



Friends of Walkden Gardens

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Message from the Chair of the Friends of Walkden Gardens

Dear Friends,

Once again at the forthcoming AGM (July 3 – at 7.30pm) the Committee will be reporting on the events and achievements of the last year.

We are hosting the Heartbreak Production “Billionaire Boy”, mounted by the Waterside Arts Centre, as part of the Sale Festival. This children’s play by David Walliams is very popular. Thanks to Rob Frier and his Events volunteers who provide service for such events and to John Casson and the Scouts who generously provide toilets and other facilities.

Huge thanks are also due to our garden volunteers who work so assiduously on the last Saturday of each month. Over many years now this team has been led tirelessly by Penny Maitra, who has recently taken a break from the Committee. We are very indebted, again, to The Scout Movement and Embrace for help on those gardening mornings.

We are working hard to improve our gardens and anyone willing to join the volunteers would be most welcome, whether experienced gardeners or just willing helpers. Let Susan Hirst, Rob Frier or any of the Committee know.

Many thanks to Yan who has been our Secretary for several years and who has now handed the task to welcome newcomer, Janette. Again, many thanks are due to the rest of the Committee, Janette, Les, Nic, Gill, and our ward Councillors, Jane and Barry. I should also like to thank and pay tribute to Mike Girling who has been our attached gardener for many years. Now work is in the hands of a team from AMEY who maintain our garden amongst a heavy schedule of work across the Borough. Your Committee works tirelessly to try to ensure an adequate level of maintenance. Please give us, and them, as much feedback as possible.

Other changes are that the Tranquil Garden which was closed for ongoing work is now open. We are also excited to receive a major donation. It is from Dr. Mitra Doherty, and along with grant aid from Trafford, it has enabled us to begin work on a labyrinth project. There is another possible donation which will hopefully provide a piece of permanent art work to accompany it – more news at the AGM

And thank you all for your support and in some cases during these changing times thanks for your great patience – the gardens are for the community, for you, and we are always aware of that. We have provided film shows, plays, Christmas celebrations, always listening to concerns of local residents who are generally understanding of the way public open spaces are now opened far more to such events.

Do come and see us all at the AGM (full details elsewhere) and have a complimentary glass of wine or soft drink. After the reports and elections, we hope to have a short talk by local sculptor, Nick Roberson, whose work in outdoor spaces is of particular interest to us. This year we shall again hold the AGM in a private room in The Moorfield, courtesy of the landlord.

Enjoy the gardens,

Garth Jones
Chair of Friends of Walkden Gardens

Friends of Walkden Gardens AGM

The Friends of Walkden Gardens
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017
Monday 3rd July 2017 at 7.30pm
The Moorfield (upstairs room),
131 Marsland Road, Sale, M33 3NW

All Friends of Walkden Gardens,

Please see above details of our annual AGM at which Officers will be elected and Reports from Committees and Annual Accounts will be made. We are grateful to the management of The Moorfield for allowing us to use their premises.

Our Speaker will be local sculptor Nick Roberson who will talk about his work.

[Join us in a glass of wine or soft drink.](#)

The Friends of Walkden Gardens present.....

Forthcoming Events

Friday 7 April at 7.00pm - "Mary Poppins"

Outdoor film show by InflationFlix. Doors open 7.00pm; film starts 8.15pm. Book online via www.inflationflix.co.uk

Friday 21 April at 7.00pm - "Pretty Woman"

Outdoor film show by InflationFlix. Doors open 7.00pm; film starts 8.15pm. Book online via www.inflationflix.co.uk

Sunday 18 June at 4pm - "Billionaire Boy"

David Walliams "Billionaire Boy". Presented by Heartbreak Productions and Sale Waterside Arts Centre.

Tickets must be booked in advance from Waterside Arts Centre Box Office Tel: 0161 912 5616.

Tuesday 20 June at 6pm - Yoga

Weather permitting, every Tuesday in the Gardens until September.

See www.purplehazeyoga.co.uk for details.

Friday 4 August at 4.00pm - "The Princess & The Pig"

Outdoor production by Folksy Theatre. More details from www.folksytheatre.co.uk. Book online at www.brownpaperickets.com

Saturday 12 August at 6.30pm - "Twelfth Night"

Folksy Theatre present Shakespeare's comedy.

Please bring something to sit on !



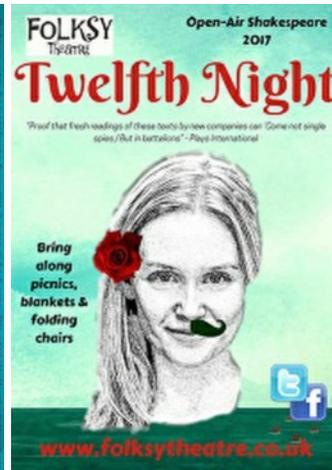
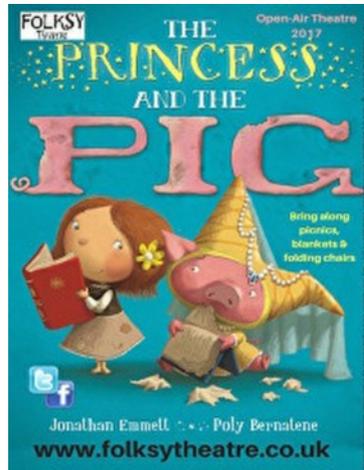
By the time you read this we will have experienced, on 18 June 2017, an al fresco performance of "Billionaire Boy" written by David Walliams – another initiative of Sale Waterside Arts Centre.

On the 4 August we will have Folksy Theatre's "The Princess and the Pig" and then on 12 August Folksy Theatre present Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night".

Inflationflix "pop up" cinema has already this year shown "Mary Poppins" and "Pretty Woman". A further two film shows are scheduled for August/September and exact dates and programme details will be confirmed later.

Once again outdoor yoga will be in the Gardens at 6pm every Tuesday (fine weather only!) from 20 June until September.

Let's hope for some good weather for all these outdoor events. Look at our Facebook page or website for more details,.



The Gardens

Since last year's newsletter there has been a lot of work done by the garden volunteers including the completion of the Tranquil Garden, new planting round the Dovecote and more recently planting of herbaceous plants in the Monkey Puzzle tree garden.

The next project will be the building of a labyrinth in the area at the end of the wisteria arch which is surrounded by mature beech trees. We are currently in the process of raising funds towards this project and will have full information on this at the AGM.

Unfortunately the changes to the way the Gardens are 'gardened', as reported in the previous newsletter, have had a negative effect on the Gardens. The routine grass cutting, hedge cutting, weeding etc has been minimal despite several meetings and a lot of emails exchanged with representatives of Trafford Council and AMEY. The resources available to parks and gardens in Trafford have been greatly reduced putting more demand on Friends' Groups to maintain standards; especially for those like Walkden Gardens with Green Flags.



Labyrinth

Walkden gardens is known by generations of children as the 'secret garden' or 'the maze' so it's fitting that the next project will be the installation of a Labyrinth- a maze seen on the ground and one you cannot get lost in. One way in, one way out.



Louis Bell, who laid out the gardens in the 70s – after a visit to Hidcote Garden, saw the space at the end of the arch as an 'exedra' a classical circular space surrounded by seats, so it seems right that we can at last realise this vision with something that be used by young and old alike.

Stone reclaimed from Sale Old Hall will provide seating around the labyrinth

Around the Dovecote

Our traditional 'Carols around the Dovecote' in December 2016 was again a great success. Everyone enjoyed the school choirs and the music of Sale Salvation Army Band.

Once again our colleagues from the Friends of Worthington Park also participated and brought along Father Christmas. We will be holding this event again on Saturday 2 December 2017.

