

Newsletter
March
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Friends of Victoria Square Ffrindiau Sgwâr Fictoria

www.FriendsOfVictoriaSquare.org. A **Penarth Civic Society** sub-group



In This Issue

- New Members
- Tree Works
- Horticulture
- Drainage
- Social Prescribing
- AGM in May
- Penarth's Lampposts

New Members

Since our last newsletter in February 10 people have joined the group. We welcome all these new members and hope they can meet others at a meeting on the Square in the not too distant future— See our proposals for an AGM with a difference.

Tree Works

In late February our contractors Ambler and Sons, continued with some of the lower priority tree works, the higher priority having been previously dealt with by Vale Council.

Part of the work was to strip out ivy and brambles where they were causing significant overloading of limbs and were also suppressing healthy growth. The images below, illustrate how a tree can be suppressed with ivy and brambles. The photos were taken at different stages of the work. Another photo shows how the early removal of ivy and brambles can prevent the level of suppression of the earlier example. A replanting of young trees will take place fairly soon with the help of volunteers.

From Left to Right:



Before with ivy & brambles suppressing growth



After ivy & brambles removed from the tree



A specimen where we were able to remove ivy and brambles before it was suppressed too much

Horticulture Update

Bog Garden

Work is about to start on the Bog Garden. This has now been sited next to the proposed wild flower area which was felt to be a more appropriate position. The new artistic impression, to follow soon, will include this change. I am sure the Gardening Group will be looking for volunteers to help with the planting and final touches soon.

Wildflowers

An area, indicated on the plan, will soon be scarified so that we can seed wildflowers. Volunteers will be required to seed the area—no previous experience required as instructions will be given on the day.

Communal Garden

Raised beds are in the process of being commissioned from a local carpenter. Once these are in place we will need volunteers please to fill them with sand and soil and to start planting.

Artistic Impression

An up to date artistic impression will follow soon and will be posted in large format on the notice boards.

Update note for This Version - See next page for what the artwork looks like.

Please note, this newsletter version is a remastering for better web display and updated banner information. With one addition, original news content has otherwise not changed.

DRAINAGE

Unfortunately our plans to apply drainage to the Square have been hit by the Pandemic lock down. Our contractor Terrain Aeration are the only company with the licensed equipment to apply the treatment and are based in the East of England. They operate throughout the UK and rely upon overnight accommodation being available at all times. Their schedules have obviously been very badly affected because of hospitality lockdowns. The drainage will now take place in the Autumn of this year and we will keep you updated on the timing. To see their machinery in operation go to: Terrain Aeration

A.G.M. We did not hold an AGM in 2020 but intend to this year.

Weather permitting the AGM will be held on the Square

Current Covid rules allow us to hold a meeting of up to 30 people. The meeting will include a tour of the Square and a progress update on the project.

If the weather is not suitable the meeting will be on Zoom.

Final decision to be made nearer to the time

Date Thursday 6th May 6.30pm



Copies of the Artist's Impression (two variations)

SOCIAL PRESCRIBING

Social Prescribing is when Health Professionals refer patients to support in the community in order to improve their health and wellbeing.

It would typically mean making the gardening and horticulture facilities available so that people with social or health problems, can benefit from its therapeutic effects.

We are committed to offering this support and members of the group are currently having discussions with two groups in the area, *Grow Cardiff* and *Cynon Valley Organic Adventures*, who both have experience of participating in this programme

See the link to Cynon Organic BBC interview It's really inspiring and a positive example of the benefits of Social Prescribing.

[Social prescribing: Can referrals to activities improve wellbeing? - BBC News*](#)

Penarth's Victorian Lampposts have been saved

Have you noticed around the Square and other places in Penarth, our lovely Victorian Lampposts have been saved from being replaced by modern versions? This is, in the main, due to the hard work of David Noble Treasure of Penarth Civic Society and of our group. Further details in the attached press release.



Volunteering

Our project is being delivered with a strong reliance on volunteer input. So many people have indicated a willingness to volunteer for various activities and we are really eager to start involving you all in the project.

Following guidance on the latest rules for volunteer groups we are in the process of putting together some best working, Covid safe, practices. When these are ready to publish we will be contacting volunteers with further details, starting with elements mentioned in the Tree and Horticulture sections.

Take Care & Stay Safe

Friends of Victoria Square is a sub group of Penarth Civic Society charity No. 1182348. We are funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Welsh Government & Community Donations. We work in collaboration with The Vale of Glamorgan Council, All Saints Church and the people of the Community of Penarth.

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