



FRIENDS OF CRESCENT GARDEN AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2017

Message from the Chairman

A very warm welcome to you all. It's been an eventful spring and summer in our much-loved Crescent Garden, reflected in this busy autumn newsletter! The year started badly for us after the AGM in March when our fountain was vandalised. This was a real blow as it is such a focal point of the garden - we wanted it to look at its best for the plant sale and garden party, both of which are in June. Thankfully one of our members, Ian Drummond, effected an excellent repair and the fountain is now back to its former glory.

Our plant sale, which was enjoyed under glorious sunshine, was a huge success and becomes more popular every year. The 'Friends' Garden Party' at the end of June has become something of an Alverstoke institution and was also blessed with fine weather.

I'm very proud to report that we have received our 13th Green Flag award, as well as two 'Gosport in Bloom' awards. The garden remains a peaceful haven in which to sit and enjoy the roses and sweet-scented flowers full of colour and charm. I encourage you all to use it as much as possible.

Elaine Martin, Chairman



Dates for your Diary

Saturday 2nd December 10am to noon
Christmas coffee morning in the Parish Centre
Free admission, all are welcome, see enclosed flyer

Friday 8th to Sunday 10th December
Alverstoke Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Church
Come and marvel at the Crescent Garden tree!

Friday 26th January at 7pm for 7.30pm
Illustrated talk by Richard Martin, Parish Centre
'Alverstoke then and Now'

Saturday 24th February 2pm to 4pm
AGM at the Parish Centre, teas served

Spring Outing – yet to be arranged

Saturday 9th June Annual Plant Sale

Saturday 23rd June Friends' Annual Garden Party

www.alverstokecrescentgardens.co.uk

Head Gardeners' Report

Our excellent WRAGS trainee Richard McAnulty has completed his year with us. He has been a real asset to the volunteers and is now developing a career in gardening and increasing his skills on a diploma course at Sparsholt College. We wish him well.

Our new electrical installation proved invaluable during the Plant Sale, Garden Party and Heritage Day events, all of which were extremely well attended, blessed with fine weather and a great success.

An addition to our irrigation system (weeping hose) for the main herbaceous border by the fountain will be installed after the border has been cut back & the perennials have been split. New roses have been planted in the herbaceous borders and the eastern end Repton basket. We have planted bulbs and dahlia cuttings and look forward to a very colourful Spring in 2018. The weather this year has been a challenge -very dry and then wet!

Once again, the garden has been awarded a Green Flag – our thirteenth. It was raised on the 2nd of August by the Mayor, Linda Batty, in the presence of a valiant band of Councillors, Green Team and Committee members in relentless pouring rain!

The Summer ended on a great high when, at the “Gosport In Bloom” awards ceremony held at Thorngate Hall on 28th September, the garden received two prestigious accolades: the gold medal for “Best Volunteer, Community and Neighbourhood Group” together with “The Mayors Special Recognition Award” – both presented by TV personality Fred Dinenage. Our faithful group of garden volunteers continues to grow but, of course, we always need more.

Come and join us on Wednesday mornings!

Lesley Flett & Annie Sayle



Echium thump! A news story over the summer reported an Echium of over 18 feet tall – Bill Rundle stands at 6'3" so by my calculations ours must be 14 feet? Maybe next year?!

Garden Volunteers

Health in the Garden

*If gard'ning be the stuff of life, dig on;
Give me excess of it, that, surfeiting,
My troubles all may go, and fresh air, health
And good companionship will cast out stress
And give me health and life to celebrate.*



In the week August 12th to 20th the National Garden Scheme launched a Gardens & Health Week dedicated to promoting the positive impact gardens can have on health and wellbeing. Many NGS gardens opened their gates to groups of people with health issues, and both gardeners and visitors benefitted greatly. Although Crescent Garden did not join in the week's special events, we do have regular visits from disabled neighbours, and some of our gardening volunteers have gained health and happiness among the plants, earth and friends in the garden.

Why not join us on a Wednesday morning and see if you can leave stress behind you for a while.

Rita Rundle



Garden Cuttings

Constructed as a homage to the Marquis of Anglesey during the late 1820s, Anglesey Crescent and its garden nudge closer to their bicentenary. Residents of the curved terrace and its environs will doubtless be conversant with its genesis and the well documented aspirations and achievements of architect Thomas Ellis Owen and local developer Robert Cruikshank.



For its first 100 years or so 'The Crescent' enjoyed uninterrupted views across open land to Stokes Bay, The Solent and Isle of Wight beyond, but things were to change from the 1920s when large family houses were constructed along Fort Road (formerly Fort Lane) just a few hundred yards south of 'The Crescent'. The long gardens of the newly built houses extended across open fields right up to Terrace Walk at the southern edge of Anglesey Garden. The views and open aspect were gone forever!

Very few images of 'The Crescent' from the Georgian, or indeed the Victorian, period are known to exist. This charming and very scarce engraving (above) published by Charpentier of 50, High Street, Portsmouth is quaintly titled "The Terrace, Anglesey near Gosport" and dates from about 1835-40. The rural idyll shown in this wonderfully pastoral scene depicts farm animals peacefully grazing on pastures merging with the row of newly planted trees delineating the boundary of the private Anglesey Garden, in which the upper half of the sadly demolished bath house is clearly visible.

Richard Martin



Preparing for the hordes!



Friends' Annual Garden Party
I think it may have been the hottest day of the year at our garden party! The band played and the garden looked wonderful in the summer evening sunshine. The Pimms flowed, as always, and the canapes – kindly donated by many inventive cooks – were delicious! Many thanks to all who attended and supported us, including the Deputy Mayor Diane Furlong and her husband Raymond, all of our local councillors, and most of all, of course, yourselves!

Our annual plant sale gets bigger and better every year. Thanks to all who contributed!



and finally...



Every few years we maintain the pumps underneath the fountain area which are housed in a space that dates back to the original bath house! Ian Drummond can be seen here repairing a blocked pump and filter.

Outings

On a chilly day in May we visited Great Dixter in Sussex. This superb garden is the work of the late garden designer and author Christopher Lloyd, complemented by a wonderful house improved by Edwin Lutyens. Our driver meandered through some very scenic countryside en route, and given the weather we were thankful for a hot drink and a sandwich on arrival. The garden was a mass of colour and variety, with a superb display of tulips and some splendid topiary.

In September we visited the RHS gardens at Wisley in glorious weather, just as the leaves were beginning to adopt golden autumn shades. We travelled with members of the Alverstone Floral Decoration Society and we were struck by the huge variety on show, as well as the wonderful herbaceous borders. The flower show that was on view at the time was also a colourful treat for the senses – what a gift those wonderful flower arrangers have!

If any members have recommendations for future trips please do let us know. These are such lovely days out with good company, and we always try and find a venue with an accompanying house in case of inclement weather.

Enid Billington

Felicity Anderson, a loyal Friend, sketching at Wisley during our recent visit there. Felicity has recently written a book titled 'Alverstone Parish in Victorian Times - Three Canons and an Architect', obtainable from the Parish Centre for £7. All proceeds to the Parish Centre Regeneration Fund.



Regency elegance on heritage day



JOIN THE FRIENDS!

For all membership enquiries contact Ginny Whelan at virginia@fridaywhelan.plus.com
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