

Friends of Valley Gardens Annual Report 2023/2024

The Friends continue to be a significant volunteer group in Valley Gardens. We aim to keep the gardens tidy and presentable as well as keeping on top of the litter. The group has also installed a 30 MPH speed sign on Valley Road.

This year has seen the continued and welcome collaboration with the Parks and Gardens staff. They now advise on planting and respond quickly to our requests for various initiatives or problems to be fixed in the gardens. They also are prompt in supplying various specialise tools such as bulb planters, long handled litter pickers and paint and equipment for the Friends to paint the restored railings on the Vernon Road bridge. The Friends have also been fortunate in securing generous donations of plants and bulbs from Sainsburys. We also have had donations of fruit trees from Scarborough Grow. Other collaborations have been with Caroline Hill from WildEye and Victoria Thompson, project officer, South Cliff Gardens.

As volunteers we have continued the litter picking and tidying up of the gardens as well as continuing to work on the 'the Peace Garden' with trees and bulbs. The weed in the ponds has become an issue on social media and the Friends have been proactive in explaining that it is harmless. Also, we helped rehome the geese on the pond to Whitby Wildlife Sanctuary after one was found in a distressed state.

Finally, over the last twelve months we have had 16 work parties representing 290 volunteer hours.

Chris Cooper/October 2024

For the presentation of the accounts – see overleaf