



FRIENDS OF CRESCENT GARDEN SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025

Message from the Chairman

Dear Friends, welcome to the 2025 Spring Newsletter.

What a wonderful spring we are having - the weather has been super, and the gardens are beginning to burst with colour. It's amazing how quickly we all forget what a wet and miserable winter we have had. Roll on Summer!

The AGM in February was very well attended and we were delighted to welcome our Gosport Mayor, Worshipful Cllr Richard Earle and his consort Debbie. The Head Gardeners' treated us to a very entertaining slide show, reminding us of an eventful year in Crescent Garden.

We are now looking forward to our plant sale on May the 17th and garden party on the 21st of June. Our fingers are crossed for the beautiful weather to last!

We have a lot to look forward this year - please come and support us.

Elaine Martin



Jane Austen 1775-1817

Whose brother Charles lived at the Crescent

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 17th May

Annual Plant Sale

Crescent Garden from 10am to 4pm

*Any donations of plants or cakes please
contact Irene Buggle on 07501147938*

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th June

Alverstoke Garden Walkabout

Saturday 21st June

Friends' Annual Garden Party

Crescent Garden from 6pm to 8pm

Booking form enclosed

12th to 21st September

Gosport Heritage Open Days

Two historical tours of the garden

Saturday 27th September

Michaelmas Fair

www.alverstokecrescentgardens.co.uk

Facebook: Gosport's Regency Garden

Head Gardeners' Report

Spring has truly sprung in Crescent Garden, following a wonderful display of snowdrops in January and February the sun and mild weather in March has brought out a stunning array of bulbs, tree blossom and other flowers. The excessive rain during 2024 must have agreed with the development of the primroses as we have had a magnificent display of the natural cream and the very pale pink primroses in many places in CG. The white periwinkle (*Vinca minor alba*) growing in the 'Jubilee garden' has flowered continuously from January/February and is still putting on a lovely show into April. Other daffodils like *Narcissus pseudonarcissus ssp Obvallaris*, the Tenby daffodil and *Narcissus pseudonarcissus Lobularis*, the Lent lily are popping up in various beds in the Garden now. The lovely pale *Tulipa cluisiana* peppermint sticks and the strident, red and yellow striped *Tulipa Keizerskroon* are also putting on a good show in the beds near the fountain.



The white periwinkle (*Vinca minor alba*) growing in the 'Jubilee garden'



The primroses have been particularly fine this year

In more hidden areas of the Garden, Epimediums and Snakes Head Fritillary (*Fritillaria meleagris*) are popping up in the more wooded areas of the garden. We have been treated to a very fragrant Winter/early Spring with the flowering of the *Daphne odoratis*, Winter flowering honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*), Wintersweet (*Chimonanthus praecox*) and *Edgeworthia chrysantha*. The bed to the east of the fountain has been dug over removing runners of some of the old roses and ground prepared for planting three heritage roses. In February we planted more snowdrops and winter aconites and in April we planted more bluebells in the green.

There is not a lot to report since the AGM. The daffodils and tulips have been looking pretty, but we don't seem to have quite the return on the number of bulbs planted that we would have wished. Some may take a year or two to establish.

Martina Geeson has succeeded in getting the planning applications for both the new shed and the kiosk to be accepted (not yet approved!) and we now have an application number.

We were fortunate to be gifted an unwanted *Mimosa* (*Acacia dealbata*), which is a perfect replacement for the lost Amelanchier and Laburnum trees which died in 2024. Thankfully it is described by the RHS list as honey fungus resilient. We are hopeful it will settle in well.

Caroline Smith came to the Garden on March 19th, possibly prompted by the Mayor who has been very supportive and proactive in getting things moving. We learnt about the reorganisation and new appointments, and hope that things will start settling down. She promised that the Tulip Tree would be dealt with imminently and that the new sign would be acted on as soon as we confirm what we want. Their typesetting department would set the work for the new sign for FOCG.

Irene Buggle and Ginny Whelen



Epimediums and Snakes Head Fritillary (*Fritillaria meleagris*) are popping up in the more wooded areas of the garden



The delicate rush daffodils, *Narcissus jonquilla* are looking beautiful in the west end Repton basket and in the bed around the *Ginkgo biloba*.

Garden Volunteers

In Praise of Crescent Garden

*Raindrops on crocus and sunbeams on snowdrops,
Bright copper beech leaves and growth which ne'er quite stops.
Silver white winters that melt into springs.
These are a few of my favourite things.*

*Cream-coloured flowers on the paper bark tree,
Winter-time honeysuckle, perfuming free
Brent geese that fly overhead on their wings.*

These are a few of my favourite things.

*When the wind blows
When the bee stings
When I'm feeling sad
I simply remember this garden so fair
And then I don't feel so bad*

Rita Rundle

Do come to the garden on any Wednesday morning and see what the volunteers are doing



A pair of Regency ladies
(Ginny and Gina)



Winter flooding in the garden



Regency Garden Party 21st of June

This year is the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth. Her youngest brother Captain Charles Austen (1779-1852) lived in the Crescent whilst he served in Portsmouth naval base. Sadly, Jane had passed away by then, but her beloved sister Cassandra often visited her brother. We like to think that she and Charles would have walked and enjoyed the garden, perhaps strolling along terrace walk looking out to sea and then partaking of a delicious hot chocolate in the reading room!

To celebrate our garden's link with the Austens, we are giving our Annual Garden Party a Regency theme. Please come and join us and dress up if you would like to, but don't feel that you have to, we just want you to come and have a lovely evening. This area has a wonderful history, and this would be a chance to remember the garden in grander days!

Some glimpses of the garden...

The friends' superb tree at the Alverstoke Christmas Festival



Tulips galore!



Windy day at the plant sale!



The Friends' Christmas party

Plant Sale

If you are free on Saturday the 17th of May, come to the Friends of Crescent Garden Plant Sale held in our historic garden at Crescent Road, Alverstoke from 10am to 4pm.

The garden will be looking beautiful and we will have lots of lovely plants for you to buy. Refreshments are available including teas and coffees and a range of delicious cakes.

Donations at the gate go to NGS Nursing charities.

JOIN THE FRIENDS!

For all membership enquiries contact Guy Sitwell at membership@alverstokecrescentgarden.co.uk
Any other enquiries contact Gina Rowe on 02392 358207