

Friends of Walkden Gardens



CONTACT US

TELEPHONE Ruth Morgan, Parks Development Officer 912 5579

POST Friends of Walkden Gardens, c/o Parks and Countryside Service,
PO Box 114, Bridgewater House, Manchester Road,
Carrington, M31 4WS

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A Message from the Chair

Dear Friends of Walkden Gardens,

Spring is here and summer not long away. You will see from the reports elsewhere in this Newsletter how much exciting progress is being made in developing the beautiful Walkden Gardens even more. So as not to repeat what you can read, I just hope that when you visit next you can see for yourselves such improvements as have been made in the Japanese Garden or in Miss Cordingley's Garden, for example, thanks to the leadership of Penny, the grants we have received and the hard work of our head gardener, Mike, and all our volunteers. We also feel very excited about our Summer events already being planned.

These are listed in the Newsletter but worthy of note is that this year as part of the Sale Festival week in June we have a treat for the family in Heartbreak Productions performance of *The Wind in The Willows*. Don't miss it. And for the first time for many years we are having a break from the Ashton on Mersey Show Band. Instead the Big Band and Jazz Band from Sale Grammar School and the Pantonic Allstars Steel Band from Stockport will be entertaining us on the theatre lawn. Do come for an exciting evening of music in the gardens.

As if that were not enough to whet your appetite, Trafford College is bringing a production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" on May 16th and we shall have all the fun and history of the annual English Heritage Open day on September 12th, based on the Dovecote.

So enjoy the Summer and enjoy your Gardens!

Garth Jones (Chair)

Miss Cordingley's Garden

Miss Cordingley's Garden has a fascinating history, being part of a plot of land bequeathed to Sale Borough Council by the local benefactor Harry Walkden. The bequest allowed use of the land by Harry Walkden's

niece, Miss Cordingley, and it has only recently been made part of the wider Walkden Gardens site. The land had never been used by the public and had become overgrown and inaccessible. Friends of Walkden Gardens aim to finally make this tranquil area fully accessible to the community as originally planned by Harry Walkden and have named it Miss Cordingley's Garden in her honour.



Friends of Walkden Gardens create an entrance to the garden

Whilst providing access to this long unused space, the scheme will retain its tranquil feel by providing mown paths through long grass around a fine young beech and surrounded by high rhododendron boundaries. The plan is to have an inviting entrance and clear exit to ensure it becomes a well used part of the Gardens. Plans also will record the contribution of Harry Walkden and his niece, Miss Cordingley, on interpretive signboards for garden visitors.

Work on the project started in Autumn 2008 and will be substantially complete by the end of 2009. Progress has been good with the area clear and level and a distinctive, low spiral planted. Over the next couple of months, grass areas will be seeded and footpaths turfed and volunteers will complete new sleeper walls marking the garden entrance. Plans are displayed on our Garden notice board or in the projects section of our website.

You are most welcome to join the enthusiastic construction team at our work mornings held on the last Saturday of every month. However, this new garden will not be open to the public until late this year to allow plantings to establish.

Congratulations and many thanks go to Greening Greater Manchester who celebrate its' 10th anniversary. Miss Cordingley's Garden has received funding of £15,000 from GGM and has been chosen as the project to celebrate its anniversary.



The Triangle

Three large windmill palms (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) and three large cabbage palms (*Cordyline australis*) are now the focal point of 'The Triangle' project.

Over the last 18 months hard working volunteers have transformed an overgrown and weedy space into a welcoming entrance to the Gardens. The project was completed at our workday in March, when final plants were added to the understory planting of ferns and perennials and a conical stone finial was placed on the top of the cairn.

FOWG send their grateful thanks the many volunteers who have been involved in the project and to Greening Greater Manchester for funding all the plants and materials needed.



The Triangle

Spring changes in the Japanese Garden



Bare earth below the Poplar tree in the Japanese Garden will soon be a thing of the past. Volunteers have created mounds of earth and over the next three months these mounds will be

sculpted into miniature mountains and forests using boulders and planting.

Friends of Walkden Gardens are grateful to the Manchester airport Community Trust Fund, who are funding this project, and to the Japanese Garden Society who are organising and supervising the work. If you would like to get your hands dirty and learn about this project do join us on our regular workdays on the last Saturday of every month.

Teen's Painting of Walkden Gardens in the Tate Gallery

A TALENTED art student had a brush with success when one of her pieces went up in Liverpool's Tate Gallery.

Victoria Hong, who goes to Sale Grammar School, entered one of her GCSE coursework pieces into the Unilever International Schools Art Project – a competition that allows aspiring artists to have their work displayed in Tate galleries around the country.

The 17-year-old was picked as a winner and her piece went on display in January.



Victoria Hong with her painting

The black and white image is of the Cherry Walk in Walkden Gardens and Victoria used emulsion paint to draw out the composition and create a textured surface, then drew into this with graphite.

Talking about what inspired her to create the piece, Victoria said: "I decided I wanted to capture a pathway that suggested hidden places, and the mood and atmosphere, which is why I didn't use any colours. By not having any leaves on the trees it adds to the atmosphere, suggesting a magical winter."

The Friends of Walkden Gardens are delighted that a visit to the Gardens, which is next door to the school,

inspired this artwork. We congratulate Victoria on the success of her wonderful work.

Events in the garden 2009

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Saturday 16th May 2009 at 2.00pm

An event put on by the students of Trafford College, directed by Peter Clarke with refreshments supplied by the Friends of Walkden Gardens.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Saturday 13th June 2009 at 7.00pm

Featuring the Highly Acclaimed Big Band and Jazz Bands of Sale Grammar School, followed by the Pantonic Allstars featured on BBC Young Entertainer of the Year and one of the countries top youth steel orchestras.

An alfresco performance on the theatre lawn. Bring a picnic (Chairs not provided) **Early booking strongly advised** through Sale Waterside

This event is supported by the Sale Festival

WIND IN THE WILLOWS

Friday 19th June 2009 at 5.30pm

Written by Kenneth Grahame and directed by Marie McCarth, The Wind in the Willows tells of the enchanting and outlandish adventures with Toad, Ratty, Mole and Badger.



Wild Woods, winding lanes, high jinks and increasingly ill-advised modes of transport – take a trip with Toad and chums and revel in their outlandish adventures in this inventive and effervescent tale.

More than “simply messing about in boats”, the famous four - Toad, Ratty, Mole and Badger - take us on a journey of mysticism, adventure, morality and camaraderie.

Bright, colourful and lively, this charming and timeless story takes us back in time as the enthralling story gets a magical makeover and the inhabitants of Wild Wood step on to the stage and into our hearts.

Live music, song, dance and inventive props cleverly create an entrancing and entertaining experience for all the family.

By popular request, Heartbreak Productions presents Wind in the Willows - perfect family entertainment - on the Theatre Lawn. This is another al fresco event following the success of

last year's sell-out performance. Bring a picnic and something to sit on.

Advanced booking through Sale Waterside - this event is part of the Sale Festival

HERITAGE OPEN DAY

Saturday 12th September 2009

Find out about the history of the Dovecote and the gardens with our very own local historian Pat Coulborn. Enjoy a rare opportunity to see inside the Dovecote.



Play croquet on the lawn and enjoy traditional family games. Enjoy a guided tour of the garden run by the Friends of Walkden Gardens or simply relax with a cream tea to the music of a local brass band.

CAROLS AROUND THE DOVECOTE

Saturday 9th December 2009 (to be confirmed)

Come and listen to local school choirs and Sale Salvation Army Brass Band singing and playing Christmas carols whilst enjoying a glass of Mulled Wine, Mince Pies & German cake. Take a look at our festive stalls which are open through out the event.



And finally ...

The raffle is always popular is always popular at the above events and makes a lot of money for the gardens as well as adding to the fun.

If you have a bottle or a raffle prize you would like to donate, please drop them off at 139 Norris Road Sale before the event or call 905 3871 and we will collect. Donations for the cake stall can be brought to the Gardens on the day.



SALE FESTIVAL

2009

<u>June 10 Wednesday</u>	Avalon: The Legend of King Arthur	Robert Bolt Theatre
<u>June 11 Thursday</u>	Avalon: The Legend of King Arthur	Robert Bolt Theatre
<u>June 12 Friday</u>	Photographic Competition	Sale Waterside
	Alma Singers	Robert Bolt Theatre
<u>June 13 Saturday</u>	Music & Dance	Sale Precinct Square
	Canal Boat Parade	Waterside Plaza & Canal
	Swing & Steel Bands	Walkden Gardens
	Sale Chamber Orchestra	Robert Bolt Theatre
<u>June 14 Sunday</u>	Songs of Praise	St. Mary Magdelene Church
	Family Fun & Sports Day	Worthington Park
	Bowls Competition	Worthington Park
	Beoga Irish Group	Robert Bolt Theatre
<u>June 15 Monday</u>	"Daisy Pulls It Off"	Robert Bolt Theatre
	Pub Quiz - The Bridge	The Bridge, Dane Rd., Sale
<u>June 16 Tuesday</u>	Mike Hall Modern Jazz Quartet	Sale Waterside
<u>June 17 Wednesday</u>	Wine Tasting	The Belmore Hotel
	Trafford School Choirs	Robert Bolt Theatre
<u>June 18 Thursday</u>	Social Sequence Tea Dance	Sale Waterside
	Floral Demonstration	Robert Bolt Theatre
<u>June 19 Friday</u>	Wind in the Willows	Walkden Gardens
<u>June 20 Saturday</u>	Canal Cruise to Castlefield	Waterside Plaza & Canal
	Brass Bands in Concert	Robert Bolt Theatre
<u>June 21 Sunday</u>	Trafford Youth Band Concert	Robert Bolt Theatre