



FRIENDS OF GRAPPENHALL HEYS WALLED GARDEN

www.ghwalledgarden.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1141915

NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2011

Dear Friends

I am now in my second year as the Friends' Chairman and enjoying every minute of it! At the AGM in May we welcomed Kath Brown onto the Executive Committee as Secretary, taking over from Eileen Bennicke. Other new members are Helen Povey and Melissa Marshall, who have taken on the joint role of Historical Research Co-ordinators after Ruth Brown stepped down due to ill health. We also welcome back Ben Pickersgill as Publicity Officer/ Photographer. We thank Eileen and Ruth for all they have contributed to the success of the Friends and wish them well for the future. Many thanks also go to Rod Davies who has diligently audited the Friends' books for the past three years but has now stepped down. I would also like to thank all Friends and visitors to the garden for their continued support.

Brian Johnson

Glasshouses Regeneration Project – Update - At our last meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund representatives (HLF), we received feedback on our draft submission documents. We were advised that we have done insufficient work to justify the changes that we propose to make from how the glasshouses would have looked in their original form. In particular, we were advised that our application should include a document that they describe as a "Heritage Impact Assessment". A specification for this document has been drafted; we await advice from HLF on who may be qualified to produce it. The team is frustrated that we weren't made aware of this in time to meet our original target submission date. HLF also felt that the case for using aluminium rather than wood was not made. Further information, from the company who owns the designs of the original manufacturer, Messrs. Foster and Pearson, suggests that if the correct choices of timber and paint are made, then maintenance of a wood structure may be feasible. The additional work that needs to be done means that our submission will be postponed until the end of the year. Early December is now our target; this is within our deadline.

Geoff Weston, Project Manager

Treasurer's Report - Since the last Newsletter we have become a Registered Charity and I am now investigating the process for claiming Gift Aid on Members' subscriptions and reclaiming VAT on our purchases – both of these would increase our income.

We have virtually reached our target of £20000 for matched funding for the Glasshouse Regeneration. Once we reach this, there will still be a need to continue raising funds for the garden for equipment, etc.

The jars of copper/loose change that have been brought to the Garden have raised almost £50.

I would like to thank all the Friends and visitors who have been, and continue to be very generous.

Ian Fountain, Treasurer

Garden Wall - As many of you will know, a large section of the wall to the east of the gardens collapsed on to the public footpath sometime during the night of 17/18 April. This was probably due to a combination of old age and tree root damage. Following a survey of the rest of the wall, repairs are now underway and should take approximately a month to complete.

Graham Richardson, Garden Manager



A Spot Environmental Health Inspection was carried out in the kitchen by Warrington Borough Council and we have been awarded 4* out of 5*. Since this visit Martin Holden, a volunteer, has painted the ceiling and all woodwork. The inspector was very complimentary about the hygiene systems that are in place.

Friends of the Walled Garden membership stands at 207. If you are looking for a small token gift for someone we are offering a Gift Membership Certificate. Please contact Jane Coumbarides, Membership Secretary, for more information on janecoumbarides@hotmail.com

Food Hygiene Certificates – I am pleased to report that all eleven people who sat the test at the beginning March passed with flying colours. Well done.



Events – Successful events so far this year include Model Boats, Afternoon Tea, Cheese and Wine, Strawberry Cream Tea and Fun Day.

We have many family events coming up during the summer months - pond dipping, junior photo competition, kite making, veggie animals, afternoon tea and the ever popular Apple Day. For the grown ups, a quiz with hot pot supper on 30th September. See events list for more.

If you are interested in helping at any of these events or have suggestions for next year, please don't be shy. Contact me on kathheywood@hotmail.com

Kath Heywood, Events Co-ordinator

Afternoon Tea tickets are now available at the garden or see details at end of Newsletter. The event was so popular in May that we expect another sell out. Date – **SATURDAY, 6th AUGUST** 1pm-3.30pm. Cost £5 includes, sandwiches, cake, ice cream and more!!!

A Hog Roast has been arranged for Saturday, 20th August 6pm-9pm. Cost £8 and includes a glass of wine/lager/beer/soft drink and live music will be played at intervals during the evening. There will also be a small bar if extra drinks are required. This will be a ticket only event on a first come, first served basis. Bring your own chair/rug. For tickets see information at end of Newsletter.

An Historical Research event will take place on Sunday, 17th July when we will be encouraging as many visitors and Friends to complete a questionnaire to elicit their possible connections with family or staff of the house or Walled Garden, and any written records or photos they may be happy to share. We can also contact at more length later anyone with a wealth of knowledge.

Helen Povey, Historical Research

Volunteer gardeners have been working hard over the last few weeks. There has been much planting out of vegetable plants and seed sowing in the vegetable garden.

Harvesting has started with the first new potatoes, beetroot and broad beans.

Soft fruit has been picked and jams and jellies have been made by Lyn Jennings and are for sale on the produce cart along with seasonal vegetables grown in the garden.



We now have a small apiary (bee hive) at the garden and the bees are working well. Help is needed to clear weeds in the ponds and a general tidy up in that area.

Bob Jennings, Volunteer Gardener

A Flickr group for Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden has been set up. Anyone can join and add their GHWG photo's to the group.

To log onto flickr...

Using the search engine on your home page type in flickr

Open the flickr page and type in Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden

This should bring up any flickr members photos of the garden.

To join the Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden Group you will need to join flickr.

Ben Pickersgill, Publicity Officer

Are you up for a challenge? An organised, sponsored walk across Morecambe Bay has been suggested and Nina Kingston is happy to organise this if sufficient interest is shown. This will take place next year and would be led by a qualified person. More information in a later Newsletter or contact Nina ninakingston@gmail.com

TICKET INFORMATION

AFTERNOON TEA - £5 per person

HOG ROAST £8 per person – children half price

Tickets for both events available from

ELIZABETH FOUNTAIN

45 PORTOLA CLOSE, GRAPPENHALL,

WARRINGTON WA4 2SW

Tel: 01925-604990

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