



FRIENDS OF OLD DURHAM GARDENS

Registered Charity No. 1164516

NEWS ... February 2017

Issue 10

Open Days 2017

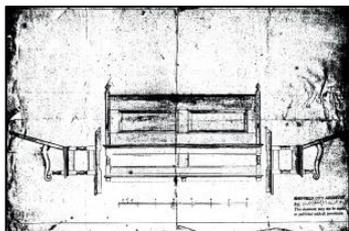
April-September - Sunday & Thursdays, 2.00-4.00 pm
beginning Sunday 26th March

Dear Friends and Supporters

A new year has arrived and there is much to report: the composting toilet, electricity and water are now fully installed and there are two new seats and a path along the north wall. This year we will be concentrating on planting. Thank you for your continued support.

Newton Hall Seats and Path

In addition to public funding ODG received a generous private donation for two seats for the north wall of the walled garden. The discovery in Sheffield of a 1723 drawing of a seat intended for Newton Hall provided the ideal design. Had it been made, it might well have been admired by John Tempest on one of his visits there. It was decided - there should be Newton Hall seats in Old Durham Gardens.



The seats were made by Rupert McBain of Winston, a contemporary furniture designer and conservator of historic furnishings and furniture. Made of oak, as was fashionable in the 18th century, the seats have been painted to match the woodwork of the Gazebo. They are very imposing and a great asset to the gardens.

In addition to the seats a donation received for a path to be laid wall-to-wall in the front of the seats and around the Gazebo has greatly enhanced the north wall of the gardens.



☆☆☆ A date for your diary ☆☆☆

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 23 March 2017, 6.30 – 8.30pm
County Hall Committee Room 1B

Join us, to hear about how the gardens are developing and to chat informally with the trustees after the short meeting

Walled Garden – fruit

27 fruit trees have been planted around the walled garden and are being trained into espaliers and fans:

- North wall - gage, plum, peach and apricot
- South wall - cherries
- East wall - pears
- West Wall - apples

Walled Garden Parterre

We have widened the channels ready for planting once we receive funding. We plan to plant standard holly in the corner of each of the squares together with other evergreens and varieties of period perennials.



Terrace Border – Lower Garden

Flowering climbers have been planted along the terrace border wall: 1 jasmine, 4 honeysuckle, 2 roses and 4 quince. The border will be replanted in 2017 and the recently introduced plants will be replaced with plants which were commonly used in the latter half of the 17th Century. Any retained planting will be rejuvenated by dividing and replanting.

Website: www.olddurhamgardens.co.uk
Email: olddurhamgardens@gmail.com

Find us on:



Volunteers

Our thanks go to groups of volunteers from Durham University (staff & students), Durham Wildlife Trust and Northumbrian Water, who visited several times in 2016. A team from Resolve Care volunteered last year on Thursday afternoons and every other Friday morning, and groups from the Restorative Justice programme also attended at various times to litter pick. These large groups have been invaluable as they are prepared to take on heavy duty gardening tasks!



Our Thursday morning volunteer group is still going strong, keeping on top of the various weekly tasks. Volunteers also attend on Thursday and Sunday afternoons. We welcome new members.

July Music Event

We enjoyed a very pleasant musical afternoon with tea and cakes on 11 July with the Durham Scratch Choir and Albion Consort of Viols providing the entertainment. Despite a short downpour mid-performance, the day was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Albion Consort of Viols



Durham Scratch Choir

Music in the Gardens 2016

Our annual music event took place on 11 September with over 700 people attending throughout the afternoon, enjoying the music and refreshments – and the weather.



Step this Way



Quintessential Voices

Thanks go to all who helped with the event, especially the musicians who made the afternoon such a pleasure: Step This Way with Bones Creek Band, Durham Harmonics Vocal Group, Albion Consort of Viols, Argosy Saxophone Ensemble, KitchyRetro and Quintessential Voices.

Guided walk in May

By popular demand, Martin Roberts repeated last year's walk from Shincliffe via Houghall to Old Durham Gardens. The walk was thoroughly enjoyed by all and ended with a picnic at the gardens.

School Visit

In June, pupils from Laurel Avenue Primary School spent the day at the gardens. They had a great time, including a picnic lunch in the lower garden.

Wassailing 29th January

This, our first event of the year, was enjoyed by trustees, ODG Friends and families. A great loud and colourful time was had in the orchard, ably led by wassail leader Colin Jubb, singers Tony & Brenda Ford and musicians Carol Atwell and friends. The wassailers retired to the walled garden for refreshments just as the sun was setting.



Funding the work of the gardens

Finance is always a challenge and we thank all Friends, visitors, donors, grant awarding bodies and Durham County Council, for their continued support. We will be applying for further funding to continue with the plans to restore and maintain the gardens.

In 2017 our tasks will include:

- Planting the parterre channels
- Re-organising the terrace border
- Updating the website
- Publishing Old Durham Garden guides
- Working with community groups
- Planning a range of future events
- Researching oral history of the gardens
- Considering how to display artefacts

Oral History of the gardens

This year we really want to find out more about the 20th century history of the gardens and to keep a record for the future. If you, or any of your relatives, have photos, stories or memories of the gardens, especially pre-WW2, please get in touch.

Thinking about joining us?

Please contact Angela on 0191 3865188 or contact us via our website:

www.olddurhamgardens.co.uk