

Reports replacing FPP Open Meeting 14th October 2020

SBC Report - Keith Wright

May ended with spring bedding being pulled and preparation for summer bedding. A very wet spell followed which was good for the planting but not for weeding. The clock planting was pulled early after spell of wet and windy weather.

A new timer was installed for the pond fountain.
Some of the lilies were replanted with aquatic compost and new baskets.

Lots of weeding and never ending grass cutting followed for the rest of the season. A remote controlled 'spider' cut the big bank with ease.
All hedges were cut back.

Otis started back at college in September doing his NVQ.

Two corkscrew firs were removed for the arrival of two new yews, one was replanted in the commemorative garden, the other wasn't suitable for replanting.

Four Hydrangea macrophylla 'green cloud' have been added to the hydrangea bed.

Three items of play area equipment are currently missing and are getting repaired, 'Mayflower' (boat), Spyro (spinning sea-saw) and a tunnel from one of the climbing frames.

I would like to express thanks to my SBC colleagues and FPP for their cooperation, effort and understanding in what has been a very difficult 6 months.

Chairman's Report - Bob Bennett

It's been a very strange year for all of us and we've had to find new ways of working. Despite there not being any "organised" gardening sessions, as we had previously, the volunteer gardeners have managed to continue working in the park while observing social distancing and all other H & S considerations.

The park has been maintained to a very high standard due to the efforts of the SBC staff and has been enjoyed & admired by all the many visitors. Especially those who used the park for their daily exercise during lockdown.

Sadly all the Friends' usual events had to be cancelled this year, the Christmas celebrations included. We had some fun writing Limericks to celebrate Limerick Day. The Little Free Library was closed briefly but is now up and running and being well used.

The extremely dry spring weather was a major threat to the extensive new planting in the rockery at Union Steps and in the bed to the south of the Floral Clock. The Friends purchased a new hose reel trolley, which needed some adaptations before it could cope with the steep slopes in the park, but is now functioning very well. Six long sessions of deep soak watering were needed to resuscitate the plants, almost all of which have survived.

Gardening was concentrated on the show piece beds in the park. Weeding and tidying everywhere took up most of our time. The museum terraces and main drive borders required a lot of attention but we were rewarded by a very fine display of roses, clematis and herbaceous plants.

The Community Garden main bed was planted and a new pea support put in place. Sorrel was added to the herb garden.

Heritage potatoes, leeks, swede & parsnips were planted in the raised bed, which was treated with garlic & chilli to deter squirrels.

Free seeds from "Gardening Which" were used and a questionnaire completed.

Watering was needed frequently during the spring due to the extremely dry weather

Edging of paths, tidying, dead heading, pruning and weeding continued throughout the summer and when the Art Gallery and Museum reopened in August, Pannett Park was looking its best.

The floral clock face has been pressure washed and is whiter than it has been for some time.

The Love Exploring app was launched in August with a dinosaur trail, enjoyed by many young visitors, and plenty of not so young too! There is a lot of information on the app about the park, including the Art Trail and the Tree Trail. It was an interesting experience being involved in Zoom meetings with the designer, Tom Matthews. The most recent addition is a trail for Halloween which involves dancing skeletons asking questions relating to the history of Whitby. A winter trail is planned for Christmas.

A memorial donation has been made for some planting on Union Steps Rockery and we met the donor during August to discuss plans. The plants, a tall yew and some large grasses, are being ordered for planting in November.

We have been working with the Captain Cook Museum on linking the park to the Banks Florilegium exhibition in the Pannett Art Gallery, October to December. Some plants have been identified which are closely related to those in the Florilegium and form a trail, with information boards.