

Friends of Valley Gardens

Newsletter September 2019 No 8

Programme –September/October

Sunday 8th September

Work party – meet Woodend Archway at 10am

September 13th, 14th, 15th.

Fossil Festival

Thursday September 19th

Committee Meeting

7pm - Woodend

Wednesday September 25th

Brownie Litter Pick – 6.00pm – 7.30pm

Thursday October 10th

AGM

Conference Room, Woodend

7pm

Sunday 13th October

Work party – meet Woodend Archway at 10am

Further details about these events elsewhere in the newsletter.



We would like to replace this mess with proper metal fencing similar to the fencing by the bridge.

Improvements to the Vernon Road Footbridge Entrance to the Gardens.

You may remember that we were to meet the conservation officer in early August to discuss the work we planned to do on the area near the grotto/Ice House. That meeting did not take place mainly because he seems to have stopped replying to my e-mails. In order to move the project forward we held a gardens survey on August 11th. No doubt fuelled by scones and biscuits a lot of very good ideas emerged during our feedback session. These ideas covered the entire Valley Gardens but the decision was made to concentrate initially on the Footbridge entrance which at present looks particularly tatty.

I prepared a document outlining some of the improvements we hoped to make. These included replacing broken railings, restoring the grotto, planting native hedging, creating a perennial wild flower meadow, putting in seating and establishing a bird feeding station. If you would like a copy of the document then please contact me and I will e-mail it. I then sent it to the committee, Conservation Officer and Parks and Gardens on the 19th August asking for comments. Much to my surprise I have received nothing from the Conservation Officer. However Parks and Gardens were in touch almost immediately and two days later Matthew, Steve, Chris, Felicity and myself toured the area to discuss the plans. They seemed to be quite keen on our plans for the meadow and will in the near future be grubbing out some of the shrubs (mainly privet and laurel) to open up the area. They also suggested taking down a sycamore and holly to open up a view of the bridge and sea. This is to be discussed with the Tree Officer.

Although they were broadly in favour of the plans to improve the fencing, grotto, steps or seating they could not give us permission to do this work as it is the responsibility of a different department.

I have now sent a copy of the plans to Estates and am awaiting a reply from them before I can proceed.

News in Brief.

Work Party

At the most recent work party we planted a small bed to the side of the path below Woodend, weeded the tower bed, cut back brambles and ivy and filled three bags with litter. We would like to welcome James Clews, Adam Jarvis and Clyde the dog to our membership, all three did sterling work on the evening and I believe they will also be helping Anna at Londesborough Lodge. On Sunday next week (8th) we will be weeding and adding plants to the new borders near the Crescent, cleaning signboards and seats and of course litter picking.

Brownie Visit

On Wednesday September 25th a group of Brownies are visiting the gardens to do a litter pick. We also hope to include planting out some cowslips and sowing yellow rattle seeds in the new meadow area. We will meet at 6pm on the bridge next to the pond near the waterfall. It should finish back at the waterfall at 7.30pm. One or two helpers in addition to Felicity and myself would be useful especially anyone that has been DBS checked in the relatively recent past.

Weaponness Valley Road Snicket

The snicket that runs from Weaponness Valley Road through to Trinity Close is not actually a right of way. The local community group are trying to get it designated as a public right of way but must demonstrate that it has been in continuous use as a footpath for at least twenty years. Anyone that has used the snicket can help by completing a form detailing their use of the footpath. It is not necessary for you to have used the snicket for twenty years but when all the forms are put together it will demonstrate the continuous use of the path for the required time. The form is quite lengthy (eight pages) but help will be given to complete it. E-mail friendsofthevalleygardens@gmail.com and I will send you the forms.

Music Recital – St Martin on the Hill

One of our members, Eric Hewes, is the organist at St Martin on the Hill. His daughter is part of the Svyati Duo and they will be giving a recital on Friday 6th of September starting at 7:00 pm at the church. Tickets costing £8 will be available at the door and will include a glass of wine and refreshments. Proceeds will go towards essential work which needs to be done on St Martin's magnificent, Grade One listed Father Willis organ. Both members of the duo are superb musicians and it promises to be an excellent evenings entertainment



Ringlet Butterfly

Martin Dove captured this photograph of a Ringlet butterfly in the gardens. Unlike so many other British butterflies they have become more widespread in recent years. They are found on Woodland glades and damp grassland. The adults (which are slightly smaller than the butterflies we are used to seeing) feed on nectar from plants such as bramble and wild privet. The caterpillars feed on various grasses including the dreaded couch grass.



**Garden
Surveyors
in action**

AGM

**Thursday October 10th 2019
Conference Room at Woodend**

7pm – AGM

7.45pm – Tea and biscuits

8.00pm – Talk

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