

Friends of Valley Gardens

May/2023 No 45

We start this issue of the newsletter with a massive Thank You. As you know Felicity and Graham Stephenson, our Chair and Secretary, are moving on to pastures new. They set up the Friends and have been instrumental in its work ever since. We will miss their knowledge, enthusiasm and hard work. As a Committee we are determined to carry on their good work and have been busy over the past few weeks putting plans in place to continue what they have started. We wish them every happiness in their new home.

Friends of Valley Gardens Committee

Work Parties

Sunday 25 June – 10am

Wednesday 5 July – 7pm

Sunday 16 July – 10am

Meet outside 9 Valley Road

At the next work party on Sunday 25 June there will be a small amount of planting to do but the main focus will be on tidying up the borders/shrubs, and, of course, litter picking.

The next two in July will also mainly focus on border tidying and litter picking.

Now that we are enjoying long summer evenings, we have added in an additional work party on Wednesday 5 July at 7pm. We hope to have a few more evening work parties over the summer.

You will have noticed that the meeting place is now outside number 9 Valley Road. Now that Felicity and Graham have left us for pastures new various members of the Committee are storing all the tools and other kit we need and help is needed in transporting this to the Gardens (don't worry – they are only a short walk away!)



Coronation Work Party

The Coronation Work Party was well attended. Despite the weather we managed to do some planting, tidying and litter picking culminating in the planting of our Coronation tree, a Sorbus Aucuparia Sunshine or Sunshine Rowen. Our thanks go to Gary Normandale from North Yorkshire Council for his help with the planting. And it was fitting that this was the final activity that Felicity and Graham, our outgoing Chair and Secretary, took part in. See photographs above.

Unfortunately the weather did defeat our plans for a picnic on the lawn outside Woodend, but Woodend had kindly agreed to us using their Conference Room for an indoor picnic instead. It was a lovely way to end the morning.

Donate for free!

Did you know you can help raise funds for Friends of Scarborough Valley Gardens from the comfort of your home?

More and more of us are shopping online these days and *easyfundraising* enables you to make a donation every time you shop – without it costing you a penny!

Over 7,000 brands are part of the scheme including Sainsburys, Marks and Spencer, Argos, eBay and Amazon.

Once you have signed up for FREE every time you shop online at any of the participating companies you will be asked if you want to make a donation. If you click yes that company will donate a percentage of your total spend to Friends of Scarborough Valley Gardens. Plus, once you've raised your first £5, easyfundraising will double it!

To sign up go to:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

and select Friends of Scarborough Valley Gardens as the group you want to support.

Valley Road Traffic

Any of you who live on or near Valley Road will be aware of the ongoing issues with cars speeding and subsequent accidents.

As Valley Road cuts through Valley Gardens we were keen to see if something could be done about trying to slow vehicles down.

After much discussion with the Council, Highways and 2 speed surveys, we are pleased to report that two vehicle activated signs will soon be installed on Valley Road.

Unfortunately the cost of the signs is something which had to be funded externally and we are very grateful to Cllr Richard Maw who has paid for the signs from his Locality budget.

Because of the nature of the signs, they need to be turned every couple of months – something which our Committee Member, Colin Eastwood, has kindly offered to do.

There is a small ongoing cost for electricity which the Friends will need to pay – currently estimated at no less than £10 per year plus VAT – but we felt that it was worth the cost to try to reduce the speed of cars through the Gardens. The Committee will, of course, monitor the costs very closely.

And finally...

In the light of Felicity and Graham's departure, the role of Chair remains vacant but Angela Doherty will take on the role of facilitating the Committee meetings. Chris Cooper has taken on the role of Secretary. Both can be contacted at: friendsofthevalleygardens@gmail.com

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, please email our Secretary, Chris Cooper at: friendsofthevalleygardens@gmail.com