

# Friends of Valley Gardens lecture



**The Old Magnesia Well, which will be part of a fundraising talk organised by the Friends of Valley Gardens as part of the restoration project for the well. (S)**

A LECTURE on the history of the Valley Gardens will help raise money for the restoration of the Old Magnesia Well.

Historian Malcolm Neesam, who writes the popular Bygones column for the Advertiser, will give a talk on the background of the gardens including the Magnesia Well itself.

The gardens are home to 26 of Harrogate's 88 mineral wells, with no two being alike.

The Friends of Valley Gardens group is aiming to raise enough money to restore the Old Magnesia Well building and surrounding gardens, as well as create an education and information centre to offer details of the town's spa heritage and the history of the Valley Gardens.

Jayne Blayney, vice-chairman of the group, said she hoped people would go to the talk to learn about the town's interesting history and to understand why the restoration of the well and gardens was so important.

She said: "Our ambition is to fully restore the building and the gardens that surround it, which will be an expensive exercise.

"The glass and lead strips need replacing and the internal wood panelling needs repairing. Externally, we need to replace the barge-boards and stonework re-grouting.

"The gardens are also becoming overgrown and significantly detract from this wonderful building. Interpretation boards within the Old Magnesia Well will also add to the visitor experience."

The talk takes place on Tuesday, September 14 at 7pm at the Harlow Hill CLUB in College Street, just off Otley Road in Harrogate.

To find out more about the talk, or to buy tickets which are £7 each, call Jayne Blayney on 01423 505231 or Helen McCallum on 01423 507208.