

# Friends of Valley Gardens

Issue No 50



*Welcome to the final newsletter of 2023.*

*We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our supporters a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and happy 2024.*

## **Work Parties**

***The final work party of 2023 will be held on Sunday 10 December 2023, 10am to 12 noon***

***The work parties will recommence on Sunday 21 January 2024, 10am to 12 noon***

***Meet at the shelter at the top of the path at 9 Valley Road.***

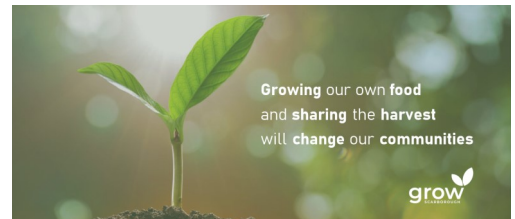
***At this time of year the main jobs are general garden tidying and litter picking.***

We had one work party in November —the weather held off long enough for 9 of us to do a bit of general tidying in the peace garden, some planting and litter picking.

## **Thank you**

We are extremely grateful to **GROW Scarborough** who have kindly donated 5 fruit trees (3 apple and 2 pear) to us to plant in the gardens.

Darren, from GROW Scarborough, explained a bit more about what they do.



*'GROW Scarborough is a local volunteer group aiming to bring individuals, families, and our communities closer together through growing and sharing food and skills in a sustainable way, and it has been a busy and rewarding first year for us!*

*Since January, we have been working to develop The Street Community Garden - a vibrant, wildlife-friendly, award-winning space where volunteers of all ages come together to socialise, learn new skills, maintain and cultivate the multi-use garden, and grow healthy, organic fruits, vegetables and herbs to share with the community.*

*We have also been heavily involved in seed swapping and sharing, helping community members to grow their own food and flowers - leading to the creation of our Seed Library, due to launch in Spring next year, based at the main public library on Vernon Road.*

*Alongside these projects, we are committed to increasing the number of free-access fruit trees available to our community - something we have been working all year to find locations, finances and permission for.*

*We have recently been fortunate enough to secure a small pocket of much-needed funding from the fantastic people at SeeChange, allowing us to not only provide essential community gardening equipment, but giving us the opportunity to at last purchase two small 'orchards' - one of which we are absolutely delighted that Friends of Valley Gardens have accepted, especially as our donation of apple and pear trees will help to replace existing damaged trees, and will be cared for by dedicated community members, just like us!*

## Don't worry about the duckweed!

You will have noticed that, in the Mill Pond, there are visible masses of tiny, rounded green leaves that float on the surface which almost look like a carpet on top of the water. This is called Duckweed. The water in the pond flows down from the Mere in Seamer through the Valley Ponds and into the sea.

Our volunteers and the Parks Department at North Yorkshire Council do clear the ponds regularly however, duckweed can grow rapidly, double in size in a matter of days, and go back to its original state so it will, inevitably, always be present even in the winter months (although it may not be as visible then).

But, it is important to note that duckweed is a natural and positive occurrence. It is high in proteins and provides an important source of food for the ducks and shelter for the frogs and tadpoles. Duckweed also helps to control the growth of algae in our ponds.

We hope this helps address some of the concerns people have expressed, worrying that the 'green carpet' was due to pollution. It is simply a part of the natural ecology of the pond.

We will, of course, continue to do our best to clear the litter which sadly is often thrown into the pond.



## Donate for free!

When you are doing your online shopping, don't forget that you can help raise funds for Friends of Scarborough Valley Gardens and it doesn't cost you a penny! Over 7,000 brands are part of a fundraising scheme where companies including Sainsburys, Marks and Spencer, Argos, eBay and Amazon, donate a percentage of what you spend to your chosen recipient.

It's easy to get involved—just go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to register and select Friends of Scarborough Valley Gardens as the organisation you wish to support. Then, any time you shop online at any the participating companies you will be asked if you want to make a donation. If you click yes we automatically receive a donation. It's as simple as that!

## Can you help?

We are always looking for more volunteers to help either at the work parties or behind the scenes helping with fund raising, funding applications, social media, being on the Committee etc. If you would like to get involved contact our Secretary, Chris, by email to: [friendsofthevalleygardens@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthevalleygardens@gmail.com)

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

**Website:** [The Friends of Scarborough Valley Gardens, Scarborough \(hugofox.com\)](http://TheFriendsofScarboroughValleyGardens.com)

**Facebook:** [Friends of Valley Gardens, Scarborough](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfValleyGardensScarborough)