

Friends of Valley Gardens

Newsletter October 2019

No 9

Programme –September/October

Thursday October 10th

AGM

Conference Room, Woodend

7pm

Sunday 13th October

Work party – meet Woodend Archway at 10am

Sunday 10th November

Work party – meet Woodend Archway at 10am

Further details about these events elsewhere in the newsletter.



Yellow Rattle is a semi-parasitic annual plant that takes nutrients from grasses. This reduces the vigour of the grasses and allows our native flowering plants to compete.

In the late summer large seeds are produced in the pods and these rattle as the flower head is blown about in the wind. This used to be the cue for farmers to harvest the hay from a meadow.

*Friends of Scarborough
Valley Gardens*

Annual General Meeting

Open to everyone with an interest in the future
of Valley Gardens

Thursday 10th October

The Conference Room

Woodend 7pm

Afterwards Roger Burnett will give an
illustrated talk on the

**History of the Parks and Gardens
in Scarborough**

Tea, coffee and biscuits

A chance to find out what we have achieved and
what we plan to do in the future.

Brownie Litter Pick

On Wednesday September 25th 12 Brownies from Barrowcliff descended on the park to help clear it of litter. After a brief safety talk we split into two groups and slowly made our way through the gardens gathering litter as we went. After about forty five minutes the two groups met up at the grotto and planted cowslips and sowed Yellow Rattle seeds. We then made our way in the dark in a torchlight procession back to the pond. As we went, the Brownies discussed what they considered was the grossest object they had found and this particular trophy appears to have been won by a really manky pair of underpants.

The girls were a delightful bunch and really worked hard making an excellent job of clearing the gardens.

News in Brief.

Work Party

At the September work day we planted verbena bonariensis on the sunny side of the Crescent Gardens Entrance shrub bed and foxgloves on the shady side. The beds were hoed and then given a good watering. Anna also planted Bergenia on the banks near to Londesborough Lodge.

Conservation Officer

The Conservation Officer met Andrew Clay and myself at the Vernon Bridge Road Entrance a couple of weeks ago. He was very helpful and gave us some useful advice on how to proceed. We probably do not have to apply for listed building consent as the work we wish to carry out comes under the heading of repair. I have contacted the Estates department and my letter has been redirected to the correct people. That was over two weeks ago and at the time of writing this I have not received any further communication from them.

Grants

We have applied for a grant from the North Yorkshire County Councillor budget to buy bulbs. We would like to plant native bluebells, daffodils, wild garlic and wood anemones this Autumn and snowdrops in the green in the Spring.

Work in the Park

If you walk through the park on a regular basis you will have noticed that a considerable amount of work has been carried out by the Parks Department.

They have raised the canopy of many of the trees and grubbed out some of the scrub understory. This has flooded the gardens with extra light, improved sightlines and opened up views.

This means we should be able to establish a much greater variety of bulbs and wild flowers and encourage more wildlife into the gardens. The committee and the dog walkers I meet every day in the park are very pleased with the work that has been carried out and we hope that it will make the park feel safer and encourage more people to use it.

Meanwhile North Yorkshire County Council have resurfaced some of the badly damaged paths. I had hoped they might return and do one or two more but I am told that is probably our lot for this year.

The photograph below is a postcard posted in July 1924. It shows the gardens just below the Municipal School. In the foreground is an aviary and on the bridge the two toll booths can be seen. The bridge was widened in the late 1920's and the booths were removed.

