



FRIENDS OF CRESCENT GARDEN WINTER NEWSLETTER 2025

Message from the Chairman



Dear Friends, welcome to our 2025 Winter Newsletter. This is my final newsletter as I am standing down as Chairman at the AGM in February. It has been such an honour to serve as Chairman for this wonderful society and to make so many great friends during my tenure.

Another Summer has passed all too quickly. We've had a very successful year again, notably with our Plant Sale in May which was busier than ever. The Friends Annual Garden Party in June was blessed with good weather and much enjoyed by all. We have won yet another Green Flag (our 20th!) and also gold awards in the "Gosport in Bloom" and "South & South East in Bloom" competitions.

At last we have a new storage shed at the compost end of the garden, to keep the tents and tools close at hand. Furthermore the electrics have been updated for the fountain, sheds and power tools. Our beloved tulip tree has undergone some badly needed TLC and seems to have been given a new lease of life! The garden has never looked better, thanks to the care given by our wonderful Green Team.

Elaine Martin

*We wish you all a very happy Christmas
and a peaceful new year!*



Frosty November morning in the garden

Sadly, our basic admin costs have risen considerably such that we are having to increase the membership fee by a small amount. The fee has remained unchanged since 2016 and I know that you will all continue to support our beautiful Regency garden. More details to follow.



Dates for your Diary

Friday 5th to 7th December

Alverstoke Christmas Tree Festival
Details on the St Mary's Church website

Saturday 28th February 2 to 4pm

Alverstoke Crescent Garden AGM
Parish Centre. Teas served

Saturday 16th May 10am to 4pm

Annual Plant Sale
Details in Spring newsletter

Saturday 20th June

Friends' Garden Party
Details in Spring newsletter

www.alverstokecrescentgardens.co.uk

Facebook: Gosport's Regency Garden

Head Gardeners' Report



This quarter has been an eventful time in Crescent Garden. We are delighted to report on the installation of our wonderful big new shed on 3rd October after receiving planning approval in April (thank you Martina for filing the application). Our grant application to Gosport Borough Council was approved in September for the full amount of £4,000 for the shed and electrical works. Tom has done a wonderful job clearing and digging over the site and installing a base for the shed and we'd like to give a thank you to Steve B. for helping to clear the site of old rubble and pallets, and for multiple trips to the recycling centre. The electrician, Tony Boxall, will finish the electrical works later in the year.

The work on the new shed has put pressure on our compost production this year as many of the compost bins have had to be moved. We only have two compost bins at the west end and they have last year's compost in them, so the leaves from deciduous trees which have been collected over the last few weeks have been put in the compost bin in the brash end garden.

With the hot and dry early Summer giving way to a cooler and wetter late July and August many of the plants breathed a sigh of relief and were rejuvenated by the rain. The Stanwell perpetual roses in the railings bed continued to flower beautifully into the Autumn. What an understated rose!

On a sad note, our lovely winter-flowering Edgeworthia chrysantha (Paper bush) toppled over after the rain and winds in early autumn. Tom has secured it with several posts and straps but its root is partially rotted and it will be touch-and-go if it survives through the winter. It is such a lovely shrub with beautiful yellow flowers and a heady scent in late January through to March. It was donated to CG by Dorothy Holly about twelve years ago and was planted by Annie and Lesley when they were head gardeners.

Members of the Green Team have split the *Libertia grandiflora* and replanted a quarter of it back in the bed, whilst the remainder has been taken up to the allotment plot either for replanting in CG next year or for selling in the plant sale. We have received the orders of daffodils and tulips from the bulb suppliers and have started planting out. *Narcissus pseudonarcissus obvallaris* bulbs (the Tenby daffodil) have been planted in the bed in front of the old Tulip tree and around the *Libertia grandiflora*. Further daffodils will be planted in other beds and *Narcissus pseudonarcissus Lobularis* will be planted in the east end natural garden. Hollyhocks nurtured by Sharon in the allotment plot this year have been transplanted in a number of beds in the garden.



It has not been all work this quarter and on 13th August the FOCG Committee and Green Team enjoyed a delightful picnic in the garden. We had lovely sunny weather until 2 pm when the heavens opened and we had to pack up quickly and run for cover! However, rain did not stop us celebrating the raising of the Green Flag this year, won for the 20th time.



On September 13th and 20th the garden hosted two Heritage Open Days. We had an excellent number of people for each tour considering it was tipping down with rain on the 13th when Elaine and Irene guided the tour, with Gina Rowe and Ginny Day setting the scene mysteriously gliding around CG in beautiful period costumes on both occasions. On the 20th Elaine and Ginny Whelan provided the historical and botanical/horticultural parts of the tours, respectively. The midges were out in force on the second tour which was very unpleasant! However, the tours were a great success and as a result we gained a number of new FOCG members.

On Saturday 27th September the FOCG had a stall at the Michaelmas Fayre in Alverstoke village, with our committee and Green Team manning the stall. However, we had difficulty getting enough helpers to erect the tent as there seemed to be so many people on holiday, unwell or helping on other stalls. We needed six people to put up the tent so, after a call out to Crescent Owners Association, Sarah, Phil and daughter Roberta from No 14 came to our rescue and helped put up the tent – we really appreciated their help! This seems to be a situation we find often now, so we need to plan extra help to put up tents for forthcoming events in 2026. The pitch for our stall was better this year being on the sunny side of Green Road and we very visible, helped by a lovely display of flower arrangements which we sold for the first time. Thank you Sharon Miles for growing Dahlias, Cosmos, Chrysanthemums and more in the CG allotment plot, and Sarah Buggle for creating the arrangements. The stall was also stocked with Ginny Day's knitted cardigans & hats and dyed silk scarfs, and we had a good supply of preserves, lavender bags, knitted and sewn items, veg, herbs and other plants. Martina's good idea to reduce the price of the Crescent Garden cards also meant we sold a lot more cards than usual.

We are still having difficulties establishing regular communication with GBC Street Scene with emails sent by Ginny regarding the new signage and erroneous information on the Green Flag website being ignored. The emptying of brash bags is also erratic and lawn mowing is being done infrequently and badly. The information on the Green Flag site has now been corrected but not before one of the Councillors, Kevin Casey, brought this up in a committee meeting on our behalf. We have still not had any communication regarding the new signage by the main entrance to CG.

Irene Buggle and Ginny Whelan



Garden Volunteers



Green-Eyed Flower Bee *Anthopora bimaculate*

*What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and
stare.*

*And wondrous things we often
see, In Crescent Garden walking
free.*

*A bee, you say, is nothing rare.
But have you looked at all that's
there?*

*Some green-eyed bees were seen
this year, on loosestrife they were
searching clear.*

*With eyes so green and bright
they gleam,
To find some nectar was their
scheme.*

*But we observe them happily,
While they're at work so busily.*

*They come from sandy homes, no
fuss, To spend the summer here
with us.*

*A poor life this if, full of care, We
have no time to stand and stare.*

Rita Rundle

This wonderful photo of a rare Green-eyed bee was taken in the garden back in the height of summer



VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME—COME TO THE GARDEN ON WEDNESDAY MORNINGS



VIEW of BUILDINGS Intended to be Erected at STOKES BAY, HANTS. in the situation Tinted Red, on the Accompanying PLAN.

This rare early 19th century lithograph depicts a proposed development at Stokes Bay. It is conjecture whether Robert Cruikshank had any involvement in this somewhat fanciful design!



Some glimpses of the garden...



Our wonderful new shed being placed into position



Our beloved tulip tree underwent successful remedial work during the summer – they did a great job!



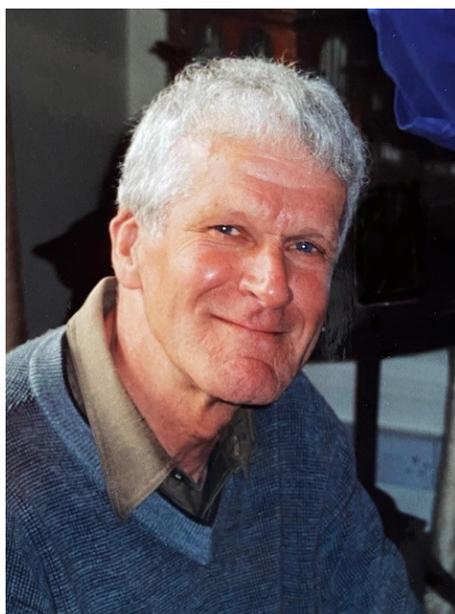
Ginny Whelan, Cynthia Barrett and Ginny Day manning the stall at the Michaelmas Fayre



Pat, Gina and Martina running the raffle at the garden party in June



Our dear friend Bill Rundle passed away in April. He was a loyal supporter of the garden for many years. Bill was much loved and will be sadly missed by us all.



Jill Streatfeild-James passed away in September. Jill and her husband Toby, who were founder members of Friends' of Crescent Garden, were ever-present at our events and will be fondly remembered by us all.



JOIN THE FRIENDS!

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