



Welcome to the first "Friends of Jubilee Gardens Newsletter" of the year. Those of you who were able to attend the AGM last month will know that there have been a few changes in the committee with some members coming to the end of their tenures and the former chairperson was last seen disappearing to South America. Others have agreed to stay on for another year but what is apparent is that we need more people to get involved and help with all aspects of running this valuable amenity. So if you think you can help please get in touch.

As far as this issue of this newsletter is concerned there are contributions from members and from the gardeners who are involved in maintaining, renewing and developing the gardens so that we can all continue to enjoy them. There is also some information regarding events that we will be holding or involved in.

I hope you find the newsletter of interest and if any of you would like to make contribution to future newsletters please feel free to do so.

**John Crawford      Chairman, Friends of Jubilee Gardens**

### **SUMMER GARDEN PARTY**

Come and join us for a strawberry-themed garden party at Jane and Laurie Blanchard's house on **SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2.30 -5.00pm**. Their home is 7a Barton Road Ely which is next door to the [Nyton Hotel](#). There is plenty of off road parking and Barton Road carpark is only a short walk away. There is a sheltered court-yard garden and on the other side of the house, a lawned area with flower borders overlooking the golf course. Should it rain there is plenty of room inside. It is hoped to have a book and plant stall. Tickets are £5.00 each for tea, coffee, cold drinks and a variety of cakes. It will be a great way to spend a sunny afternoon in lovely surroundings with good friends. Tickets are available from Jane at 7a Barton Road Ely, or by the return envelope if you prefer, giving your name and quantity required, together with a cheque.



### **PLANT STALL, 2nd JUNE 2018.**

This year we are having a stall selling plants at the Etheldreda Fair, Palace Green, on Saturday 2nd June. Do come along to support us and buy some beautiful plants!

Some of you may have noticed the sad dilapidated state of the Information Boards in the Jubilee Gardens. Plans are underway to replace both the Winter Garden and Dry Garden Boards and now that planting in the Queen's Wood is nearly complete a Board is required there. This means that three new Boards are required and will be a major expense for the Friends, hopefully a contribution will come from the Council. Some of the frames will be made by The Forge based in Cottenham.



Patricia Simmonds

### **Summer visit**

This year we have arranged an exciting, and informative visit to the largest container grown nursery in Europe. Barcham Specialist Tree Nursery is just along the A142 and accessible to many.

The nursery has kindly supplied Jubilee Gardens for years, and yet we know very little about them. They have agreed to give us a tour of the nursery, and to inform us of their ambitious development plan for the next few years. Anyone interested is welcome. There will be a buffet served after.

We will be arriving from 5.30pm on Thursday 26th July to tea and biscuits. The tour will begin at 6.30pm. The cost will be £8.00 pp to include the buffet and a small donation to Barcham Trees charity of choice [currently EACH].

If you wish to join us could you please send contact details, SAE and cash or cheque [made payable to "Friends of Jubilee Gardens Ely"] by Saturday 9th June to:

Judith Lockyear - 2 Charles Graven Court, Ely, CB7 4FN

### **Working Parties**

As all gardeners will know, this has been an exceptionally difficult year with cold temperatures and far too much rain.

However the working party soldiers on and has done masses of weeding and pruning. We are a small but expanding group now that we have changed our regular day from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. We meet in the gardens at 9.30am for about 2-3 hours and would love to see new members join us. It's surprising how enjoyable gardening becomes when you are part of a friendly group and the skilful District Council gardening team is there to help!

Sheila Friend Smith

### **QUEENS WOOD**

If you have walked through the Gardens this Spring you will have noticed how well it is coming on with the young trees coming into leaf and blossom. The understory has been very pretty with bulbs and hellebores and now the cowslips are in full bloom. All these things should continue to multiply and give us an even greater display as the years pass. Our next move is to provide a really first-class noticeboard so that visitors can identify some of the more unusual trees planted there. Our loyal friends at ECDC are busy working on this and are getting the main design, artwork and printing completed before sourcing the lectern from a company who specialise in good quality lasting equipment. Several of the trees in the Queens Wood feature in the City Tree Trail so we look forward to having this new sign in place as soon as possible. Our thanks go to Spencer Clark and his team from ECDC Parks and Open Spaces, for their support and enthusiasm for this project.