

Friends of Valley Gardens

Programme – March/April

Friday March 6th
International Women's Day Event
Woodend/Art Gallery

Sunday March 8th
Work Party
Meet at Woodend Arch at 10am

Thursday April 2nd
Committee Meeting

Sunday April 19th
Work Party
Meet at Woodend Arch at 10am

Future dates for your diary

Friends of Dean Road and Manor Road Cemetery
Spring Fair
Sunday May 3rd.

Picnic in the Park
Sunday June 28th

Fossil Festival
September 18th to 20th

News in Brief

Health and Safety seminar

This was a very useful session, in many ways reassuring that we were doing most things correctly and safely, but also a wake-up call on some things. Although I do a risk assessment for all activities I will in future also be giving a safety briefing before we start our work sessions in the park.

It was a shame we had only five people present but I suspect we would have had more on the original date if storm Dennis hadn't intervened.

Thank you to Helen for running the session for us.

Future Work Parties

On Sunday March 8th we will be planting snowdrops and wild garlic in the green and litter picking. I have moved the April work session to the third Sunday of the month as the previous weekend is Easter Sunday. On April 19th we will be planting out wild flower plug plants in the meadow area and tidying the shrub and flower borders we planted last year.

Library Talk

Felicity and I have been asked to give a talk at the library on September 5th at 11am to the Friends of Scarborough Library. The talk is entitled Ramsdale Valley Gardens, past, present and future. I'll be talking about the history of the park and Felicity will talk about what the friends have achieved, what we hope to achieve and how people can help. We have also produced a short article for their magazine based around that old photograph in the last Newsletter.

Friends of Dean Road Cemetery

The friends of Dean Road Cemetery are having a Spring Fair on Sunday May 3rd and have given us permission to have an information stall at the event. We will also be selling plants and books so please put a few extra seeds or cuttings in this spring and don't throw any books out. We'll let you know more details closer to the time.

Fliers

Many thanks to Mike Springall at McRay Press who has offered to print some informational fliers for us free of charge and to Mick Prince who arranged for them to be done.



Primroses on the bank above the grotto and squirrel posing in the top right corner.

Valley Bridge in the 1890's

This is one of the best photographs I have found of the original Valley Bridge. I had always thought that the new bridge incorporated parts of the old bridge when it was rebuilt in 1926 to 1928. However I recently discovered a packet of photographs in the Historic England Archive that suggests that the old bridge was completely dismantled and destroyed during the construction process for the present bridge.



Scilla Siberica

There has always been a small colony of *Scilla siberica* on the rockery below the art gallery but the display this year is exceptional. Its common name is the Siberian Squill although it doesn't appear to be native to Siberia, originating instead from Central Russia and Asia Minor. The vivid blue colour is a little unusual among spring flowers, although a white form of the plant also exists. It is extremely hardy and prefers shade, in fact an ideal plant for Valley Gardens.

In fact there has been a lot of colour already this year in the park. The snowdrops are going over now but gave an excellent display and the daffodils are just beginning to flower (see left). There are a lot of bluebells and wild garlic beginning to emerge and should give a good display later in the spring. In a later newsletter I will look at the differences between the English and Spanish Bluebell and see if we can work out which type we have in the gardens

Renovating the grotto

Meeting with Estates

We finally met with the Estates Department of Scarborough Borough Council regarding the renovation work we want to do on the grotto and Vernon Road footbridge railings. It was quite a productive meeting and we now have a way forward on this project. The Parks and Gardens Department will act as the responsible body, getting estimates and arranging for the work to be carried out and the Friends will obtain the funds. The Estates Department will be kept up to date with developments but do not appear to want to be closely involved in the actual work.

Felicity and I have a meeting planned for this week with Parks and Gardens to discuss the schedule of works.

