

Friends of Valley Gardens

April 2023 No 44

Work Parties

Sunday 16th April – 9.30am

Monday May 8th – 10am

Sunday 28th May – 9.30am

Meet under the bridge

Planting the Lily Pond

Eight members and two of the gardening team met at 2pm on a Wednesday afternoon and planted out well over one hundred plants in the small beds bordering the Lily Pond. All the plants are growing strongly and there are already splashes of colour from the Pulmonaria and the Tiarella will soon be in flower.

Next Work Party

This Sunday (16th), we will hope to complete a lot of smaller tasks. The beds we look after near Woodend need to be tidied up, the shade border needs work to reduce the wild garlic and allow the perennials to flourish and we also have some more plants to put in that border. The Parks department have arranged to drop off some foxglove plants and we'll be putting those on the slope behind the Urn bed. There are overhanging brambles to cut back, hydrangeas to prune and litter to collect. There should be a job there no matter what your skill levels are.

Coronation Work Party – May 8th

On Monday May 8th we will meet at 10am under the bridge. We will be working on the area by the lily pond, weeding the newly planted beds by the pond, tidying up the rockery and putting in a range of plants to further improve the area. Just before lunch we will adjourn across the road to plant our Coronation tree. We have decided on a Rowan, in particular- Sorbus Aucuparia Sunshine. This is a wildlife friendly plant with white flowers in the spring and bright yellow berries in the autumn.

After our little tree planting ceremony we will return to the lawn below Woodend for a picnic lunch at about Twelve o'clock. Unfortunately we won't be providing the lunch; you have to bring your own. If you can't manage the work party you are still welcome to join us for lunch and we'll raise a glass to our newly crowned King.



Top Two Photographs – Planting up the beds next to the Lily Pond

Bottom – Windflowers by the leaf cages



In Other News

Making Progress

Two more benches have appeared in the park. One near the Art Gallery and one on the grassed area near the Crescent entrance. We keep getting told that putting benches in the park simply invites anti social behaviour, but we have that already. At least providing benches might stop people sitting on the walls, steps or fountain. Litter will continue to be a problem despite bins being only a few steps away, but I know many of you already clear up rubbish when walking through the gardens. Again thanks to Ian Smith for getting the benches and arranging for them to be installed.

Book and Jigsaw Sale

We have about eight boxes of books and jigsaws that we have been storing at our house. Obviously these need to go so we took some down to a craft fair at the Royal Hotel last Sunday and made £50 towards funds. Thanks to Karon of Lily's Treasures who allowed us a free table at the event and those that helped on the day.

We have provisionally booked Sunday 30th April to take the rest to the Lebberton Car Boot Sale. However this does depend on getting volunteers to provide transport to get the items to Lebberton and having enough people to staff the stall. It is an early start; the stall needs to be set up by 9am. If you would like to help please let me know as soon as possible.

The Gardens

The gardens have looked quite spectacular this spring. The daffodils we have planted over the last few years have put on a marvellous display and the ones on the side of the road continue to be a joy. The primroses are just coming into their own and the cowslips planted on the slope behind the urn bed are spreading. Look out for the dogs tooth violets in the same area. Windflowers (Anemone Blanda) are much more numerous this year and the first bluebells are beginning to flower.

The primula plants on the rockery between the ponds that we put in two years ago have again put on an excellent display, although the rockery itself could do with a tidy. I've put this job down for the Coronation work party and we will also be planting Candelabra Primula and Aubretia.

***Photographs – from the top
The book and jigsaw sale
The new seat near the Crescent entrance
Dogs Tooth Violets behind the urn bed***