

## “Off the wall”

February 2016

### Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of “Off the Wall” which is a newsletter from the Bohemia Walled Garden for members and supporters to keep updated. We welcome any feedback good or bad on the content to help us improve future editions. Please email us at [bohemiawga@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bohemiawga@yahoo.co.uk) or via “Contact us” on our web site <http://bohemiawga.weebly.com>

### Review of events for 2015

The public events began in March with the colourful Tibetan celebration and performances by the Pestalozzi students.

A Basketry workshop was held by Julie Gurr.

The Easter event involved chocolate eggs, story and a woodland adventure.

The June Garden party was a glorious day with a huge raffle, music and weaving activity. There was a marvellous turn out of 300 plus people and raised almost £900.



The Heritage open day was very wet but choirs sang,

children danced and there was a talk about Linseed and its benefits. Also adorable chicks and ducklings were on show and children made mini gardens in trays.

Pumpkin Day was a success especially as we grew a pumpkin bounty. The dads seemed to enjoy the carving as much as the children!



All these events included 'Tea and lovely home made cakes' served by Lesley and crew.

Bush craft sessions where children learnt fire lighting, tool use, built shelters, identified

bugs and had hot sticky marshmallows! Darren proved a great fire keeper!

August sun shone at the Family Fun event where members from The Pocket Park and Treasure Tots helped with fun activities.

Families from Mallydams RSPCA 'Wild Things' project and Fellowship of St Nicolas visited the garden.

One afternoon 100 children from St Paul's school came to listen to stories and do activities in the wood.

The year concluded with a December celebration for members with mulled wine and a lovely warm brazier fire.

Events for 2015 totalled 13 with a footfall of 1000 people and money raised £1845 before expenses

The garden had a visit from Radio 4 'Garden's Question Time' team and we were on the radio!

### Provisional events in 2016

We are again planning the following activities which we will be needing your support:

Annual General Meeting:	12th Mar 10am-12pm, Park Road Methodist Church Hall, Bohemia Rd.
Easter Event:	3rd April 16
Summer Garden Party:	12th June 16
Heritage Open Day:	10 or 11th September 16
Pumpkin Day:	9th or 16th October 16

## Heritage Lottery Fund Application

The BWGA are re-applying for funding from the Heritage Lottery fund with aim of completing the following objectives:

- 1.Rebuilding of the fallen East Wall.
- 2.Accessibility - Paths through the wood to the garden entrance.
- 3.Interpretation - Interpretation boards to explain the history of the garden and area, natural heritage information, with a map and notices of upcoming events.
- 4.Heritage Learning Activities in the form of Horticulture workshops, Natural heritage, History Booklet.
- 5.Workshops and talks on Traditional skills ( e.g. spinning and weaving), Heritage Apples, Horticultural methods past and present, History of the garden and estate, Natural heritage talks and activities.



A tremendous amount of time and effort has been put in by Christine and Mary for which the BWGA is most grateful. The application was submitted in January and we will know either way in April/May. Fingers crossed this time we are successful.

## Charity Status Application

The BWGA is applying to become a registered charity for a variety legal and financial reasons. For many months, Mary has been working tirelessly on the application with the Charity Commission. Susan and Mary are working on this.



## Plots

All plots have been in use throughout the year and any vacant plots have been swiftly taken up by the next person on the waiting list.

St Mary Star of Sea school continues to cultivate on their plot. HEDGE (the home education group) now also have a plot. Treasure Tots continue to visit the garden and use the 'mud area' for play as do older children !

Unfortunately the bees and bee hives have been removed by the last owners. This was decided the best option due to safety reasons.

Recently a plot has been allocated to 22 St Peters for the residents to learn more about growing.

A special school for young people with emotional behaviour difficulties are also requesting a plot.

***The garden is waking up, the soil is still wet but those weeds are starting to grow! Hope you will soon come to plan, plant and let things grow!***

## Annual General Meeting

Saturday 12th March 1000-1200, Park Road Methodist Church Hall, Bohemia Rd. TN37 6RA

The Bohemia Walled Garden Association invites all members and supporters to attend the AGM.

1000-1100	Formal AGM
1100-1200	Refreshments with a social to discuss ideas about the future development of the garden and a 'Garden memory picture game'

We really want you all to be involved in all our future ventures. We thank you all for helping us to keep the garden open and a really special place for us all. More details to follow.