



FRIENDS OF CRESCENT GARDEN WINTER NEWSLETTER 2023



*Wishing you all peace and joy for
Christmas and the New Year!*



Message from the Chairman

Dear Friends, welcome to our winter newsletter. We've had a very busy and successful summer, and are delighted to tell you that we've won three prestigious awards - a gold award for small parks in the South & South East in Bloom, our 18th Green Flag and the Mayor's award for best community & neighbourhood garden in the Gosport in Bloom competition.

Our plant sale last May was busier than ever, followed by the Annual Garden Party, held on a beautiful evening in June. In September the garden hosted historical and botanical tours as part of Heritage Open Days after which, towards the end of the month, we promoted the garden through our stand at the Alverstoke Michaelmas Fayre.

The Green team continued to look after the garden (Gardening every Wednesday morning) so that it always looked its Regency best!

Please come and visit the garden, it never disappoints!

Elaine Martin



*Two elegant Regency ladies, Ginny Day and Gina Rowe,
promenading along Terrace Walk on Gosport Heritage Open Day*



Dates for your Diary

Friday 8th - 10th December

Christmas Tree Festival

St Mary's Church, Alverstoke

Saturday 24th February

Annual General Meeting 2pm - 4pm

Parish Centre, Alverstoke

Saturday 11th May

Annual Plant Sale 10am to 4pm

Saturday 22nd June

Friends Garden Party

See Spring newsletter for further details

www.alverstokecrescentgarden.co.uk

Head Gardeners' Report

Progress has been made with repairs to the fountain. In late summer a kind resident of Crescent Road offered his services (he has a lot of experience in business with water systems) to look into repairing the fountain. Over several weeks and working closely with Tom, the pump has been replaced and is working well. We are still waiting for an electrician to come to fit the new timer, but we hope this will be possible before the year end. Tom has had to dig up the path to get access to the sump/well for the fountain on numerous occasions over the last month or so. Just this week the fountain has had to be cleaned as the fountain head had become blocked. Tom and Pat have cleaned the fountain. Tom removed a lot of sludge from the well and Pat cleaned the fountain and the plug, which was blocked with dog hairs and leaf debris.



Maintenance on the fountain



The Green Team summer lunch in the garden

August/September was busy in CG mainly with social events. Mid-August we celebrated Sylvia Torrance's 90th birthday. Sylvia has been gardening in CG for lots of years and still visits the garden regularly with her little dog, and often can't resist doing a bit of weeding en route. We also had a picnic in CG for the FOCG committee and the Green Team which everyone enjoyed being blessed with lovely weather. On 9th and 16th September Crescent Garden participated in the Heritage Open Days with Elaine and Irene conducting the first garden tours on Saturday 9th and Rita and Annie conducting the second tours on Saturday 16th September covering the history and horticultural side of the garden. At the end of September FOCG had a stand at the Michaelmas Fayre in Alverstoke Village which was a great success raising funds and also raising awareness of the Garden. We sold plants, seeds, preserves, lavender bags and

other textiles including head warmers and felt items. Thank you to everyone who donated items and/or helped out on the day. Other highlights were gaining another Green Flag and gold awards for Gosport in Bloom and South and Southeast in Bloom. We do not treat these awards lightly as the importance to us is that the judges recognise our efforts to garden sustainably using our own produced compost and our plants which encourage insects as pollinators and birds which feed on seeds and fruits. Also a very important aspect of CG is the contribution of our Friends and in particular the Green Team who put so much time and care into gardening. We are glad to say we have welcomed three new members of the Green Team this summer.

On the 7th September the head gardeners and Annie Sayle had our annual meeting with Dave Stubington, GBC's arborist to discuss the management of the trees in CG. The meeting resulted in a number of recommendations to manage the trees, for which planning applications are being raised by Mr Stubington. The major issue is the old tulip tree which has a few large dead branches on its east side with the recommendation to remove only the dead part of the branches, on safety grounds. Hopefully this will be done before the year end.

With storm Cirian raging Wednesday night and Thursday 1st/2nd November the inspection of the trees has shown little damage but many of the trees are in full leaf including the Ginkgo Biloba, and the New and Old Tulip trees so it is a worrying time. We have had so much rain and wind over the last month that we had to call off gardening two weeks in a row but thankfully managed to get in some gardening on the 1st November, clearing up a lot of leaves and starting to clear the railings bed in front of the fountain.

Irene Buggle and Ginny Whelen

Garden Volunteers

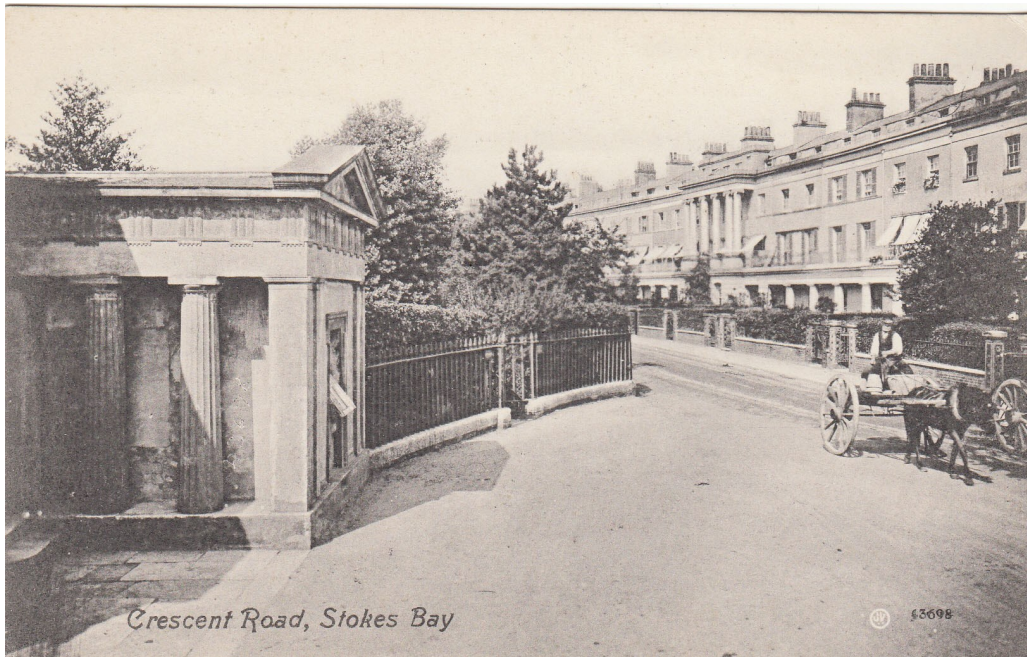
Autumn in Crescent Garden

Earth has not anything to show more fair:
Dull would those be in life who could pass by
A sight so welcome in its friendliness:
This garden now does, like a garment, wear
The beauty of the autumn; golden, rare,
Trees, flowers, shrubs, pathways, and fountain lie
Enchanting all our senses, and supply
A bright and glittering feeling in the air.

Never did sun more beautifully shine
In striking morning splendour through branches
Losing leaves of ruby red and carmine;
Children playing with the leaves in dances,
While gard'ners sweep up leaves for compost fine,
Which helps to make the garden great for us.

Rita Rundle - with apologies to Wordsworth

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!



It's always worth gazing again at this amazing Edwardian photo of the bath house and reading room in Crescent Road. It was a wonderful looking building which was intended to be at the centre of a full crescent (only ever half built). The Crescent was to be the highlight of Robert Cruickshank's grand plan for a small spa town called Angleseyville.

The water for the bath house was pumped up from the saltwater creek at the northern end of St Marks Road and heated in the basement I believe. There were ladies' and gentlemen's changing rooms at each end of the building - all very proper! The reading room in-between served refreshments including a warming hot chocolate.

The bath house and garden were maintained by Mr and Mrs Henry & Mary Cooper who lived in an apartment in the basement. All was well until Cruickshank hit hard times financially and his dreams of Angleseyville faded.

The bath house and reading room were eventually demolished in 1950 - what a loss!

Elaine Martin

Some glimpses of the garden...



Ginny Whelan & Elaine Martin receiving the gold award for small parks at the South & South East in Bloom competition



Our busy plant sale in May

The Mayor of Gosport, Martin Pepper, alongside our Chairman Elaine Martin. Martin kindly raised our 18th Green Flag on a beautiful autumn day in October. Well done to all of our volunteers and supporters!



All the fun of the Michaelmas Fair!



JOIN THE FRIENDS!

For all membership enquiries contact Guy Sitwell at gsitwell@btinternet.com
Any other enquiries contact Gina Rowe on 02392 358207