



Welcome to the “Friends of Jubilee Gardens Newsletter” autumn edition.

At the time of the last newsletter we were anticipating the upcoming summer events that the Friends would be participating in, and those events which would be taking place in the gardens. You will find some news regarding these and also some information about future events in this newsletter.

It has been a glorious summer but the gardens did suffer somewhat in the relative drought. Fortunately the grass is now recovering well and the gardens are currently looking very neat and tidy thanks to the council gardeners and the Friends’ “working parties”. More on these later.

John Crawford, Chairperson, Friends of Jubilee Gardens.

Fund Raising Events

Etheldreda Fair was held on the 2nd June on Palace Green. The Friends’ stall was extremely well stocked with a good variety of plants. There was a lot interest from people attending the fair and we sold a large number of plants. We were also able to recruit quite a number of new members. The event, the venue and the weather proved ideal. The stall was manned throughout the day, in shifts, by members of the committee together with family and friends. As well as being worthwhile in terms of raising money, it was fun.

The Summer Garden Party was hosted on 14th July by Jane Blanchard at her lovely home



overlooking a very parched golf course. It was a good chance to catch up with friends and was well attended. We also managed to sell some of the unsold plants from Etheldreda Fair. The remainder have been planted in Jubilee Gardens. Many thanks to Jane for hosting.



Other Events in the Gardens

This year the gardens played host to the Eel, Festival in May, Aquafest in July, The Monster Racing Ely Triathlon (see picture above) in August and the first Pride event to be held in Ely also in August.



Summer Visit to Barcham Trees

On 26th July a group of Friends visited **Barcham Trees** situated between Ely and Soham. Barcham trees is one of the largest tree nurseries in Europe. The visit took place on a Beautiful summer evening and all who attended found it fascinating. The

tour concluded with a buffet in the visitor centre. The trip was arranged by Judith Lockyear and thanks is due to Judith for setting this up.

Working Parties

Over the last year the working parties have been held on the second Thursday of each month at 9.30 am. These serve as an opportunity for members and their friends to actually do some gardening in the gardens and give some much needed support to Allister and Matt, the council gardeners. Committee member Patricia Simmonds writes:

Now that the working parties in the Jubilee Gardens are gaining momentum again they are becoming quite a social event what could be better than

combining a spot of gardening with jolly company from all walks of life, age is no deterrent. Recently some young students have joined and one lovely lady in her eighties has only just hung up her gardening gloves!

If you can squeeze an hour or two on the second Thursday morning of each month (from

9.30am onwards) do consider popping along to join in the fun. The last session for this year will be on November 8th, resuming on March 14th of next year.

STOP PRESS An extra session has been arranged, mainly for bulb planting, on Saturday 13th October from 10am onwards, with refreshments in the Maltings for those that can stay on a while.



Some Other News:

Green Flag Award: In June, Jubilee gardens was inspected for the **Green Flag Award 2018-19**. In the week prior to the inspection we had something of a “blitz” of tidying and weeding in the gardens which seemed to pay off and the “Green Flag” was duly awarded and flies over the gardens.



Signage: As noted in the last newsletter the signs in the gardens became very dilapidated and the committee resolved to replace these with new robust and informative signs. The first of these is in place by the Queen's Wood and looks very good indeed. Thanks are due to Allister Braybrooke and Spencer Clark from ECDC.

Friends of Jubilee Gardens Website: Earlier this year we were able to launch a new website www.jubileegardensely.org.uk . Note that this is a different address than the previous website (no hyphen!). The website aims to keep up with news as it happens. Also contact can be made with the Friends via the website and membership application forms can be downloaded.

The website was set up by Mr Mike Searl to whom we are very grateful for his knowledge and expertise..

Any members who would like to make suggestions, comment on the website or submit content please contact via site or direct with a committee member.

Friends of Jubilee Gardens Committee: Since the last newsletter there have been a number of changes to the committee. Ann Laird who was membership secretary has now stepped down and her role has been taken by Judith Lockyear. We also welcomed two new “ordinary members” Rachel Ingham and Niall O’Brian.

Jane Blanchard who is currently Secretary to the Committee is standing down from this role at the next AGM having served her time and, in fact, staying on an extra year as secretary. We will then need to agree a replacement. Any volunteers?

Annual General Meeting: The next AGM will take place on Tuesday 19th March 2019 at 7.00pm. Members will be reminded nearer the time by email. Any members wishing to submit items for discussion please get in touch with Jane Blanchard.