

Newsletter

December 2021

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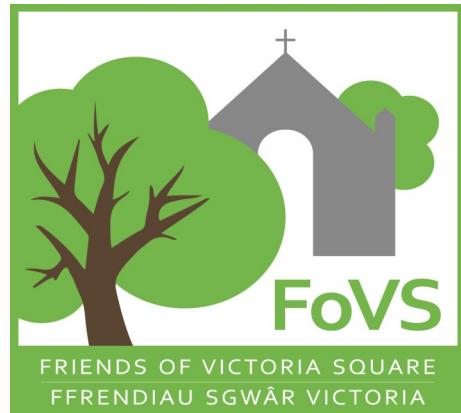
Vaughan Lewis conducting the Tree Walk



In the last few months, we have seen some significant **improvements in our website and Facebook presence**, and it has been good to see that we have a continuous format representing an up to date account of the groups activities

Following the appointment of a **lead for connecting with young people's organisations**, a strategy for engaging with them is being developed. The first planned activity will be with Tabernacle Church Penarth

Post Halloween Party—was a hugely successful pumpkin re-cycling event , which was publicised by The Penarth Times, Penarth Nub News, and reached 8000 people on Facebook



Since our last newsletter in September much has happened with the project. We have:

Aerated the area to improve drainage & soil compaction

Provided a tree walk with Ambler tree experts

Planted a total of 6000 Bluebell & Daffodil bulbs

Installed more bird and bats boxes

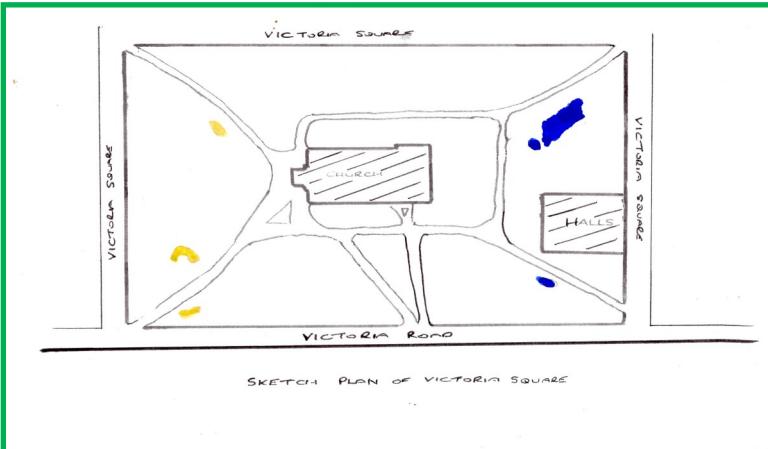
Developed and vastly improved our website and Social Media presence

Aeration was applied towards the end of September. Since that date we have had some significant periods of rainfall. So far the north end of the Square, which has previously become very water-logged, has not, to date, experienced any flooding

On Saturday 30th October Ambler Tree Experts conducted two 'Tree Walks' throughout the Square. There was an extremely good attendance from FoVS , PCS and Penarth Tree Forum members. They were treated to an extremely informative tour of trees on the Square, discussing significant parts of the recent works Ambler had conducted.

Over three consecutive Saturdays in November, volunteers planted an amazing 6000 bulbs. This included : 5000 native bluebells—blue on the diagram, and 1000 Tenby daffodils, marked yellow

Diagram of Bulbs planted



A very successful open meeting was held on 6th October in the Gallery All Saints Church, to discuss future development of the group. Presentations were made on progress to date, and then an open workshop was held to discuss various aims and ambitions and thoughts on possible developments for the future. Many of the ideas discussed are starting to form our future progress plans.

Working with Grow Cardiff— Discussions are ongoing to develop working with Grow Cardiff, a group with over 5 years of experience in community engagement, to further develop our expertise in this activity



Using Wood from the oak You will all now be aware that an oak on the Square, estimated to be about 400 years old, had to be reduced to a monolith. However , lots of discussions have taken place about using the wood to benefit the Square, including; making carvings, providing seats, constructing flower planters etc, see our noticeboard , website and Facebook, as these ideas are developed

Future Funding— At a recent meeting the group discussed how best to provide funding to continue activities after the current Lottery funded project ends in August 2022. There will be a need to provide some revenue funds for every day expenses, and no doubt some larger amounts for major items. We will keep you updated on solutions discussed

WHAT'S NEXT? - Plan for additional seating— (Vale Council have refurbished two seats ready for installation). We also need to: **Install a composter, install a water butt from a Church rainwater pipe, further develop wider public engagement, develop cross community connections, conduct a public survey before submitting the end of grant report, examine the feasibility of wildlife cameras.....** and that's just the start.

We are sure that as the project is rolled out many other elements will become an obvious MUST DO— WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED. For further information on all aspects of our work go to:

www.friendsofvictoriasquare.org : follow us on Facebook

And now it's time to say—thank you for your support throughout a difficult year for all of us and hope you have

A Very Merry Christmas

& Happy New Year