Welcome to the Summer 2019 newsletter on the Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden project. This season has been one of feverish activity. Now that the power and water are in, we are full steam ahead laying out the rest of the hard landscaping for the garden, while also running open days to let visitors see how we are progressing and scooping several important awards recognising our achievements and ambitions. Please read on for details.

### Summer Events

**Open Day & AGM**
29 July 2019

Go to page 2 for more details.

**Saturday Working Parties**
10 August / 7 Sept

Time 10 - 1 pm & 1.30 - 4.30pm. All welcome. Lots of jobs and a BBQ for volunteers at lunchtime. Please contact us to help cater for numbers.

**Volunteers Social BBQ**
19 August 2019

A social BBQ for our regular Monday volunteers.
July Open Day and AGM

The Open Day and Annual General Meeting for the Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden will take place in the Walled Garden, or in the event of bad weather, in the Recreation Hall at Llanfrechfa Grange on:

Monday 29th July 2019, 2 pm to 6 pm

Come and see the development of the Walled Garden to date. Our annual report and accounts will be presented at the AGM, which will take place between 14.00 - 14.30 hrs. There will also be various stands and activities for visitors. No need to book. Refreshments provided.

- Plants for sale
- Art in the garden
- Growing Space

Green Flag Community Award

Keep Wales Tidy has unveiled this year’s Green Flag Award winners - and we are pleased to announce that the flag will be flying at Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden.

A record-breaking 127 community managed green spaces in Wales have met the high standards needed to receive the prestigious Green Flag Community Award, the international mark of a quality park or green space. This means that Wales now holds a third of the UK’s community Green Flag sites.

The Green Flag Award programme is delivered in Wales by environmental charity, Keep Wales Tidy, with support from Welsh Government. It is judged by green space experts who volunteer their time to visit applicant sites and assess them against eight strict criteria, including biodiversity, cleanliness, environmental management and community involvement.

The Walled Garden was judged in June and has received the award in recognition of its commitment to delivering a great quality green space.

The award was formally presented at the Royal Welsh Show on 24th July and received by our Chair, Jan Smith and regular volunteers; Wendy Parsons, Jenny Garrood and Marie Swidenbank.

Andrew Stumpf, Green Flag Assessor said, “Congratulations ... I look forward to seeing your progress and to meeting the volunteers again. They were an impressive group that did much to earn you the award”.

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Volunteers have recently been helping lay out the series of winding paths that will make up the ‘reflective’ quadrant of the Walled Garden.

The garden design for the northwest quadrant involves a series of paths meandering around mounded beds of sensory plants and a water feature. In spring, the ground was cleared, levelled and rotovated and path routes mapped out with pegs and rope.

The paths were then dug out using two mini-diggers and manpower supplied by A.P. Waters Building Contractors Ltd who also donated 40 tonnes of hardcore. We are really grateful to Adrian and his team; this would have been a mammoth task to do by hand.

The main focus for our working party on 8th July was to start laying in the substructure for the paths.

Around 30 volunteers took part, working like Trojans, to start putting the paths in place. Tasks included preparing the wooden path edging, barrowing in and laying down a deep layer of hardcore and topping this off with gravel and stone dust. Some of the soil mounds that will become the new flower beds were cleared of weeds, while a back-up team kept everyone going with refreshments throughout the day and provided a barbeque which offered welcome respite.
The end result, we think everyone would agree, looks fantastic. Huge progress was made on the paths and you can now clearly see the garden structure coming together. We would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who took part.

To continue this work we will be holding further working parties on:

Sat 10th August &
Sat 7th September
10.00 - 4.30 pm

These will be to complete the hard landscaping for this quadrant. If you would like to take part, for the day or just a few hours, we would love to hear from you. Lighter jobs will also be available. Refreshments provided. Please contact us at email: info.lgh.garden@gmail.com
Have a Grow Day 2019

*This year’s event was held on 1st June as part of a Wales wide celebration of community gardening organised by Social Farms and Gardens.*

Once again we were delighted to be able to take part in this national event celebrating and promoting the community gardening movement. We were blessed with glorious weather and had a steady stream of visitors over the day - around 130 in all including many families with children.

The Walled Garden was open between 10 am and 4 pm. A number of activities were laid on including an upcycling demo using a variety of milk bottles and other plastic containers. We had a stall provided by Deborah Davis, the Health Board’s community liaison artist, who encouraged participants to create shell designs to be used in the garden and messages for the new hospital. We also had a pet’s corner provided by our charity neighbour ‘All Creatures Great and Small’ with cats, dogs and guinea pigs for the children to handle. Children also enjoyed whacking our colourful tubular bells made from pet food tins and plastic drainpipes (although the bells were not the most musical)! We had a large variety of plants for sale, which was particularly successful.

The event was a great way to show people how much we have done so far and generated around £500, which will go some way to helping us take forward our plans for the garden. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came and all those who helped out.

Social Farms and Gardens is a not-for-profit organisation that supports all kinds of community gardening and city farming projects across the UK.

Garden design news

The Design Team recently reviewed the draft plan for the SW quadrant and made a few subtle but important changes.

By looking at how people will move around this area and how it will be used for social activities the team decided to add more access points to the central grassed area and a paved apron in front of the shelter. The layout and size of the different styles of perimeter gardens were also refined to ensure a smooth transition from one to another, while a more symmetrical grassed area will make it easier to manage.

A detailed planting plan will be developed next and work on landscaping will start late winter / early spring. In the meantime, we would welcome any comments on the plan. Our contact details can be found on the last page.

Grange University Hospital build

Last month there were more than 700 construction workers on site at The Grange University Hospital - the highest number the development will see before it opens in the spring of 2021.

The Grange University Hospital construction is both on time and on budget. The demolition of the old canteen at Llanfrechfa Grange Hospital will start in September to make way for the new Hospital Sterilisation and Decontamination Unit (HSDU).

The Health Board Team continues to work with Laing O’Rourke on site with regular walk-arounds to see progress. A recent visitor has been Cathy Ingram (centre right) Directorate Manager for Theatres, Scheduled Care Division, who has just started a new role to support the Family and Therapies division.
Introducing the new Cottage Garden

The cottage garden is a small show garden we are installing behind the old 'Post Room' building in the southeast quadrant of the garden. Our aim is to create a traditional Victorian cottage garden planting scheme using a pretty mix of perennials and annuals such as hollyhocks, penstemon, verbena, cosmos and lupins, surrounded by a picket fence. The garden has been part-funded from a grant from the Croesyceiliog and Llanyravon Community Council.

Work is also progressing on the stone-faced retaining wall and steps leading from the Cottage garden area to the greenhouse and shed as shown in the picture on the left.

Contact Us

Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden,
Llanfrechfa Grange,
Cwmbran,
Torfaen,
NP44 8YN

Email: info.lgh.garden@gmail.com
Website: https://llanfrechfawalledgarden.wordpress.com/

Or find us on Facebook at llanfrechfa grange walled garden