magnesia Well Information Centre and Gardens**
  - **Status:**
    - Fundraising in progress
    - Landscaping contract with Golder Associates executed by HBC and initial concepts delivered
    - Initial Schedule of Works and estimate received from HBC staff
- **Other projects defined for the future**
  - **Renovation of the Rockery and Woodland Walk**
  - **Restoration of the Green Park Entrance**
  - **Restoration of the Japanese Garden**
    - Soroptimists have reserved £500 in support when this project goes forward



# Annual Report from the Chair – 2011

## Fundraising Events and Grants

Fundraising Events Held	
RAF Menwith Hill Golf Tournament	
Pat Clarke's Open Garden	
History of Valley Gardens briefing by Malcolm Neesam	
Fish and Chips Dinner and Quiz	
Christmas Wreaths and Decorations	
Gardeners' Question Time	
Presentations to Other Groups	
~Total (gross) from all events	~£1,600



Selling Christmas Wreaths

Grants Awarded	~ Value
Menwith Hill Community Heartbeat	£2,000
HBC Heritage Arts Grant	£1,000
NYCC	£2,500*
~Total	~£5,500
* Possibility of additional funds – decision to be made in future NYCC meeting	

**Thanks to FOVG members, the community, and the grant providers for your generous support!!!**



# Annual Report from the Chair – 2011

## Events Supported

**FOVG have supported the following events during the year:**

Event
Planting of the New Zealand Garden
Allotment Show
Big Picnic
National Play Day
Dedication of the New Zealand Garden
Opening of the Maze
Crocus Planting (Ebor Rise)
Crocus Planting (main entrance)
Presentation to the Parks AGM
Dead heading Dahlias and other flowers
Meeting with Friends of Roundhay Park



Promoting  
FOVG!



Crocus Planting



National Play Day



Opening of the Maze





# Annual Report from the Chair – 2011

## Events Supported



### Planting the New Zealand Garden







# Annual Report from the Chair – 2011

## Issues Discussed with HBC

Issue	Status
Repair of lighting	Complete
Replacement of gates at Bandstand with new design	Complete
Repair of ceilings in Sun Parlours	Complete
Clean up of graffiti in Sun Parlour	Complete
Addition of “No Ball Playing” signs in Sun Parlours	Complete
Improved toilet signs on Toilet Block	Complete
Improvement of drainage for Play Area	In progress with Skate Park constr.
Correct orientation of maps at entrance to gardens	Agreed - pending funding availability (FOVG to cost share)
Removal of pillar at Green Park entrance	Agreed - pending funding availability (FOVG to cost share)
Creation of Gardening group for Valley Gardens	Agreed - Pending guidance from HBC



# *Friends of Valley Gardens*

Harrogate's Award-Winning Park



- **Web Site:** [www.friendsofvalleygardens.co.uk](http://www.friendsofvalleygardens.co.uk)
  - First published - April 2010
- **Google search results:**
  - “Friends of Valley Gardens” = top 4 listings are all FOVG
  - “Valley Gardens” = 2nd listing to an HBC site
  - “Valley Gardens Harrogate” = 3rd listing to 2 HBC sites
  - “Harrogate Gardens” = 2nd listing
- **Any listing in the top 10 from a Google search is great!**
- **Many other sites now link to our site**



# Annual Report from the Chair – 2011

## The Future

- **Planning for the Future**

<b>Planning was initiated to hold or support the following events in 2011</b>
• “GardensHarrogate” Gardening and Environmental Awareness Exhibition
• “Water Gardens of Studley Royal” briefing by Mike Bevington
• 40s Day
• Quintessential Music Evening

- **Open Items/Actions**

<b>The following major items remain open as of the AGM</b>
• Creation of a gardening group within FOVG
• Establish FOVG as a Charity or as a Limited Company with Limited Liability



## **Annual Report from the Chair - 2011**

# **Thanks!!**

- **Thanks to all who have helped to form and support FOVG and who will be key to its successful future**
  - **Thanks especially to the Committee who have worked tirelessly on all the activities throughout the year**
- **Thanks also to Patrick Kilburn and his staff for their fantastic support and for helping to start and organise FOVG. They have an unwavering commitment to improving Valley Gardens**
- **And lastly, Thanks to Simon, Paula, and Paul for the wonderful job they do every day to take care of Valley Gardens**





**Goodbye! I will miss  
being a part of all this.**