

S U M M E R 2 0 1 8

The Walled Garden

Newsletter of the Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden



In this Issue

- Welcome
- Forthcoming events
- Garden design update
- Progress on the new hospital build
- Have a Grow Day
- NHS 70th Birthday
- Norwegian visitors
- Remembering Terry
- Calling Local History Buffs
- Contact Us

A Summer to Smile About

Welcome to the latest edition of our quarterly newsletter on the Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden project. This year's summer certainly seems one to celebrate, with the 70th birthday of the NHS, the new hospital rocketing up, the garden design starting to take shape and unlimited sunshine to boot. Please read on for news on all of this and more.

Forthcoming Events

NHS 70th Birthday

5 July 2018

Walled Garden display at the Health Board's Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan Garden Party.

Project Board meeting

12 July 2018

Next joint meeting of Health Board, charity trustees and partners.

Trustees Meeting

23 July 2018

Next scheduled meeting of the Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden charity Trustees.



Garden Design Update

The latest workshops with volunteers on the Garden Design Team have focused on the design of a water feature for the reflective quadrant, planting around the perimeter walls and development of the layout for the “Communal” south west quadrant.

Water Feature for the Reflective Quadrant

A water feature that creates the sound of trickling water was one of the key requests made by many people taking part in our stakeholder engagement events on the garden design scheme.

The Design Team has therefore spent some time considering options that will fit the bill and be in keeping with the surrounding planting scheme in the “reflective” quadrant. They have carefully considered features that are easy to install, maintain and power, e.g. using solar power. They were also conscious of the need to be able to create a space in front of the feature to prevent children getting too close.



A range of shapes and types were looked at and the consensus is to go with something like the “stack of stones” illustrated above.

Fruit Trees for the Perimeter Walls

The perimeter walls of the garden are to be planted with a range of ornamental and productive trees and shrubs.



Example of a Japanese quince (Chaenomoles japonica)

Fruit trees will be an essential part of this and are an important way of connecting the garden’s historical past with its future purpose. The Design Team volunteers have been considering the varieties to be grown and where they will be placed.

The best place for fruit trees will be along the north east wall and both sides of the east wall and we will fit about six trees in all. A large range was discussed but the consensus in the end was to grow apples, a pear, plum, fig, Japanese quince and a stoned fruit such as peach/nectarine. As we already have 3 figs we may position these on the outside walls (near the south gate and on the wall between the buildings).

Progress on the new Grange University Hospital build

The new hospital under construction adjacent to the Walled Garden, is proceeding at pace. Here is the latest news from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.



Following the erection of Tower Crane No 3 (three more to go!) the superstructure frame to the Diagnostic & Technical Block and the first ward areas have quite literally flown up. This part of the building is currently at Level 2, with columns in place to support Level 3.

The new Caerleon Road roundabout is now open to construction traffic - reducing the amount of lorries going through the Llanfrechfa Grange site. The remodelling to the Turnpike roundabout is also complete along with the civil works for the Toucan crossing. The controlled crossing installation will take place during spring 2020.

As many parts of the building structure are prefabricated away from the site the construction is very quick. Sections of the first ward area (ward 3 on Level 0) can be seen being slotted into place using the tower crane (the section shown below took just two days, with teams of bricklayers on scaffolding this work could have taken up to 3 weeks!).

The permanent car parks have been surfaced and are now being used by contractors and many of the site staff. The main profiling of the site grounds is now complete and landscaping will continue into the coming summer and autumn months.

The Garden volunteers have watched with great interest the speed at which the hospital is being built and are fascinated to see how the big cranes work together across the site. Some folk also spent a few enjoyable hours watching crane number 4 go up on 30th June/1st July.

The charity is also grateful to the contractors for their continued interest and support, and in particular for digging out several huge tree stumps with a mini digger. That would have been nigh on impossible to do by hand. Thank you Laing O'Rourke.



Have a Grow Day

The Walled Garden charity is a member of Social Farms and Gardens, organisers of this event across Wales celebrating the community gardens movement.

On June 2nd, the Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden charity took part in a new community gardens open day for Wales, organised by the Not for Profit support network which we are a member of, called Social Farms and Gardens. The event was run as a way of celebrating and promoting the work of community gardens and encouraging more people to get involved. Social Farms and Gardens provided posters, direction arrow, balloons and seeds for us to use.

We opened the garden between 10am and 12 noon. It was a lovely warm, sunny day, which helped show the garden off really well. More than 25 visitors arrived, including several children, and most had not seen the garden before. The balloons went down well with the youngsters and the hot and cold drinks on offer were appreciated, as was the shelter from the sun afforded by the shed.

Taking care around undeveloped areas, our visitors were able to wander freely and enjoy seeing how the garden is taking shape. Some helped with potting on and planting seeds, while others bought plants and hanging baskets to take home. The sale of plants provides an essential boost to our finances, helping to fund the building materials needed for internal walls and paths.

The morning was enjoyed by all and our thanks are extended to everyone who took part.



Social Farms and Gardens is a new organisation created out of the merger of the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens and Care Farming UK.

<https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/news/social-farms-gardens-launched>

NHS 70th Birthday

On 5th July, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board will be celebrating the 70th birthday of the NHS with a garden party attended by HRH Prince Charles at Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan in Ebbw Vale. We are delighted to have been invited to attend to represent the Walled Garden project as a partner of the Health Board.



Norwegian Visitors

A group of 34 Norwegian crafters visited the garden on April 30th as part of a *Sommerakademiet* tour of South Wales. A Celtic knitting workshop followed in Grange House led by the Gwent Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers who were hosting the week's tour. An unusual combination of Norwegian accents, flowers, wool, laughter and bone china tea sets for coffee and cake turned a few heads before the group left for lunch in Usk followed by a Welsh lesson at Usk College.

Our thanks to the Health Board for allowing us to support this visit.

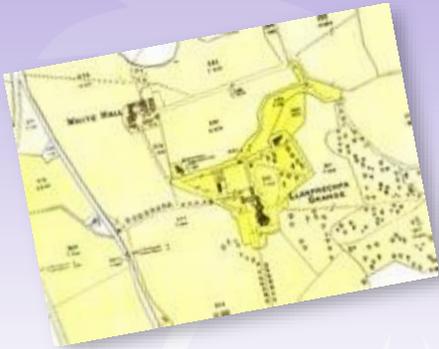
Remembering Terry

We were deeply saddened to learn of the sudden death of Terry, one of our regular volunteers, who passed away on 7th June 2018. Terry was a gentle giant of a man who had been a member of the 'garden gang' for nearly two years. He was always there when we needed a strong hand to move something heavy or a new area needed to be dug over. Popular with all, Terry enjoyed a chat over coffee and was always supportive of our younger volunteers.

Rest in Peace Terry, we will miss you and will remember you with great fondness.



Calling Local History Buffs



Can you help us?

We will shortly be updating our History web pages with some new photos of All Saints Church, Llanfrechfa. In the future we would like to be able to publish more information about the families who previously occupied Grange House and to explore the history of the Llanfrechfa Grange site in its various incarnations as an NHS facility. If you have an interest in local history and/or genealogy research and would like to help us, please contact us via any of the methods below. We would love to hear from you.

Contact Us

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