

Friends of Valley Gardens

Mid November 2021 No 32

News

I apologise for the late arrival of your newsletter. As this is the time of the year when less is going on in the park, I thought I would spread the newsletters out a little more. The next one will be the Christmas edition and then one in early February gearing up for the new gardening season.

AGM

We had 26 members attend the AGM at Woodend, which is a pretty good turnout considering that Covid is still a worry for many people. The business part of the meeting was concluded quickly and efficiently by the chairman and the talk – 'A walk in the park in 1840', was well received.

Donation

We are delighted to announce that the Crescent Hotel have given us a substantial donation of £1000.

Work Parties

Sunday December 5th

Sunday January 23rd

Meet under the bridge at 10am.

The next couple of work parties will be mainly litter collecting and leaf clearance. There is not much we can do to the various flower beds at this time of the year. We achieved quite a lot in the two October work session

On Sunday October 3rd seven members put in more plants in the shady border, put in bulbs, hazel, foxgloves and cowslips above the urn bed, cut back ivy and collected litter

On Sunday October 24th sixteen people turned out on a damp morning to put in plants in the wall shade border, daffodils in the Rhododendron Walk, shrubs above the urn bed and miniature daffodils and grape hyacinths in the small rockery.



***Photographs from the top –
A well earned rest by the Strawberry Arch
Bulb planting in the small rockery
Autumn colour by Woodend***

The Committee

The committee elected at the AGM is as follows

Chairman – Felicity Stephenson

Treasurer – Jane Millar

Secretary – Graham Stephenson

Committee Members

Debbi Ambler

Chris Cooper

Angela Doherty

Sue Glew

Mick Prince

Co-opted Members

A Clay – Woodend Creative

H Percival – Parks and Gardens



Tufted Duck

We have a visitor on the pond, a male tufted duck. Although we have a resident population of tufted ducks in Britain, a lot more arrive for the winter from Northern Europe and Iceland. They are diving ducks feeding on molluscs, insects and certain plants.

I owe an apology. I identified a bird as the migratory Yellow Wagtail in a previous newsletter. I noticed it was still around well into November and managed to get a picture of it this time. It turns out it is a Grey Wagtail, which is much more colourful than its name suggests having a yellow underbelly. This species is resident all year round, but is on the red list of declining bird species.



Vernon Restaurant

Does anyone remember the Vernon Restaurant shown in the photograph to the right? I know it opened in 1947 and catered for visiting tourists. It could seat hundreds of people at a time, but I don't know where it was on Vernon Road or what happened to it.

Photographs from the top

Tufted Duck

Grey Wagtail

Vernon Restaurant