

Friends of Valley Gardens

Newsletter July 2019

No 6

Programme – July/August

Sunday July 14th

Work Party. Meet Lower Duck Pond at 10am.

Wednesday July 17th

Collections Visit

Woodend 2pm

Thursday July 18th

Committee Meeting

Woodend 7pm

Saturday July 20th

Festival of Archaeology 10am – 4pm

Thursday July 25th

Work party – meet Lower Duck Pond at 7pm.

Saturday 27th July

Visit to Pannett Park 10am

Sunday August 11th

Work Party. Meet Lower Duck Pond at 10am.

Thursday August 29th

Work party – meet Lower Duck Pond at 7pm.

Further details about these events elsewhere in the newsletter.



News in Brief

Facebook

Karon Wallis has produced an excellent Facebook page for the Friend's group. Follow us at Friends of Scarborough Valley Gardens@FOSVG. She is so well organised that a report and photographs of our shrub planting efforts appeared on Facebook before we had finished packing away.

Festival of Archaeology

Five volunteers so far for this event. We could do with a few more so no-one needs to do a long stint. It is just showing visitors the way from one venue to the next .

Collections Visit

We have arranged a visit to the museum collections at Woodend on Wednesday 17th July at 2pm. We will be shown around by one of the museum curators and will finish with a look at the butterfly collection. Afterwards Martin Dove , our butterfly expert, will lead the group on a short stroll around the park and this time we hope there will be some butterflies around. Numbers are limited to ten so let me know as soon as possible if you would like to go.

Visit to Pannett Park.

The Friends of Pannett Park in Whitby have invited us to visit them on Saturday 27th July. Members of their group will show us round the park and we will finish at the cafe for tea and cake. Meet at 10am outside the main door of the museum in Pannett Park. This is an excellent excuse to have a day out in Whitby. Let me know if you intend to go as they would like to know approximate numbers in order to provide guides for the morning.

Crescent Garden Cake Event.

Thank you to everyone that helped at this event. We signed up a number of new members and made many more aware of the work we are doing. Thanks also to Woodend for letting us use their table and gazebo, all the ladies that helped produce the banner and to the members who produced cakes..



The new door on the Ice House

The 'Ice House'

Raising money to renovate the ice house, fit a strong door and tidying up the entire entrance to the park from the footbridge was seen by the committee as an admirable first project for the group. Three weeks ago I wrote to the Planning Office asking for a meeting and some advice on how to proceed. The Gardens are listed and involving the conservation office at this early stage seemed sensible.

I received no reply so was slightly taken aback when last week workman arrived and fitted a portcullis type metal gate to the ice house. What they didn't do was any repair work to the structure. I wrote again to the planning office thanking the council for erecting a barrier and repeating our offer to raise money to tidy up the area and renovate the structure. To date I have still not received a reply.

I will continue to badger them until I receive some advice.

Practical Projects

Last month we had two work sessions on the borders to either side of the Crescent entrance..

At the first, one of the borders was cleared of weeds including a sycamore sapling. Both beds were then rotovated by the council. At the second session a mixture of shrubs provided by the council were planted. The shrubs included Hydrangea, Escallonia, Forsythia, Weigelia, Cotoneaster and Pyrocanthus.

Some spaces were left and we hope to be able to provide a few more plants such as Cistus, Rosemary, Lavender and Nepeta (Catmint) to fill these gaps.

Thanks to everyone who helped at these sessions.



Working on the borders



Common Spotted Orchid

I was very surprised to spot this growing at the edge of the park. It is certainly the first I have seen in the gardens although they are plentiful on the cliff slopes on South Cliff. It is probably the Common Spotted Orchid, but orchid identification is not an exact science because the various species hybridise very easily.

It is apparently attractive to day flying moths and in order for seeds to germinate need a particular group of fungi present in the soil. The seeds are like dust and have no food supplies so they need to be parasitic on the fungus.