

Friends of Valley Gardens

Newsletter November 2020

No 21

Work Parties

During October we have planted in the region of a thousand bulbs and plants in the park. Daffodils and London pride went in alongside the top path below the art gallery, while miniature daffodils, crocus and aconite went in alongside the lower path. Scilla, dog tooth violets and daffodils were planted on the curved slope below Woodend. Alliums and more daffodils were planted in the shrub borders and primroses put into the grassy banks near the Crescent entrance to the gardens. Senecio, Purple leaved weigelia and cranesbill geraniums have been placed in a gap between the shrubs below Woodend.

We have also managed a bit of weeding and filled two of the hedgehog cages with this year's leaves.

We hadn't planned any work parties for November. After the announcement by Boris last night, that is probably just as well. We still have some cowslips and a Himalayan honeysuckle to plant out, but that should only take about half an hour to do.

A lot of the plants that we have put in this autumn have been from our garden on Valley Road. I'm constantly taking cuttings and dividing plants to the point where my greenhouse is bursting at the seams. It also surprises me just what will self seed around the garden. I have crab apple, holly, beech and purple hazel seedlings growing well in pots, all of which in a year or two will make welcome additions to the gardens.

Around the Park

The very dull and wet weather recently has meant that the autumn colours have been less spectacular than normal and I would think the windy conditions this weekend will remove the remaining leaves from the trees.

The Garden's team have been active. The circular beds have been planted with spring bedding and an area by the side of Valley Road has been turfed. A number of shrubs have been cut back and tidied up.

We met with a representative from Hankinsons, the firm painting the bridge, and it looks like they will be donating a bench and bird feeding equipment to the park. The cast iron ends (pictured) for the bench are being made by a firm in Middlesbrough using a traditional design that we already have in the parks around Scarborough. Thank you to Roger for organising the casting of the seat ends



Weeding and planting Allium bulbs in the shrub border and the style of cast iron seat end being manufactured.