



Welcome to the Autumn News Letter

Now that we are well into autumn it is perhaps time to look back a little on the year in Jubilee Gardens. Currently there is abundant autumn colour with plenty of yellow, gold and brown on the trees looking particularly lovely in autumn sunshine. In the summer, the Queen's Wood in particular gave us a spectacular display of bluebells and then foxgloves. More recently the autumn flowering cyclamen planted a year ago in September have given us a late splash of colour.



Green Flag Award

Once again the gardens were awarded the Green Flag, apparently for the 13th successive year. This year there was a little ceremony for the raising of the flag which didn't happen last year. Well done and thank you to all who contributed to this achievement. To find out more about Green Flag Awards visit

www.greenflagaward.org.uk

Events

In 2018 the **Etheldreda Fair** in June proved to be a very good event for us to have a stall and publicise the aims of the Friends of Jubilee Gardens, to recruit new members and to make a little money by selling plants. Unfortunately this year we had a problem obtaining suitable plants from the wholesaler and the plants were far too immature to sell. Fortunately we were able to grow and replant most of them and were able to recoup losses made on the day. We will be looking at alternative sourcing for 2020.

Band Concerts: These very popular events take place on Sundays from May to August. Bands from nearby and some not so nearby towns come and entertain visitors to the gardens and riverside.

The Eel Festival and **Aquafest** annual events for which the gardens act as a venue. This year the weather for the Eel Festival was very cold and showery (in contrast to last year's beautiful weather) nevertheless attendance appeared to be very good although down on 2018.

Triathlon: In recent years the Monster Racing Ely Triathlon has been based in the Gardens. This year there was no event which is a pity as it was very well organised and attracted many competitors and spectators. It is possible the river water quality was an issue as there were problems with this last year.

Working Parties: Working parties continued throughout the spring and summer on the second Thursday of the month. These were reasonably well attended by the usual "hard core" of gardeners. We also organised one or two Saturday working parties to accommodate those unable to make it midweek. One such occurred in June when we planted bedding plants in the pear tree tubs. On this occasion the gardeners braved relentless heavy rain but did have some fun. If any members feel that they would like to come and do some gardening but find Thursdays inconvenient please feel free to get in touch with preferences or maybe raise the issue at the AGM.



The working parties have been instrumental in keeping the gardens tidy and attractive although we know there is always more which could be done. It is probably the case that there has been less input by the East Cambs gardeners this year. There have been vacancies and personnel changes and this together with scarce resources has meant that some of the things we hoped would be done have not yet happened eg the

refurbishment of the Dry Garden which some members spent much time and energy clearing the weeds. Fortunately we now have a new head gardener who hopefully will inject a bit of momentum.



Summer Outing: This year members of the Friends of Jubilee Gardens visited the Cambridge University Botanic Gardens. Around twenty five members were split into small groups and were treated to a guided tour by some of the volunteers who work in the gardens. It was a beautiful sunny summer evening and we learned a lot. It was also a reminder to me at least that we have this beautiful

place on our doorstep and should visit more often! Many thanks are due to Judith Lockyear for organising the event and the coach.

Summer Tea Party This year Sheila Friend-Smith kindly hosted this event at her beautiful home in Ely. Attendance was good and the event was enjoyed by all who went along to this popular social event.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Get-Together: On Wednesday 11th December we would like to welcome all members of Friends of Jubilee Gardens to a cheese and wine evening at the Babylon Gallery in Waterside from 7.30 to 9.00pm. This is simply a social event and there will be no charge. However we would ask all members wishing to attend to let me know if they will be attending so that we can provide appropriate goodies. You can email me at johncrawford1952@btinternet.com .

Annual General Meeting: This will be in March 2020. I will email members nearer the time. The venue is likely to be the council offices at the Grange.

A Few More Pics From 2019



Foxgloves in Queen's Wood



Band, 28th June



Working Party, June 2019



Working Party, June 2019

Lastly, I hope to see many of you at the Babylon Gallery on 11th December if not then may I wish all Friends of Jubilee Gardens a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year

John Crawford

Chairperson, Friends of Jubilee Gardens