



FRIENDS OF CRESCENT GARDEN WINTER NEWSLETTER 2024



*Wishing you all peace and joy for
Christmas and the New Year!*



Message from the Chairman

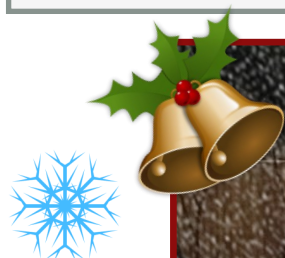
Dear Friends

I imagined that these summer months would be peaceful, but I was very wrong! We held our plant sale in May – our busiest ever! Our summer garden party in June was a great success. Sadly, I caught the dreaded Covid and couldn't attend. However, everyone had a wonderful evening and all went well. We enjoyed our Green Team lunch, held this year on a beautiful August day. During the lunch we made small presentations to Rosemary Harrison and Sarah Palmer as Rosemary was stepping down from the committee and Sarah was leaving the garden volunteers. It was lovely to thank them both properly for all their help and support. We did four Saturday tours of the garden for Heritage Open Days, and held a Wednesday coffee morning with the "Friends". I would like to thank Irene, Rita, Annie and the "Regency Girls" Ginny, Kate and Gina. Four of us attended the "Gosport in Bloom" awards evening at which we were delighted to win five awards!

We were very proud to raise our 19th Green Flag, Pat Lowe kindly did the honours. Finally, our stall at the Michaelmas Fayre at the end of September rounded off a successful year. It was jolly good fun but a long day on our feet, thankfully the weather was very kind to us!

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year!

Elaine Martin



www.alverstokecrescentgarden.co.uk

Head Gardeners' Report

The weather over the last few months has been unpredictable as usual, with a very wet September and over the last few weeks.

Looking around the Garden on the 30th of September there were six different varieties of roses flowering and several still putting on an excellent show – who needs modern roses! The wet weather and dripline system seem to be good for the roses. The insect-loving purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) put on an excellent show throughout the summer into early autumn helped by the damp conditions, as in the wild they live predominantly on riverbanks. The deep burnt orange of the dwarf pomegranate (*Punica granatum Nana*) and the bright purple/pink of the *Verbena bonariensis* are putting on a stunning show in the railings bed in front of the fountain. Also, the white phlox (*Phlox paniculata*) in the railings bed gives a lovely backdrop amongst the vibrant orange and purple. Here and there in the Garden bursts of pink and white can be seen of the cyclamen. The Californian dog wood turned a brilliant red in late September but has now shed its leaves in the last strong wind surges. Elsewhere in the Garden other trees are beginning to drop their leaves which are eagerly gathered for composting – so the cycle goes on!



The Yew hedge we planted in the Spring has put on good growth despite being planted in the dry areas under both the Cedar of Lebanon and the Blue Cedar, areas where the box hedge had died or was struggling to grow. In October we planted a further eight Yew plants which had been growing at the allotment in the summer months, in other areas where the box hedge had failed over the summer months. We plan to buy more Yew hedging in the Spring to extend the areas of Yew hedging. With so much rain this year the box hedging may well succumb to blight in the Winter.

In addition to the usual gardening work, we have been busy with Green Flag and In Bloom judging, CG talks and tours over the summer months and early autumn. Judging started with Green Flag on 7th May, followed by Gosport in Bloom on 3rd July, then S & SE in Bloom on 12th July, and finally Britain in Bloom on 13th August. Elaine and Irene gave two CG talks during the Summer. The first one to Alverstoke Floral Decoration Society on Tuesday 9th July and the second was to the Thursday Group on 2nd August. We provided tea and coffee for the Thursday Group and the group collected over £50 in donations for CG. One lady donated six plants she had grown for the plant sale next year.

Elaine, Irene, Annie and Rita gave a number of tours of CG for Heritage Opens Days on 9th, 13th and 16th September and a number of the Green Team and FOCG committee helped with setting up and taking down and dressing up in period costume, which was really appreciated.

Finally, on Saturday 28th September there was the Michaelmas Fayre which was well supported by volunteers from the Green Team. Thanks to

the creativity and skills of several Green Team/committee members we had lavender bags, knitted pumpkins, handmade cards, teacup bird feeders, plants, jams and preserves to sell as well as books and CG cards. Our displays were much improved by stands supplied by Irene and Steve Buggle.

We were delighted to be awarded Gold for South & South East in Bloom and Gosport in Bloom as well as for Best Wildlife Garden and Bee & Insect Garden. Once again, we won the Green Flag.

The Autumn bulbs we ordered earlier in the year have arrived and the Green Team are preparing the beds ready for planting the daffodil and tulip bulbs in late October/early November.

Sharon has done an excellent job keeping the CG allotment going all year and a lot of self-seeded plants etc dug up from CG have been planted in the allotment for bringing on for CG and for the plant sale next year. On Sunday the 13th of October Sharon, Stef and Irene dug over three raised beds ready for planting more plants next year. The plot is looking lovely at the moment with many plants still in flower. Our grateful thanks for Sharon's hard work.

Irene Buggle and Ginny Whelen

Garden Volunteers

In Memory of the Worst Summer on Record

We dig and weed and plant more plants,
With hey, ho, the wind and the rain
And sometimes fate, the sun us grants,
For the rain it raineth every day.
For when we come to do our bit,
With hey, ho, the wind and the rain
We like to keep the garden fit,
For the rain it raineth every day.
Did you see summer in this year?
With hey, ho, the wind and the rain

We missed it rather here, I fear.
For the rain it raineth every day
Some plants we care for, Oh so dear
With hey, ho, the wind and the rain
Have thrived in wetness so severe
For the rain it raineth every day.
Others, more or less, have drown-edd
With hey, ho, the wind and the rain
And sadly have been found quite dead
For the rain it raineth every day

Rita Rundle - with apologies to Shakespeare

Do come to the garden on any Wednesday morning and see what the volunteers are doing - probably something very similar to what is described above!



We were delighted to win five awards at the Gosport in Bloom awards. Pictured are Martina, Irene, Elaine and Ginny (left to right) flanked by the Mayor, Richard Earle, and his consort Debbie Sherman.



Some glimpses of the garden...

Dates for your Diary

Friday 6th - 8th December

Christmas Tree Festival

St Mary's Church, Alverstoke

Saturday 22nd February

Annual General Meeting 2pm - 4pm

Parish Centre, Alverstoke

Saturday 17th May

Annual Plant Sale 10am to 4pm

Saturday 21st June

Friends Garden Party

See Spring newsletter for further details



Summer garden party in full swing



Pat Loe raising the Green Flag



Our stand at the Michaelmas Fayre

JOIN THE FRIENDS!

For all membership enquiries contact Guy Sitwell at membership@alverstokecrescentgarden.co.uk

Any other enquiries contact Gina Rowe on 02392 358207