

“Off the wall”

June 2016

Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of “Off the Wall” which is a newsletter from the Bohemia Walled Garden for members and supporters to keep updated. We have now refreshed our web site and changed our email address and web site.

Email: info@bohemiawga.org.uk Web: www.bohemiawga.org.uk



Heritage Lottery Fund Application

The Bohemia Walled Garden Association has been awarded £97,000 to restore and develop our valuable Victorian garden situated in Summerfields Wood, off Bohemia Road in Hastings.

We have raised £4000 at past events and with donations during the last four years that will be part of the funding for the project. We are thankful to all who have helped in many ways to support us in this venture. We are grateful for the support of Hastings Borough Council and to Guy Loder when he was the Ranger for Summerfields Wood. There were articles in the Hastings Independent and Hastings Observer.



This award will enable the BWGA to repair the fallen eastern wall and build a path for improved access to the garden. Also there is the installation of two interpretation boards at the main entrances to the woods. The building work will be done May/June 2017.

The project will include 'Natural Heritage' activities for families and children. A booklet will be published on the history of the garden and a horticulture course will be arranged in 2017.

Events for 2016

We will be asking for help with many of the project tasks during the this year and next. The garden is completely run by volunteers and this is acknowledged in the funding application.

The Summer Garden Party	Sunday 3rd July 10am - 4pm	Plant sale, refreshments, art activities, raffle and music.
Natural Heritage workshops for families and children. Talks, walks, art and games	Friday 29th July 10am -1pm	Flowers and Woodland Animals
	Thursday 11th August 10am - 1pm	Birds and Moths
Heritage Open Day	Sunday 11th September 10 - 4pm	Victorian games from 'Hahahopscotch' (see page 2). Talks about kitchen gardens and Victorian garden songs.
Pumpkins and Heritage Apples	Sunday 23rd October 10 - 4pm	Pumpkin carving. Talks on heritage and Sussex apples, apple cooking and juicing.

If you have skills to help with any of the above please contact us via info@bohemiawga.org.uk

Charity Status Application



The BWGA has been successful in the application to become a registered charity. This is down to the tireless work by Mary and Susan. The charity number is 1167167.

Communal Borders

The communal borders have benefited from some kind donations. A member gave the us a palm and a strawberry tree, which have been planted in the top left-hand corner of the garden. Further along the top border, we now have 2 peach trees which will be trained along the wall in the traditional Victorian style. These were donated by Keepers Nursery, Maidstone along with a morello cherry tree and several blackcurrant bushes; the blackcurrant bushes were distributed by Chris to our new plot-holders as a welcome gift.

Still at the top border, we have last year's young echiums reaching their full height and coming into flower. They provide a magnificent spectacle that is appreciated by members, visitors and the local bee population. The giant sunflowers are growing steadily and will make their show later in the summer. Our olive and fig trees benefit from the shelter of the walled garden and are beginning to look very statuesque. Closer to the ground, we have the alpine strawberries, London Pride and a mass of orange nasturtiums.

In general, the communal areas continue to grow and thrive, responding to the favourable conditions and good soil in the garden. Many of the plots are also looking luxuriant, repaying the effort and care that goes into tending the plants. The addition of compost, horse manure and leaf mould has helped to produce healthy plants on individual plots and also in the borders. This makes the soil is more fertile and also more water-retentive. Keep an eye on the pumpkin patch and watch the small young plants develop into giant pumpkins, ready for our October harvest festival.

Thanks to our friends at the Pocket Park we have secured some extra water containers at no cost.



HahaHopscotch



At this year's Heritage Open Day in September, we are delighted to be joined by Hahahopscotch. This was begun by landscape historian Linden Groves to search out the best of **children's play from the past** and bring it to life for our 21st century urchins. It's about sack races, marbles, conkers, chalk dust, having a go and big big grins! Hahahopscotch will be bringing their Traditional Garden Games to add to the fun - egg & spoon, tug of war, sack races, hoop rolling ... all the favourites!

Hahahopscotch run boutique play times at parties, cafes, museums, parks, festivals, gardens and weddings. See their web site for more details www.hahahopscotch.co.uk

Summer Garden Party

The Walled Garden Summer Garden Party is on Sunday 3rd July between 10am – 4pm.

There will be live acoustic acts, plants sale, children's events including the Smoothie Bike – pedal your way to a drink – plus a raffle for the grown-ups and another for the children.

We've already received some great prizes from local businesses. There will be homemade cakes and refreshments on sale.

Last year we raised nearly £900 for the BWGA – let's see if we can beat it this time!