

## "Off the wall"

No. 5 December 2017

### Welcome

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



### Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Update

#### Fallen wall rebuild and new path update

The fallen wall and improved access path will both be built in 2018. Due to concerns regarding the structure of the south wall, the east wall build was postponed. Investigations meant that additional work was required and some extra funding was needed. We are pleased that Hastings Borough Council have agreed to grant this. We are grateful for the continued support of our local builder who has stuck with us for many years in what has not been a straightforward project.

#### Improved signage and interpretation board

In November, a new notice board was installed a short distance from the main door to be used for the past, present and future activities of the garden. Way markers and improved direction markers have also been installed to navigate you through the woods and surrounding area to the garden. Thanks to Kristina Alexander for the board design and Nick Meech for the Way Markers. Nick has also done wood work sessions as part of the HLF project. A very big "Thank You" to HBC Ranger Nick Hennessy for all his support.

### Plots

Thank you to all those dog owners who have kept their dogs on leads when in the garden. As we approach the end of the year we will be sending out the details of the renewal process soon and are amending the plot holder terms of use slightly.

The new plot markers have started to be rolled out on some plots zones.

Next year will be the build of the fallen wall and some areas of the garden will be fenced off. At times we may need to close the garden to allow for delivery of materials and construction work, but will endeavour to email you in advance. This is being done for your safety.

We welcomed Charlotte, Ian, Laurie, Madelaine, Lucy, Karen and Harriet as new plot holders.

### Replacement Shed - Update

We were successful in applications to the Magdalen & Lasher Charity and the Hastings & St Leonards Muffin Club for funding to assist with the purchase of this item. The trustees decided to delay the purchase and installation of the shed until the wall was rebuilt as once this is completed, the garden (and the shed) will be much more secure.

### Members events in 2017

In June two of our members, Justine and Amy K arranged our first ever midsummer social event in the garden on 24 June. Over 50 people attended the event and it was a huge success. In October there was a gathering for plot holders and volunteers with a shared lunch. The committee are grateful for the hard work and planning for these events.



## Events for the Public

### Summer Open Day—21st May 2017

The Open Garden event was linked with the Hastings Chelsea Fringe event. It was a sunny and successful day. We counted in excess of 200 visitors. The talks were very well attended and appreciated.

Thanks go to Anna Locke (Permaculture) and Ben Fairlight-Edwards (medicinal use of herbs). There was music in the afternoon by the local choir Sea Tones and other musicians.



### Heritage Open Day-10th September 2017

The talks by Crystal Ray on moths and Dr Owen Johnson on trees were well attended and very well received. The songs from the Harmony one choir, the Wobblies and the Accapella Bellas filled the garden with joyful music in the afternoon.

There were about 158 visitors - many of whom were first timers who loved the garden and the tasty cakes.

### Pumpkin Day-22nd October 2017

What a hectic and successful day with an attendance of 342 (158 children!). Fortunately the weather was fine and had the event been a day earlier we would have been affected by Storm Brian.

Forty pumpkins were grown at the garden for carving, but we had to buy extra 50 pumpkins (29 on the Sunday) to make a total of ninety that were carved out! The soup was very tasty but we are very sorry some people missed out.



It is estimated Lesley, Darren, Mary, Daniela and Laurie made 24 litres of soup.

Nick Meech ran a wood work session with children which was very popular. Many children enjoyed making mallets. This session was funded as part of the Signage project under Heritage Lottery Application. Ben Fairlight-Edwards displayed his words in wood work.

We were pleased to welcome the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Hastings.

### **Look at the colours in the borders**

The garden continued to look colourful throughout autumn. The top border has so much interest through the summer with the sunflowers and echiums. Then it is the turn of the sedum, salvia and giant leaves of the canna and fig plants. The grasses added height, grace and movement to the display. In addition we had the nasturtiums, bridging the seasons with their cheerful orange flowers and extravagant growth.



### **Seasons Greetings and Thank You**

The committee of the Bohemia Walled Garden wish all our members and supporters a very happy Christmas and a prosperous 2018. Thank you for supporting our events in 2017. Event income before expenses taken out was £1868 and number of people attending exceeded 1,000.

We would also like to acknowledge the work done in 2017 by many members of the BWGA and especially to the trustees & committee for their work during the year. Current Trustees and committee in Dec 2017 (Mary, Susan, Christine, Nigel, Darren and Dot)

