

# FRIENDS OF CRESCENT GARDEN SPRING NEWSLETTER 2017

## Message from the Chairman

It is a great honour to be the new chairman of The Friends of Crescent Garden. On behalf of everyone involved with the garden I would like to say a huge thank you to Pam Mawby, my predecessor, who has filled the post so admirably over the past five years. Her wise leadership and gentle encouragement will be greatly missed by us all.

Our very first Chairman Rear Admiral John Hervey, who sadly died a year ago, has made a very generous bequest to the garden for which we are all so grateful. We intend restoring our recently vandalised fountain to its former glory and also, at the suggestion of head gardeners Leslie and Annie, replacing some of the older plants in the garden, while adding three new obelisks for the roses.

We have much to look forward to this year including our spring outing to the gardens of Great Dixter in Sussex, our annual plant sale in May and our midsummer garden party.

Let's cross our fingers for a wonderful summer!

*Elaine Martin*

## Dates for your Diary

### Thursday 4th May

Spring visit to Great Dixter in Kent  
The home and garden of celebrated  
designer Christopher Lloyd  
*Booking form enclosed with this newsletter*

### Saturday 3rd June

Annual Plant Sale  
Crescent Garden from 10am to 4pm  
All are welcome, refreshments available  
*Please clearly label any plants that you bring along - for help  
delivering plants contact Rita Rundle on 023 9258 7311*

### Saturday 17th June

Friends' Garden Party at Crescent Garden 6pm to  
8pm  
*Booking form enclosed*

### Saturday 17th September

Heritage Open Day  
Our Green Team will lead guided tours of the garden  
between 12pm and 4pm - refreshments available,  
plants, chutneys & jams for sale  
*Please come and enjoy your garden!*



[www.alverstokecrescentgardens.co.uk](http://www.alverstokecrescentgardens.co.uk)

# Head Gardeners' Report

We're delighted with our new and taller flagpole, recently installed in its new position at the front of the garden and proudly flying our Green Flag. In its old site the flag would always catch against the Mulberry tree! It has been decided that, going forward, we will hold future flag ceremonies on the first Wednesday of every August.

Winter is a quieter time in the garden but the Green Team have kept busy with pruning and feeding the roses, cutting back the hollies, and spreading our homemade compost onto the herbaceous beds. Another important task completed has been replacing the Weeping Pear - *Pyrus salicifolia pendula* - which was lost to fire blight last year. New turf has been put on the site of the old tree. We have also had installed much-needed new electricity cables and fittings throughout the garden.

The spring bulbs and tulips have now emerged and look glorious! The snowdrops were a picture a few weeks ago beneath the Blue Cedar and the *Lonicera fragrantissima* - or Winter Honeysuckle - was particularly fragrant, as were the Daphnes in Jubilee Garden.

Unfortunately, we saw evidence of honey fungus in late autumn around some old and diseased trees. We were planning to add plants under the old Tulip Tree but were advised against it as disturbing the soil can spread the spores of the fungus.

Now that spring has arrived we look forward to acquiring three new obelisks for the roses, the repainting of the benches and Repton rose baskets, and the replacement of the damaged benches at both ends of Terrace Walk.

The lawn requires some aeration, as well as reseeding in some areas such as underneath the Beech and Tulip trees. We also look forward to the installation of a barrier around the Bamboo, and the application of an approved weed-killer to the gravel paths.



## Lin Hay

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of our dear friend Lin Hay towards the end of last year. She was a long serving member of the Green Team and is fondly remembered for her help with many fundraising events and representing The Friends at The Hampshire Garden Trust. We also remember her creative homemade birthday cards! She will be greatly missed by us all.

*Lesley Flett and Annie Sayle*

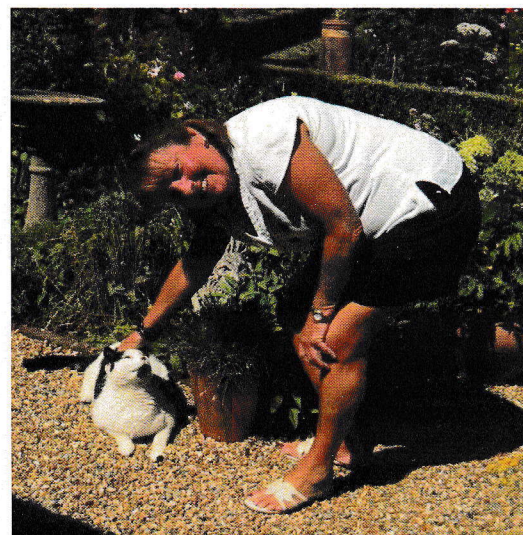
## Garden Volunteers

Dirty British gard'ner with a soil-caked steel spade,  
Working in the Garden on a mad March day,  
With a barrow load of dead twigs  
Blown in the wind.  
Daffodils, primroses, Spring's on its way.



Not quite the 'Cargoes' that John Masefield had in mind, but garden volunteers have been out in all weathers, fair or foul. We are rewarded by seeing not only the first signs of spring in the form of daffodils, primroses and new shoots on shrubs and trees, but seasonal plants like winter flowering honeysuckle with its wonderful perfume and the brilliant yellow of the Acacia on terrace walk, glowing yellow like our own personal sun on the dullest day.

*Rita & Bill Rundle*



*Lin Hay and Monty*

## Annual General Meeting



*Pamela Mawby with Gosport Mayor Lynn Hook*

The rugby did not dampen what appeared to be a record attendance at the Friends of Crescent Garden AGM on Saturday 11th March, held in the Parish Centre. Pam Mawby, in her last meeting as chairman, began by thanking Lesley Flett, Annie Sayle and the Green Team for their continued excellent work and commitment, and also found warm words of appreciation for the committee and to you - the many Friends who have supported the garden during her period as chairman.

The garden's finances are in the safe hands of Trish Kelly, who gave us a sparkling presentation of the accounts. Head gardeners Lesley and Annie then gave us an excellent joint presentation on tree life within the garden.

Enid Billington gave us information regarding the forthcoming spring visit to Great Dixter in May. Full details and an application form can be found with this newsletter.

Next on the agenda was the election of Elaine Martin as the new chairman. Elaine has been an active member of the committee for some time, both she and her husband Richard have been generous benefactors over recent years, donating many framed prints from their gallery towards fundraising efforts. Elaine thanked Pam for her leadership,

support and dedication to the garden and presented her with a gift from us all. Thanks must also go to Roger Mawby who has supported Pam and the garden throughout her period as chairman. We would like to give a huge welcome to our new committee member Sharon Miles, already an active member of the Green Team.

The afternoon concluded with a delicious tea of homemade sandwiches and cakes, provided very generously by The Friends - thanks to all who contributed! - then we all chatted together before dashing home to watch the end of the rugby!

*Enid Billington*

## Crescent Garden's Living Fossil

Just a few yards to the left of the fountain stands Crescent Garden's 'living fossil' - the Ginkgo biloba - often referred to in the United Kingdom as the Maidenhair tree as the leaves look similar to the fern of the same name.

Ginkgo biloba is the oldest living tree species on the planet and this remarkable survivor dates back to beyond the time of the dinosaurs, around 350 million years ago.

Ginkgo fossils are common in the rocks of the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods but today Ginkgo biloba is the only member of its genus, which is the only genus in its family, which is the only family in its order, which is the only order in its sub-class! A single tree can live as long as 1000 years and achieve a height of 120 feet.

It is a most attractive deciduous conifer whose bright green bi-lobed leaves mellow to a lovely butter yellow in autumn.

Ginkgos are native to China where they are grown in hedges to supply the leaves for western herbal medicine - the leaves containing ginkgolides which are reputed to improve blood circulation to the brain and to relieve Alzheimer's disease, tinnitus and Reynaud's syndrome.

Hopefully our 'fossil' will thrive and give pleasure to many generations of garden visitors to come!

*Richard Martin*



*Ginkgo biloba*

## Friends' Annual Garden Party

Saturday 17th June from 6pm to 8pm

Please join us for a glass of Pimms at this annual midsummer event—bring as many guests as you like as we no longer limit tickets.

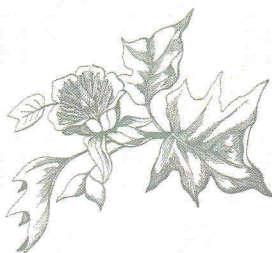
Booking form enclosed with this newsletter or download from our website

and finally...



*The Repton baskets in Crescent Garden.  
Photograph taken by Wendy Osborne*

*The Friends' tree decorated by  
Pam Mawby & Enid Billington at the  
St Mary's Christmas tree festival*

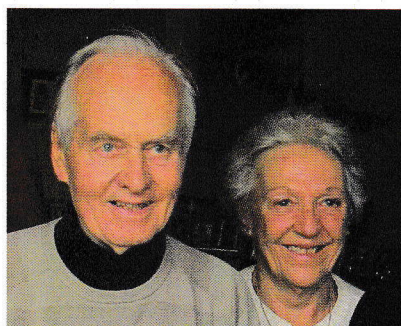


## Kathleen and Ron Hayday

Kathleen (Kath) Hayday passed away on the 4th February 2017 aged 100 years and four months. Kath and husband Ron, formerly the Parks & Gardens Gosport Supervisor, were both present at the very beginning of The Friends of Crescent Garden. Ron offered much valued help and advice to Wendy and Julian Osborne with plant research and garden design, becoming members of the original small committee.

Ron died in November 1999 and requested all funeral donations to be in aid of Crescent Garden. Donations were so generous that two round flower basket beds were commissioned, with one filled with roses as a tribute to Ron. Over the years Kath attended many fundraising events and remained a loyal member until she passed away.

*Derek Hayday*



## David Wardle

Sadly, after a long illness, David Wardle passed away earlier this year. David, with his wife Eileen, were dedicated supporters of the garden and he was a much respected treasurer for many years. He is also remembered for mixing a very good Pimms at the Summer Garden Party! He will be sadly missed.



## Pam Jackson

Pam Jackson also died peacefully at home earlier this year and will be remembered for her loyal support and years of service as a committee member. We will miss her kindness and enthusiasm.

## JOIN THE FRIENDS!

For all membership enquiries contact Ginny Whelan at [virginia@fridaywhelan.plus.com](mailto:virginia@fridaywhelan.plus.com)  
Any other enquiries contact David Meritt on 02392 582068