



THE FRIEND'S SPRING NEWSLETTER, 2010

DATES FOR DIARIES

The Plant Sale Monday 31st May, from 10 to 12am.

Chernobyl Children's Party June (tbc)

The Friends' Garden Party Saturday 19th June, from 6 to 8pm

The Friends' Coffee Morning Saturday 4th December, the Parish Centre, 10-30.

The Next AGM Saturday 26th February 2011, the Parish Centre at 2.30.

You can find information on ticket sales for the Garden Party at the end of this Newsletter, together with a BOOKING FORM, on the last page.

VISIT TO STOURHEAD ON TUESDAY 4th MAY

The 49 seater coach is almost sold out! We could still change to a 53-seater coach if anyone else would like to go, but please contact Pam Dimmock ASAP on 02392 526761 for details on itinerary and cost.

The coach leaves St. Mary's Parish Centre, Green Lane at **0830**: is due home around **1830**. The journey time is approx. 2 hrs each way; we'll while away the return journey with a Very Exciting Raffle!

THE FRIENDS' 17th A.G.M, 27th Feb 2010

About 150 Friend's enjoyed a very cheerful meeting - many thanks to the Rev Ted Goodyer, for letting us hold the AGM in St. Mary's Church so we could host a larger attendance for Wendy's last AGM as the Friends' Curator.

Chairman Don Cripps welcomed everyone - especially our guests, the **Worshipful Mayor of Gosport, Cllr. Mrs Diane Searle; Gilly Drummond**, (Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire and President of the National Association of Garden Trusts); **Councillor Graham Burgess**, (Chairman of GBC Community and Environmental Board) and **Mrs Burgess; Councillor Mrs Ingeborg Forder; Caroline Smith** (GBC Parks and Gardens); and **David Stubington** (GBC Arboricultural Officer.)

The CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Don noted that the Council and the Friends were united in their determination to retrieve the Green Flag Award for Crescent Garden this year! (*See Curator's Report below*).

For the twelfth year running, the Garden had featured in the National Gardens Scheme's Yellow Book, which brings many visitors; it was also given a Silver Gilt Award in the small Parks category, from South-East Britain in Bloom Judges.

A strong Volunteer team has worked steadily throughout the year to maintain the wide variety of flowers and shrubs, while preserving the design and atmosphere of a typical Regency Ornamental Garden. Work also included long-term maintenance of the fountain and watering systems. Our close and effective partnership with all the Gosport Borough staff responsible for direct action continued in very good heart, as did our hard-working WRAGS trainee, Wendy Hobson.

Besides gardening, many Friends devoted time and effort to setting up and conducting our annual Plant Sale, the Chernobyl children's Party, our Summer Garden Party: visits to Waddesdon Manor and Arundel Castle, the Autumn Coffee morning - and of course this AGM. Some Friends also decorated a beautiful Tree for the first Parish Christmas Tree Festival.

All these activities involve planning, generous provision and service of food and drink; giving prizes and organising raffles; sales stalls and games; selling tickets; delivering, putting up and taking down tents and furnishings; design and installation of PA systems; production and delivery of Fliers and Newsletters; recording and encouraging Membership; recording and controlling Funds; organising interesting Visits – to name a few!

On behalf of all the Friends, Don expressed appreciation and thanks to everyone who gave so generously of their time and energy this year, making everything possible. "May their kindness and goodwill continue, and may others join in supporting them in 2010 – we have many new Friends, and a little help with any of these items is always needed – and very warmly welcomed."

Finally, thanks for all the hard work put into the development of our versatile PA system, and the considerable technical expertise brought to the identification of any problems with the fountain and watering system, by our dear friend **Bob Bone**, who sadly passed away last year. **His special contributions to the work of the Friends, with his son David, will not be forgotten.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our Treasurer David Wardle stated that 2009 had been a better year financially, with a small surplus of £133 instead of the £840 deficit in 2008. The main difference lay in the repairs and major maintenance to the fountain in the previous year. The two main fund-raising events, the Garden Party and the Coffee Morning, both did very well once more. David thanked County Cllr. Chris Carter for enabling the Secretary to obtain a £200 Grant from Hampshire County Council for the purchase of additional tools for the growing number of volunteer gardeners.

David stressed the importance of the GBC grant to part-fund our WRAG trainee gardener; the arrangement is of great mutual benefit to both the Garden and to the Trainee. He hoped very much that it might be possible for the arrangement to continue over the rest of Wendy Hobson's term, which still has 3 months to run, if not beyond. It is unlikely that the Friends could fund another Trainee without help.

Subscriptions had been held to £3 for 2010, but will be reviewed in the Autumn to assess whether an increase is needed for 2011.

No questions arising, David's accounts, again kindly audited by Ian Gallett, were unanimously approved.

ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

Existing members of the Committee had offered to continue for another year. An overwhelming show of Friends' hands supported their re-election.

Gilly Jaynes was proposed by Wendy as her successor, a proposal seconded with pleasure by the Chairman. Wendy would continue to serve the Friends as their **artwork and research adviser**, Don explained, adding that Julian, in recognition of the enormous support – as well as many gallons of tea and coffee! – that he had given, to Wendy and the entire Gardening Team, was appointed a **Lifelong Member of the Friends**.

The Chairman then introduced Wendy's last report as the Friends' Curator: "For nearly 20 years you have worked continuously to recreate this lovely Regency Garden to a Nationally recognised standard; built up the Friends; developed valuable relationships with National and County gardening organisations, and cemented a friendly and effective working relationship with the Owners of the Garden - Gosport Borough Council, and their "Parks and Open Spaces" staff.

Wendy, we as members of the Friends of the Crescent Garden are most grateful to you for creating us!"

THE GARDENING REPORT:

"This is my last report as your Curator, but (barring accidents) it's positively not a farewell! The great thing about being a member of this extraordinary group of Friends is that you never need to retire because you can't be useful any more.

Relieved of the pressures of meetings and minutes, I'm already very much enjoying my new role as artwork/research consultant for the Friends.

First, we have to thank our Partners, GBC, for provision of sufficient **Everedge for all the shrubbery beds**, making their special curving shapes permanent and much less labour-intensive. This will be a major ongoing task for the Friends to install.

Volunteers are also going to attempt patching-in of the **wooden path edging** where it has decayed in places – we've been supplied with some seasoned timber for this by GBC. (*Any Friendly woodworkers out there? We may need help!!*)

Breakages through the **boundary hedge alongside Terrace Walk** highlighted the urgent need for drastic re-generative treatment. Coppicing, and digging out the ivy, with some added planting, are necessary. Council contractors and Volunteers are working together on this really major project.

Soon, the new **Interpretation Board** will be in place. GBC is taking a lot of trouble to have the approved design well translated into a weatherproof and attractive structure by a specialist firm, to truly enhance the Garden..

Half the **annual reduction of the fast-growing Bays** - essential for the viability of those newly-edged shrubbery beds - has just been successfully carried out, with help and advice from GBC arboriculturalist Dave Stubington. The Council's Contractor worked closely with the Friends. It's very much hoped that this work can be programmed on a regular annual basis, so this ongoing problem never gets out of hand!

All these items will improve Crescent Garden greatly, for visitors and for visiting Judges; Friends' Volunteers are determined to do their very best to win further honours for the Borough, with assistance from the Council's Green Team.

Some new Wildlife spotted recently - a large solitary White Egret, and - less welcome! - several Badgers. They leave such huge clawed pug marks across our topsoil, it looks as if one of Hagrid's creatures prowls there at night.

PRESENTATION: THE PEOPLE WHO MADE CRESCENT GARDEN

(Guy Sitwell's Powerpoint disc of the slides which illustrated the talk is available for Friends who are interested to see it).

“Mercifully, we’re coming to the end of a bleak and bitter Winter. Freezing cold and grim headlines every day weighted our spirits like the terrible burden of icy frozen snow, which split so many trees across the Borough.

In Crescent Garden the beautiful great Cedar lost a major spreading branch; so did a Yew tree; and the elegantly pencil-slim Cypresses looked a sorry sight, with branches splayed out and down in all directions.

But in February the Season’s tide begins to turn. Winter’s dragging ebb slackens to a spell of quiet water, before the incoming surge of Spring in March. It’s a time to think, and plan for all the joys to come; and to cherish dreams, of warm sunshine and a wonderful Summer.

In Crescent Garden we have cause to rejoice, and celebrate wholeheartedly.

Worth a whole case of Champagne is Gilly Jaynes! As I told you in the Autumn Newsletter, Gilly is just the kind of successor I always hoped for. Since then we have enjoyed a long and leisurely turnover of all Curatorship concerns relating to Crescent Garden - and I will continue very happily as one of Gilly’s great team of Volunteers.

I’m often asked if I fear a successor will make changes.

But what is gardening? Basically, the practical and creative management of the changes time imposes every day, on plants in a given space.

Any established Garden is a living entity which must constantly adapt to thrive.

For example, the loss of a tree through age or Honey fungus is a great blow, but out of the loss arise new creative opportunities – Another tree? A different vista? Some solutions may work even better for the overall picture than what went before: but the picture is inevitably different.

Change is unavoidable; and I have total confidence in Gilly’s creative and practical management of it.

One thing I know **won’t** change is the good will and commitment that has brought us all so far. Another is the continuing endeavour to be true to the early 19th C. character and landscape - ‘the subtle, graceful and ornamental Regency gardening’ – illustrated perfectly on this Spring’s cover - that gives Crescent Garden its rare and distinctive appeal.

Both will be in safe hands with the Friends’ new Curator; and Gilly will have a truly outstanding Friends’ group behind her, as she takes the Garden into a third decade of remarkable community achievement.

Looking through thousands of Julian's photographs and slides taken over two decades, I've marvelled at the enormous number of **people**, of all ages and descriptions, who have all been part of this amazing long-term effort.

Neighbours, from near and far, local children, supportive Mayors and Councillors, Town Hall Officers – they all pitched in to help realise the dream: to restore and re-create a special and truly historic garden for everyone. Some of you can see yourselves, looking a lot younger! It takes more than ten years to make a garden, whatever they tell you on television.

A lot of other people you won't see, but they were all indispensable. Don has just thanked all those who gave their time, energy and support this year. Multiplied by nearly 20, this giving has surely been an awe-inspiring expression of community good-will. And there are so many Friends whose specialised expertise was generously and freely given over the years: in fields of architecture, law, horticulture, wildlife, local and garden history, computer skills, electrical and audio technology, painting, plumbing and Mycology – a charming Professor, no less, advised us on the dreaded Honey fungus. Whatever the problem, amazingly, there was always a Friend who was peculiarly qualified to help, and gladly did so.

Pictures of early Friends, working hands-on at recreating Crescent Garden, remind us how far we've come together and help us to understand how what began as an interesting neighbourhood restoration project grew to be a part of so many peoples' lives.

Pictures of the first 12 years, which saw the Garden established, opened with a glimpse of people from a brand-new neighbourhood, enjoying the original Ornamental Regency Garden in 1828.

The first Friends followed 159 years later, and you can see them reclaiming and hacking out a Garden from the jungly undergrowth, installing Regency benches that they helped raise the money to buy, digging out brambles and roots....

Putting up tents for a Garden Party, before there was really a garden at all.. Heavy affairs, those first tents borrowed from the Scouts! The roof pole once flattened our Chairman, John Hervey, who steered us so well through the crucial first ten years.

There's George Cook, clearly in charge, installing one of the Garden's Reptonian flower baskets. I think he was eight.

There were a dozen or so children from nearby Boldens and Arminers roads, the Garden's wonderful Guardians for 3 happy years, until their teens. Last year, two of them gave me a fantastic surprise – they brought their babies, to show them Crescent Garden. They'll be raking up the leaves in no time!

Lastly, in time for the Queen's Golden Jubilee, **the Fountain...** The long-awaited centrepiece, that took 3 years of community consultation, fund-raising and hard work to achieve. The heart of the Garden, it has 3 times been damaged by vandals over a 9 year period – not too bad, really, by today's depressing standards.

So – over the first 12 years, with the active help and participation of hundreds of local people – the Friends now numbering over 330 – Crescent Garden was back on the map, established as one of the many and varied – though mostly much larger – historic Parks and Gardens in the Borough.

A historic and pretty public garden is certainly an asset, but ongoing planned maintenance and investment are essential for its survival. From a pragmatic Local Authority point of view, it should earn its upkeep, in terms of value to the wider community.

What benefit does Crescent Garden give, in return to all the people, some of them no longer with us, who worked so long and so hard to re-create it?

There have been **awards** in plenty. In 2004, the Garden was awarded its first of five Green Flags; in 2005, it shared with S. Mark's churchyard a Green Heritage Site Award from English Heritage. For a dozen years it has earned a place in the National Garden Scheme's nationally distributed Yellow Book, and the Friends' NGS Plant Sales have raised money for Cancer Research, Hospices, Carers and Gardener's charities. Last year, it won a Silver Gilt Award in the Small Park's category of SE England in bloom.

Awards are fine, but a public garden, however historic or beautiful, can't be of great value to the wider community unless it's visited! Actual photographic records of the Garden being constantly enjoyed, used, and visited by people from literally everywhere, count for much more.

We have them in abundance.

Photographs over the next 8 years give a real idea of how much all that enormous co-operative effort has achieved in terms of human happiness and enjoyment.

They show the Garden coming into its own, as a community asset and a venue for all kinds of social activities. Apart from a constant procession of dog walkers they range from Wedding photography to nature trails, School visits, Brownies taking their Promise and winning their Garden Badges - children from Belarus enjoying the Friends' hospitality, and of course, the great neighbourhood Garden Party in June, over 300 strong. Once, a whole chain-gang of Mayors came for a stroll...

Unrecorded, however, are the many people who have found comfort and solace in Crescent Garden at sad times in their lives.

The lady with terminal breast cancer who walked there, every day, with a friend. The blind gentleman with advanced Parkinsons, who used to sit, smiling, listening for hours to the splashing of the fountain, breathing the scents of Pinks and roses in the sunshine.

The lady recovering from a serious breakdown; the family waiting for bad news from Haslar Hospital, the desolate solitary teen-ager, who said he needed a bit of space.

So many have found the Garden a beautiful and tranquil place to be, to tide them over for a while. You can't record these things, but they can be a great incentive to keep weeding in the rain!

One picture showed the Garden covered all over with blue-shadowed footprints, on a snowy winter afternoon. They vividly conjured up all the joyful exhilaration of snowballing families, who had so much fun there all day. An inscription on one of the little blue benches, the gift of a small group of Friends, says "With kind memories of other friends; and other happy Summers". Walking towards the West end, I can hear echoes of the great triumphant YELL the Children of Chernobyl always give when they find their treasure, hidden in the heaps of leaf-mould. Children's voices bring back the Guardians - and laughter evokes the teams of cheerful Volunteers in a long procession of Wednesdays.

On a really icy morning, I sometimes see a bent little white-haired figure, desperately short-sighted, peering at a tall plant shrouded with fluttering white horticultural fleece. She's talking to it, quite severely. "...You really should wear something warmer, dear, it's so cold today!" When I come up behind her, and say "Good morning, Mrs Goss", she jumps and laughs. "There you are, dear! I thought you were out in your nightie!"

The last pictures were simply a bouquet of ravishing flowers and pretty vistas, from Crescent Garden, for all its Friends – over 360 now - and their Council Partners. Together over many years, they have truly achieved a small but significant footnote in Gosport's social history. Here was a colourful, joyous reminder of the beauty they have all brought into being, between them, for the whole Borough to enjoy."

So the Presentation ended. The Rose on the cover is for absent Friends!

After thanking Wendy, the Chairman invited **Mrs Gilly Drummond OBE DL** who as Chairman of the Hampshire Gardens Trust had worked closely with Gosport and Hampshire Councils, to initiate the Garden's restoration project.

On a wintry site visit, Gilly told how she had been invited in for a warming bowl of soup by the Osborne's : it had turned out to be like winning a Lottery ticket!

Wendy was particularly interested in the Regency character of the Garden, and agreed to try founding a Friends' Group, while seeking academic approval from Garden historians for her research and design, which later featured in a Shire publication on Regency Gardens.

*Thanks to the active encouragement of GBC and great neighbourhood support, the project flourished. So successfully, that Crescent Garden was used to illustrate lectures to County Garden Trusts throughout the country as an inspiring example of what **could** be achieved, by a group of active Friends working together in partnership with a supportive Local Authority.*

Councillor Graham Burgess, Chairman of the Community and Environmental Board, was then invited to speak.

Graham thanked the Chairman for asking him to attend this memorable day when Wendy was retiring as the Friends' Curator after 19 years of hard work.

"I'm now aware that all this work started before I was involved with the council, in 1991 when Wendy devised the planting scheme and Gosport Borough Council carried out the initial work of digging the beds. The Friends did an enormous amount of work, with painstaking research to establish the Garden's Regency character and achieve the right planting.

As Wendy's slides showed, much back-breaking work involved removing overgrown bushes etc, to find evidence of the original flowering ornamental shrubberies. Over the following years, these were re-created, and the Council installed a much-needed water supply, which gave the shrubs a chance to flourish.

Council help was also given with the placing of benches in the garden, followed by an Interpretation panel in 1998... this is now about to be replaced with a new and improved board, thanks to Wendy and Sam Voller.

The central feature that the community voted would best complete the Garden, was a Fountain. Fund-raising took years, and both Gosport and Hampshire Councils, as well as the Hampshire Gardens Trust, contributed generous Grant aid. The Fountain was finally in place for the Golden Jubilee: a plaque is mounted nearby, on one of the Garden's original stones, unearthed while digging the beds.

Gosport Borough Council is always pleased to assist the Friends' Volunteers whenever possible, and there are regular meetings with Council Officers to ensure the Garden always looks its best.

When I was Mayor in 2005/6, I attended one of the Friends' famous Garden Parties: I seem to remember many of them made sure my glass was never empty!

Gosport will make sure that the strong partnership that exists today will still be there in 20 years, when younger Friends will do the hard work, whilst we elders can sit on the benches, and reflect on how it was all made possible. It was made possible by one special lady, Wendy Osborne, who had the vision and inspiration to start the ball rolling.

Wendy, Gosport Borough Council thanks you for what you have achieved and what you have left us to enjoy. On behalf of the Council, may I thank you very much!"

The Chairman then asked Secretary David Merritt to present Wendy with a gift from the Friends: two pictures of plants painted and framed during the Regency period, which he hoped would always remind her and Julian of their grateful thanks for all they have done for them.

In addition, a number of Friends had made personal contributions to the Committee for Wendy to allow her to choose something for herself, raising the generous sum of £553, which the Treasurer now presented to her.

Wendy thanked the Friend's very warmly for their generosity and announced that the money might help her achieve a project she had in mind.

The Worshipful Mayor of Gosport, Councillor Diane Searle then rounded off the 17th Annual General Meeting, with graceful thanks to the Friends, on behalf of Gosport Borough Council, for their excellent work in keeping Crescent Garden so beautiful: Gosport was very proud of this haven of beauty.

On her retirement as Curator, special thanks today must go to Wendy for the many years of hard work she has contributed to making this beautiful garden. When I came to your Garden Party in the summer, I had a grand tour, and the colours and scents were wonderful.

Wendy is leaving a legacy of stunning beauty, for everyone in the Borough to enjoy for many years to come - a very big thank you from us all!

Another big thank you must go to Mrs Gilly Drummond, for the hard work she contributed to the success of this very special area of Gosport.

In August, on my Civic Day, I had the opportunity to tour the town by coach to show off Gosport to other Mayors from across Hampshire. Like many other Mayors in the past, I made sure Crescent Garden was part of the route!

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Friends: once again on behalf of Gosport Borough Council thank you, for making this part of Gosport so very special.

The Chairman, Don Cripps thanked everyone for coming to this AGM which was now closed, inviting everyone to repair to the Parish Centre for a celebratory glass of Bubbly and canapés.

***P.S. from Wendy!** I would like to take this opportunity to say how thrilled , delighted and grateful I was, for the two lovely antique flower prints, beautifully framed, which now hang in our Orangery, giving us both great pride and pleasure. The further gift, of an extremely generous cheque, took me totally by surprise, and I felt quite overwhelmed. I would like to express huge thanks and appreciation for all this kindness, to everyone, especially the Committee, which conspired so brilliantly to give both of us such a memorable and happy day.*

Artwork news and information

A Booklet of Crescent Garden. A completed photographic record of all the Garden's flowers in 2009 was submitted to the Committee at their last Seasonal Meeting, with the proposal that the Friends may like to consider publishing a booklet, illustrating and naming all its flowers, with a brief history of Crescent Garden - perhaps similar to the one recently produced for visitors to Stokes Bay.

Only one estimate has so far been gathered, and obviously a great deal more information is required, but this was the project on which I felt my wonderful cheque might be well spent, if it would enable the Friends to achieve a useful, educational and beautiful record of Crescent Garden for all its visitors and Friends.

***New Cards,** showing the Garden in all the radiance of Spring and late Summer, were enthusiastically snapped up at the AGM in the short time available. Now only about 60 packs of 5 left - available at next month's Plant Sale - or before, from David or myself. Samples are on view in the Friends' Notice Board! A few special larger ones, suitable for Birthdays, etc. have been requested, and some of those may still be available.*

***Interpretation Board:** Several people have asked for small copies of this; if anyone else is interested, once the Board is up, please let me know.*

Heritage Open Days, 9-12 September Brief free tours of Crescent Garden on offer to visitors. Has anyone any other good ideas? Marketing of plants, cards, etc, is permitted, so we can raise funds at the same time.

The Prints of Crescent Garden in 1830. Some of you have patiently waited for one: they are now ready. Ring me: 02392 586403; Wendy Osborne.

LIQUID ASSETS

You may recall from the previous newsletter (Autumn 2009) that following my success as Tree Surgeon to the holly bush I was promoted to CCC, that is, Compost Care Coordinator - and stationed in the top right hand corner of the garden. To most of us compost means chuck a few old leaves and potato peelings into a heap and wait for - well - some time. Oh dear me, no! It's much more scientific than that. There is a whole process of layering, the estimation of balanced ingredients, temperature control and empirical chemical analysis.

So I'm digging away with this fork and I think to myself, "This stuffs a bit dry(empirical chemical analysis)", "What's a chap to do?". So I think, again, to myself, "It's a long way to the nearest tap". (Estimation of balanced ingredients).

Then I have an idea.

In case you don't know the volunteers are made up of David Merritt and me and then there are the Girls or rather there are the Girls and then there is David M. and me - I say Girls, 'cos it's good exercise for a fellow to use his imagination. And there are many more girls than there are of David M. and me. So you see the potential.

Anyway, come coffee break I say, "Look here Girls, your country needs you! Here's your chance to contribute to PLAC - Personalized Liquid Accelerator (for) Compost." Well you've never seen such a reaction! Squeals of horror and shame and help me hide my blushes and as one man, so to speak, they disappeared to hide in all corners of the garden - except one. One corner I mean, not one Girl.*

So rejected and abandoned I return to my post. I fork in a few more leaves, do a bit of Su Doku and come out onto to the path for some fresh air where I startle three Japanese ladies who have walked through the garden. "Help", cried Yum-Yum, "A man hiding in the bushes!!" "Yes!", rejoined Pittising, "He's hiding from all these women!" I saluted and opened the gate for them. "A nice man, hiding in the bushes!", said Peep-Bo** I nearly suggested they might like to view my compost bins and make a contribution. Then I thought, "No. I'm in enough trouble without causing an international incident with Japan".

By the way, if one dark night in Crescent Road, when the moon is low in the sky, you see two figures, hand-in-hand, making their way to the top right-hand corner of the Garden, recollect that some who have given their all over the years and are still prepared to do that bit more for Queen and Country. You don't get a Blooming award without sacrifice!

*A bit of this is made up - unpoetic licence

** This is only a tiny bit untrue

David Palmer

Monday 31st May Bank Holiday Plant Sale. 10-12am

Bring and buy, if you can – Bargains galore! Could you help us sell plants? It would be great, as it's a popular event, and the first hour is always very busy. Please ring David Merritt on 02392-582068 if you are available.

All plants brought should be clearly labelled as some buyers and sellers may not have met them before!

Have plants, can't deliver on the 31st May? Please let Rita Rundle know and she will come to some arrangement. (It would be a great help if you could tell Rita (tel. no 02392 587311) in advance what plants you're thinking of bringing, so she can be sure of a storage place.)

Last year, lots of Friends provided a wide mixture of highly desirable plants: it would be excellent if we could repeat the handsome donation we raised for the National Gardens Scheme Charities. This donation – together with our essential high standard of maintenance – keeps Crescent Garden featured in the famous Yellow Book nationwide, bringing many visitors to see it.

The Friends' Garden Party. Party - Saturday 19th June 6-8pm

Gill Comrie has agreed to sell tickets and once again will be the sole provider
Gill's address and telephone details are:

10 Anglesey Arms Road
Alverstoke
Gosport
Hants PO12 2DG

Tel. No 02392-588316

Tickets will be available for the annual Garden Party between Wednesday 12th May and Saturday 12th June. Applications for tickets may be forwarded early and will be dispatched when available – please mark envelope GP.

Ticket prices:-

Adults	£9	} Names will be on reverse of parents/ } guardians tickets
Aged 6 – 17yrs	£4.50	
Aged 5yrs and under	free	

Friend's are reminded that parents and guardians are responsible for the safety of their children during the Garden Party.

As always, each household may invite two adults as guests. Should they wish for more, they can identify other Friends who aren't bringing any, or can't come - and have their quota.

This year to assist with the efficiency of ticket sales, members are requested to complete the application form (see page 16) and post or deliver it to Gill with payment, enclosing a stamped address envelope (not smaller than 220mm x 110mm which is ideal to accommodate the size/shape of the tickets'. Payment for tickets by cheque only please and should be made payable to "Friends of Crescent Garden" (if SAE is not provided, tickets will be available for collection at the entrance gate on the evening of the Garden Party).

Gill is happy to accept any outstanding annual subscriptions for this year (2010-2011) please forward a separate cheque (made payable to "Friends of Crescent Garden") or cash (annual subscription is £3). If members are unsure about being up-to-date for subs they can phone Gill.

To avoid disappointment please obtain your tickets as soon as possible.

Thank you for your co-operation in all these details, it makes a big difference!

The organising Committee would particularly welcome any input, suggestions or help from Friends either before or after the Party.

It has been suggested that the neighbourhood children could have a party of their own, like the Chernobyl Children – if any parents would like to meet up to discuss it, let us know! There was considerable interest in the idea, but it never got off the ground. Perhaps in 2010??

(For the record, the Chernobyl children are accompanied by their, Teacher /interpreter and many of their host families come with them.)

A Big Thank You, to Maggie Cochran, for the years she has held the Membership details as Membership Secretary. This job is now held by Ginny Whelan, who joins the Committee as Maggie's replacement.

Ginny e-mail address is:- gedandginny@fridaywhelan.plus.com or by telephone 01329-661849.

More very appreciative thanks are due to Guy Sitwell, who for 6 years has so efficiently organised the tenting for the Garden Party.

Thank you, Guy!

Is there some kind Friend who could take this once- a- year task on?

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This year to assist with the efficiency of ticket sales, members are requested to complete the application form (see page 16) and post or deliver it to Gill with payment, enclosing a stamped address envelope (not smaller than 220mm x 110mm which is ideal to accommodate the size/shape of the tickets'. Payment for tickets by cheque only please and should be made payable to "Friends of Crescent Garden" (if SAE is not provided, tickets will be available for collection at the entrance gate on the evening of the Garden Party).

Gill is happy to accept any outstanding annual subscriptions for this year (2010-2011) please forward a separate cheque (made payable to "Friends of Crescent Garden") or cash (annual subscription is £3). If members are unsure about being up-to-date for subs they can phone Gill.

To avoid disappointment please obtain your tickets as soon as possible.

Thank you for your co-operation in all these details, it makes a big difference!

The organising Committee would particularly welcome any input, suggestions or help from Friends either before or after the Party.

It has been suggested that the neighbourhood children could have a party of their own, like the Chernobyl Children – if any parents would like to meet up to discuss it, let us know! There was considerable interest in the idea, but it never got off the ground. Perhaps in 2010??

(For the record, the Chernobyl children are accompanied by their, Teacher /interpreter and many of their host families come with them.)

A Big Thank You, to Maggie Cochran, for the years she has held the Membership details as Membership Secretary. This job is now held by Ginny Whelan, who joins the Committee as Maggie's replacement.

Ginny e-mail address is:- gedandginny@fridaywhelan.plus.com or by telephone 01329-661849.

More very appreciative thanks are due to Guy Sitwell, who for 6 years has so efficiently organised the tenting for the Garden Party.

Thank you, Guy!

Is there some kind Friend who could take this once- a- year task on?

And finally, anyone who feels they would like to say something in our Newsletters, or who has a picture/photograph of the Garden to show us – please, get in touch! The Friends' Committee are always open to suggestions, and welcome your input and ideas on any aspect of Crescent Garden or the Friends.

David Merritt - April 2010.

Friend's Hon Secretary
Tel. 02392 582068

