



# FRIENDS OF CRESCENT GARDEN WINTER NEWSLETTER 2022

## Message from the Chairman

We've had a very busy summer, making up somewhat for the quiet Covid years, starting off with our successful plant sale in May and quickly followed by our garden party in June. We worked so hard to make our garden party a success, only to be nearly blown away by a freak squall! The team spent most of what should have been a wonderful evening holding the tents down! It was disappointing as everyone had worked so hard, but there will always be next year and many of our guests actually remarked how much they enjoyed the evening – they make 'em tough in Alverstoke! The weather certainly warmed up during the following weeks with temperature records being broken in July & August. Thankfully, the garden remained a shady and peaceful oasis for picnickers or those looking for relief from the heat.

In September we had our first stand at the Alverstoke Michaelmas Fayre and had a great day meeting lots of people and making new friends. We were also delighted to learn that we had won our 18th Green Flag, plus a gold award in the South and South East in Bloom competition.

Finally and sadly we have lost four original members this year, namely Felicity Anderson, Don Cripps, Adrian Knight and Julian Osborne. Julian, together with his wife and our founder Wendy, was one of the driving forces behind our inception thirty years ago, and Don served as Chairman for three years. Felicity and Adrian were very supportive and active members, all will be greatly missed.

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in 2023.

*Elaine Martin*



*Merry Christmas!*

Tony Morrall has worked so hard overseeing the creation of our new website  
Please take a look – it's full of information relating to the garden

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



# Head Gardeners' Report

The rains finally arrived in September and the lawn grass seemed to almost recover from its golden brown to lush green overnight (which is a slight exaggeration, but only slight). Many of the shrubs and herbaceous perennials have had a new lease of life, looking very robust and healthy. In particular, the Shoo-fly plants (*Nicandra physalodes*) put on exceptional growth and are at least a metre tall. They are particularly noticeable in the railings bed by the kiosk. Also performing well are the dwarf pomegranate bushes (*Punica granatum*), which are wreathed in masses of bright orange-red flowers. Another colourful shrub recently introduced into the garden is the Lion's Tail (*Leonotis leonurus*) which also has deep rich orange red flowers. The one in the newly planted brash-end garden flowered early, but the example in the bed along terrace walk is only just coming into flower.



Rita & Elaine planting the Mulberry tree

Apart from the usual leaf collecting and bay-shoot cutting at this time of year, many of the shrubs have been pruned including the roses which are done every autumn/winter. Several of the roses are still flowering, particularly the Stanwell Perpetual – still looking beautiful.



Our stand at the Michaelmas Fayre

Now the bed has been constructed around the old tulip tree, planting has started and so far we have planted native Ferns, Butcher's Broom, Scented Pelargoniums, and Fuchsias. We have also planted Lent Lily bulbs, also known as wild daffodils (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*), for some interest in the spring.

On 24th September we had a stall at the Alverstoke village Michaelmas Fayre. Members of the Green Team and committee had cultivated many plants for sale (mainly heritage plants from cuttings and seeds from plants grown in Crescent Garden) and there were also many herbs on offer. Other items sold on the stall included jams, preserves, wood plant labels, lavender bags, Crescent Garden aprons and other items. The stall was a great

success as we gained several new memberships to FOCC and stimulated a great deal of interest in the garden.

We have once again won the Green Flag and also gained a Gold award in the South and Southeast in Bloom small/large park competition.

In late September we bought a Mulberry tree to replace the one which blew down in 2019. It is a two metre tall Black mulberry which has been grown in Britain and was planted very near to the site of the original tree. We held the tree planting ceremony on the 12th of October and combined the event with the raising of our new green flag. We have also registered the tree with the Queen's memorial tree planting initiative.

Irene Buggle

Thank you to Gina Rowe for making this beautiful cake for the Green Team to celebrate thirty years of Friends' of Crescent Garden!





# Garden Volunteers

## Wednesday Morning in Crescent Garden

The Friend and the gardener went to see  
What was on in the garden today:  
They took some trowels, and plenty of flowers  
Laid out on a compost tray.  
They walked away, for a good many yards,  
To the place where the weeds all grew;  
And there in the ground, they dug all around,  
'Til of weeds there were left oh so few,  
So few, So few,  
'Til of weeds there were left oh so few.

Dear Friend, said the gard'ner,  
we'll now do some planting  
Of those flowers which we brought with us.  
So they took up the tray, took the plants away  
And planted them there without fuss.  
Then they heard from afar a voice loud and clear,  
"There's coffee prepared, come and get it".  
With hands caked in soil, but happy and glad,  
They drank coffee with friends and ate biscuit,  
Ate biscuit, Ate biscuit,  
Drank coffee with friends and ate biscuit.

With thanks and apologies to Edward Lear and his 'Owl & the Pussy Cat'

Rita Rundle

Do come to the garden on any Wednesday morning and see what the volunteers are doing - probably something very similar to what is described above!



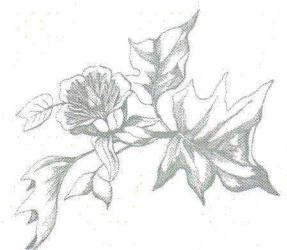
The plant sale in May



A stunning array of cakes at the plant sale



The Green Team summer lunch





...and finally

## Dates for the Diary

**Friday 9 to Sunday 11 December 2022**

Alverstoke Christmas Tree Festival

**Saturday 25 February 2023**

Anglesey Crescent Garden AGM

Alverstoke Parish Centre, 2pm - 4pm

*Teas served*

**Saturday 13 May 2023**

Annual Plant Sale, 10am - 4pm

*More details in spring newsletter*

**Saturday 24 June 2023**

Friends' Garden Party

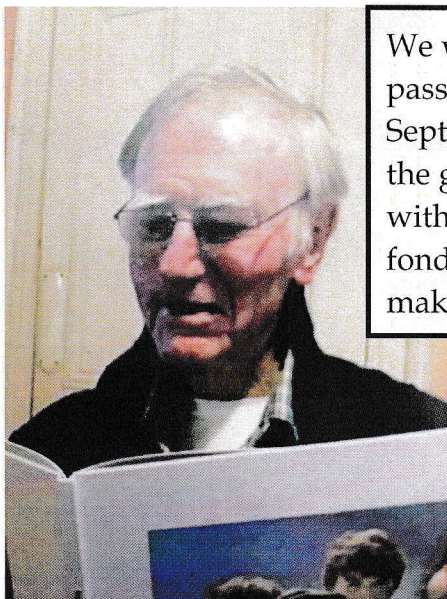
*More details in spring newsletter*



The garden party in June – before the tents blew down!



A wonderful day out for the volunteers at Brighton's Royal Pavilion & Garden



We were saddened to hear of the passing of Julian Osborne in September. He was instrumental in the garden's formation together with his wife Wendy – he'll be fondly remembered as chief coffee maker for the volunteers



Adrian Knight was one of Alverstoke's great characters and a long standing member of the Friends'. He will be sorely missed by many.

## JOIN THE FRIENDS!

For all membership enquiries contact Ginny Whelan at [virginia@fridaywhelan.plus.com](mailto:virginia@fridaywhelan.plus.com)

Any other enquiries contact Gina Rowe on 02392 358207