

Reports replacing FPP Open Meeting 25th March 2020

Chairman's Report - Bob Bennett

In the autumn Louis the Peacock was sent to RBW in Skelton for soda blasting & priming & then went back to the original artist to be re-painted. He is now back in his place in the park.

A group of the Friends visited the new facility at Dean Road & were particularly impressed with the "greenhouse". We were treated to a private tour of the old Victorian prison.

The Halloween event went well

Christmas celebrations included decorating a tree in the St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival, lighting a tree in park with the now traditional Xmas cake and mince pies, sending an ecard to our supporters, this year a discrete 'Olaf' snowman against a prior year's snowy park scene & Christmas lunch at The Saxonville.

Work on updating the website is progressing & a Park Logo based on the arches in the Commemorative Garden has been finalised.

Thanks go to our resident wildlife expert Geoff Smith for doing the Great British Bird Watch.

The Little Free Library is now in place & was officially launched on World Book Day.

An illustrated talk was given to U3A gardening group on the changes wrought in the Park since its renaissance.

Cancellations have sadly blighted any further activities in the park for the foreseeable future. We have just heard that Yorkshire in Bloom judging is cancelled for this year.

SBC Report - Keith Wright

We had a very wet planting day in November. Groups of children from Ruswarp and Airy Hill Schools planted 6000 crocus to commemorate 50 years of Whitby & District Lions. The Friends & SBC staff planted 2000 Fritillaria in memory of Ron Whatling, Green Flag judge.

During late autumn planters were re-planted, roses pruned, spring bedding planted & 450 Allium cristophi were planted.

Donated water lilies were added to the Lily pool.

In January the Green Flag entry was made. Unfortunately judging is cancelled for this year.

February saw standard roses in the circular beds replaced with Rosa xanthine "Canary Bird". A particularly thorny variety with single flowers.

Donated Nerine were planted along the wall in Little Park.

Donated Monkey Puzzle & Horse Chestnut trees were planted.
The Lily Pool is up & running after its annual clean.

Union Steps Rockery has had a lot of attention over the winter months. An old brick seat bay was revealed & this is now a feature. An area has been turfed & rustic fencing installed. Planting is complete & includes a variety of grasses, herbaceous plants & low junipers, with silver birch & upright conifers for height.

Volunteer Gardener's Report - Gill Wood

October

Roses were pruned & Bagdale fernery tidied. Untidy herbaceous planting was cut back & prize winning compost extracted from the bin in the Community Garden.

November

Rose pruning was completed & herbaceous planting relentlessly tidied. Working with the SBC team we planted 2000 *Fritillaria meleagris* on the bank near the bottom Chubb Hill gate. White hyacinths saved from last year were planted in the bedding displays. Weeding continued in several areas & the *Cornus* were tidied. Two new volunteers, Helen & Chris, were recruited.

December

Climbing plants were checked for wind damage, Twin Rockeries & Peony Steps were tidied, ferns were cut back in several areas, planting at the play area was cut back where overhanging, edging of paths continued & herbaceous planting was tidied. Table decorations were made in the shed away from the wind & rain.

January

Back to work after the Xmas break in the second week of the month. Rose beds were weeded, deciduous ferns cut back, Jurassic & Community Gardens tidied, compost turned. The boards & bins were cleaned & clematis pruning started. Herbaceous planting was tidied & St. Hilda's Terrace border weeded.

February

Working with the SBC team the large stand of *Aucuba* near the Floral Clock was cut back & removed. Pruning of all climbers was completed, as was weeding on St. Hilda's Terrace border. Edging of paths was started & work carried out on Twin Rockeries. A new volunteer, Rob, was recruited & given a guided tour. The Jurassic Garden was weeded & tidied, the Lily Pool borders weeded, deciduous grasses & *Santolina* were cut back. The Lily Pool had its annual gentle clean out & nest boxes had their annual maintenance.

March

Path edging continued, climbers were checked, boards & bins were cleaned. Maintenance of the Lily Pool borders & rockeries continued. The play area beds were weeded, also Chubb Hill border. Stepping stones were laid in the Community Garden & potatoes planted. Pruning of shrubs at the Lily Pool was carried out & *Cortaderia* cut back. Weeding of the Rose Garden was started.