

# Friends of Valley Gardens

April 2021

No 25



***From the top –  
Daffodils below the Art Gallery  
Planting polyanthus in the rockery  
Cleaning out the small pond***

## ***Working Parties***

The recent changes to lockdown mean we can restart our regular work parties in the park but obviously we will need to work within government guidelines and take suitable precautions to limit the spread of covid.

We have pencilled in the following dates for these work parties and as usual we will meet under the bridge on the path above the small pond.

***Thursday April 8<sup>th</sup>***

***Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup>***

***Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup>***

***Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup>***

***All these sessions will start at 10am***

It is important that members let me know if they are going to be present at any of these sessions so I can organise tasks in different parts of the park and ensure that we don't break the rule of six. It is best to contact me on the friends e-mail

[friendsofthevalleygardens@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthevalleygardens@gmail.com)

All the tools and equipment that we require will be provided and will all be cleaned with various nasty chemicals prior to use. Hand sanitiser will be available for each group, but you are welcome to bring your own if you prefer. We will of course abide by the social distance rules.

There are many early season jobs to be done, and not all of them involve weeding. There are patches of snowdrops to divide and replant, primroses and cowslips to plant, wildflower seeds to sow, hydrangeas to deadhead, paths to sweep, shrubs to plant and litter to be picked.

Please bring a good pair of gloves and wear a decent strong pair of shoes.

We have managed to do a few jobs in the last couple of weeks. We were given in the region of three hundred and fifty polyanthus and myosotis and some hydrangeas, cotoneaster and mini buddleia, all of which had to go in pretty much immediately. The rockery by the small pond absorbed the majority of polyanthus and myosotis and the shrubs were put into the banks below Woodend.



## **News**

The park continues to look very attractive. The daffodils along Valley Road are in full bloom and there are other patches of yellow throughout the park. Below the Art Gallery the scilla has been incredible. Individual flowers might be small, but the sheer volume of plants covers the area in a blue carpet. The primroses seem to increase in number every year and if you know where to look there are areas of cream coloured tulips, grape hyacinths and windflower.

The parks team have been busy. They've cleaned out the small pond, power washed the footpath around it and turfed a couple of areas along Valley Road and by the Geology Museum. The three circular beds planted with red and yellow polyanthus are looking spectacular.

## **Tools**

We were very pleased to receive a number of tools from the Friends of Trafalgar Square. Unfortunately their group has folded and they donated their stock of tools to us. These included a couple of small spades and forks, trowel and hand fork, bulb planters, edging shears and spring tine rake. We have also bought some equipment using the grant we received from North Yorkshire. Included in this haul are rakes, loppers, secateurs, weed buckets, rubbish bag support rings and hand forks.

## **Coast and County Radio**

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March, at lunchtime, Felicity was interviewed by Tim Moon on Coast and County Radio. She talked about the work the Friends do in the gardens and what we hope to achieve in the next year.

## **Bird Feeders**

We received money from Hankinsons for a bird feeder. I am in the process of building a prototype and we have purchased what we hope are squirrel proof feeders. Would anyone like to donate a bag of seed, fatballs or peanuts so we can fill them? We also have a number of plant pots (about 7inch diameter) and large plant trays (28 inserts) left over from shrub and polyanthus planting. All free to a good home.



**Photographs – from the top**

**Daffodils along Valley Road  
Polyanthus in the circular beds**

**Bergenia below Londesborough Lodge**