

"Off the wall"

No. 4 May 2017

Welcome

Welcome to the first 2017 edition of "Off the Wall" which is a newsletter from the Bohemia Walled Garden for members and supporters to keep them updated.

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Update



Horticulture Workshops

In March we held a series of Horticulture Workshops funded by the HLF on subjects including What to grow, when and how, Soil and propagation, Bugs, Rotation of crops, diseases and control, Companion planting, Wildlife gardening and flower growing. Evaluation and Feedback packs have been sent out to those that attended. If you have not completed and returned yours, then please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.



Project Update

Unfortunately the wall and path will not be rebuilt this year. It has been postponed to Summer 2018. The Heritage Lottery Fund has agreed an extension to April 2019. Over the last few months Mary has been working closely with Hastings Borough Council, the Structural engineer they appointed and our builder to assess the structure of the wall for the joining of the new build to the existing wall. Two exploration holes were dug to look at the structure of the existing wall and the foundations. The foundations have been found to be sound but extra work needs to be carried out to ensure the build will be secure for the future.

We are currently planning way markers that will also be installed, designed and made by a local artist that will help people find the garden easier.

Sculpture

Recent visitors to the garden will have noticed a new sculpture that has been kindly donated to the garden by one of our members. It is by Carol Peace who specialises in human form and expressive movement.



Easter Event - 12 April

The adventure for children and families was very well attended. There were 100+ children and their adults that came. They looked for the Wisdom Egg in Summerfields Wood. They met Woodland musicians and a Forest Dragon helped them cross the 'swamp'. Beautifully dressed Forest ladies made potions and a rather friendly Monster hid under the bridge. They had to 'hiss' him away and scare him with their sock puppets. The lovely Wisdom Egg was found in the garden and treats were received.

We collected £ 321.66 (less some expenses) for the ongoing running of the garden.

Mary dreamt up the adventure and other BWGA members supported the event.

There are more photos on our web site under the "Event Photos" page.



Security at the garden

Unfortunately we must report that the tool shed was broken into in April. We had to pay for the shed door frame to be repaired but fortunately no items of significant value were taken.

We would like to remind plot holder to always well scramble the locks (i.e. **not** just the odd digit) and always put tools away in the members toolbox or concrete shed.

If you ever arrive at the garden and find such an incident or damage please email us via info@bohemiawga.org.uk

Annual General Meeting - 22nd April

Thank you to all of the members and supporters who attended this and heard about the achievements and finances of the Association in 2016. The minutes of the meeting are now available on the web site under the "Reference Documents" page.

Summer Garden Party - 21st May 10am - 3pm

This years event is part of the Hastings Chelsea Fringe event that is an alternative garden festival. We have talks on Permaculture from 10.30am - 11.30am and medicinal herbs from 11.30am - 12.30pm.

There will also be a raffle, plant and book sale and a children's nature activity making mini gardens in trays. Music this year will be by the Sea Tones choir and other musicians from 1-2.30pm.

Refreshments will be available all day.



Plots

The plots are all growing well and we've had a very good response from our recent plot inspection. Recently we welcomed Clea, Wayne, Anna, Chris and Jessica with Christchurch School to the garden, who are all ready to plant. Can we kindly ask those with a dog to be particularly careful with them at this time of year and make sure they don't run and dig on newly seeded beds? Thank you.

We have ordered, and will soon be 'planting' new plot markers so it will be easier to see where the plots begin and end.

Replacement Shed - Update

We lost our wooden shed last year due to a deliberate fire. The Trustees agreed at the last committee meeting to replace with wooden shed and not metal as its primary purpose is for member welfare. One of our members installed a wide shelf in the concrete shed which has increased its storage capacity. An initial quotation is that the wooden shed will cost £600. We are to write to local charities and groups to assist with funding the purchase.

Friends of Summerfields Wood - Task Days

Our neighbours in Summerfields Wood hold task days and are always looking for volunteers to help. The next two task days are Saturday 20th May and Sunday 16th July. They always meeting outside the Summerfields Sports Centre, Bohemia Road Hastings at 10am. You will need to bring gardening gloves (or similar), work clothes and sturdy shoes. All tools and refreshments are supplied. The task days last until 1pm.

Future Events

Heritage Open Day - Sunday 10th September

Pumpkin Day - Sunday 22nd October