

Abbey Garden Friends

Newsletter, Summer 2025

"Helping to keep the Abbey Garden a joy to visit"



(9 page edition!)



THE WOLF IS DOWN, BUT HOPEFULLY NOT OUT!

You may have noticed the "Woofa" is not in its usual place outside the cafe in the garden. Unfortunately he has suffered a bad case of wolf rot in his paws and bottom and toppled from his base. But never fear; our resident "Woofa"



consultant Mr Brian Jenkyn is taking the matter in hand and hopes to restore him to his former glory with the aid of resins and glue. ("Woofa" is the Anglo Saxon for Wolf)

NEW WILLOW WEAVE BORDER FOR LABYRINTH

In April the volunteer gardeners installed willow hoops around the wildflower labyrinth at the lower end of the garden. The low looped willow will deter visitors wandering over the plants willy nilly but instead encourage them to use the labyrinth entrance. The willow was sourced by Simon Hobson (Parks manager for Abbey Garden, Greenspace and Heritage, West Suffolk Council) from East Town Park in Haverhill (75%) and the banks of the river Lark in the Abbey garden(25%). Both sustainable sources.



Welcome to Tricia & Maria who have joined the volunteer gardening team.

TALKS ABOUT THE ABBEY GARDEN

Paul Marsh continued his talks to promote the garden and its history. In April he visited the Oddfellows Hall in Bury and gave a talk to a packed hall of “Oddies”, and amongst other snippets revealed that the Oddfellows had been linked to the garden from about 1840. Nathaniel Hodson, the founder and superintendent of the Botanic Garden, had allowed them to congregate there for annual parades around the town to show the society’s mutual solidarity with the town. The Oddfellows kindly made a donation to Abbey Garden Friends.



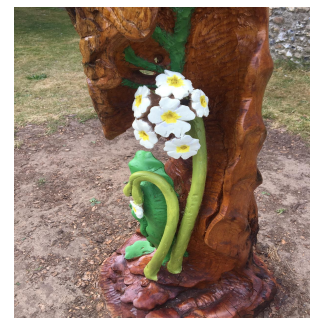
Women's Aid. Supporting Survivors. Restoring Lives.

In May, Restore staff, formerly Bury Women's Aid, visited the garden where Paul led them through the garden on a mindfulness walk, as part of their staff development day. The group enjoyed their saunter and also made a donation to Abbey Garden Friends.

admin@restore-wa.org.uk

"I know a bank where the wild thyme blows, Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows, Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine, With sweet musk-roses and with eglantine."

(Oberon to Titania in A Midsummer Night's Dream, by William Shakespeare circa 1594-96)



PLANTS SALES IN THE GARDEN



On two Wednesdays in May and one in June the pop up plant stall “popped up” to sell the spring bedding from the centre beds. The pop up stall took nearly £500, which is amazing! And of course all the proceeds will be used to enhance the garden with plants, seeds and bulbs. Thanks are due to the West Suffolk Gardening team and our volunteer gardeners who made it happen.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY! FRIDAY EVENING

29TH AUGUST has been booked for the summer social and giving a big thankyou to all the gardening volunteers. If the weather is kind we will be holding the event in the water gardens as we did last year. More details to follow. *(Right: last year's summer event in the water garden)*



***ANGLIA IN BLOOM JUDGING DAY IS IN JULY.....
BRITAIN IN BLOOM JUDGING DAY IS ON 8TH AUGUST
...and as you may know Abbey Gardens Friends is
now affiliated to the RHS which runs the scheme. We
have automatic entry because of Bury St Edmunds'
winning performance in Anglia in Bloom last year.***

(Left:Lloyds Bank WINNER Window sticker in June)

LOVE IT, OR HATE IT, IT HAD TO GO! In April the volunteer gardeners spent many happy hours removing very smelly, very invasive wild garlic from the border between the park cafe and the sensory garden. Wild garlic, *Allium ursinum*, goes by several other names including Ransoms and Cows leek. It

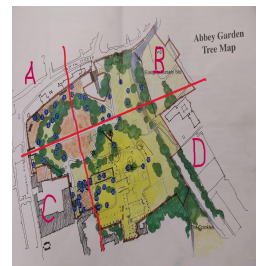


has delicate white flowers in spring but very pungent foliage. It's a member of the onion/garlic family and a native to Eurasia. Clearing the border was painstaking work as even the smallest bulblet left in the soil will rapidly reproduce to reinvade the soil. A soil sieve was employed to minimise the risk of stray bulbs being re planted.

(Pictured above/right are Will and Simon enjoying the aroma whilst sieving bulblets from the soil.)



TREE SURVEY GROUP A group of volunteers from Abbey Garden Friends and Bury Water Meadows Group have been busy planning and carrying out a survey of trees in the garden. The last public facing pamphlet was published in about 2012, so it's time for a refresh. The group are drawing on expertise from West Suffolk Council's maps and data, and from people who have a knowledge of trees. Digital apps the group are using include: The Woodlands Trust tree identification app; Plantnet; Ordnance Surveys OS maps and What3words. All these apps are freely downloadable for use on your mobile phone. *(the picture above shows the garden divided into our survey sections, imaginatively named A B C D!)*



YOUR ABBEY GARDENS FRIENDS COMMITTEE IS

Paul Marsh - Chair

Debbie Bateson - Treasurer

Ian Hobley - Secretary

Margaret Stephenson - Membership Secretary

Rob Cunningham-Snell & Simon Charlton - committee members

We can all be contacted via:- abbeygardens.bse@outlook.com



A FRUIT WHICH CHANGED THE WORLD OF CITRUS.

If you have been to one of the talks Paul Marsh gives about the history of the Bury Botanic Garden you will have heard him describe the citron fruit (pictured left) which was donated to the Bury Botanic garden by a Mr Josselyn of Sproughton near Ipswich in the 1830s. Citron peel was a common baking ingredient in Britain in the 19th century but nowadays most people would struggle to identify it if they saw it in a supermarket. In Italy it is used as a soft drinks flavouring including Tassoni Cedrata, an Italian Citron Soda. Want to know a bit more? Follow the link to a BBC clip about a citron festival in Italy .Thanks to Suffolk Gardens Trust for sending it in..

<https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20221213-citron-the-exquisite-fruit-that-brings->

=====

NEWSLETTER QUIZ - A HARD ONE FOR THIS EDITION!

All you have to do is pair up the “ology” on the right (1-8) with the appropriate aspect of Horticulture on the left (A- H) .

Answers at the end of the newsletter. Good Luck!

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Lichenology | H. Seeds |
| 2. Entomology | A. Vegetables |
| 3. Pomology | B. Soil |
| 4. Dendrology | C. Lichens |
| 5. Pedology | D. Insects |
| 6. Dericulture | E. Trees |
| 7. Floriculture | F. Flowers |
| 8. Spermatology | G. Fruit |

=====

Historical Note No 6: the link between the Abbey Garden, a Queen, St Andrew's Cathedral Honolulu and Caen Stone.



In September 1865 the Botanic Garden received a royal visitor, Dowager Queen Emma of the Sandwich Islands, known today as the Hawaiian Islands. She was visiting Britain and Europe to raise the money to build a cathedral in the capital of her kingdom, Honolulu. She travelled widely in Britain staying in such exotic places as Powderham Castle in Devon, Claridges in London, Windsor Castle (as a guest of Queen Victoria), Castle Hedingham in Essex



and Ickworth in Suffolk. At Ickworth she was the guest of Lord Arthur Hervey (4th son of the late 1st Marquess), parish priest for Ickworth, Archdeacon of Sudbury and an evangelist for the Church of England. Missionaries from Britain, America and France were all evangelising on the Sandwich Islands.

(Above left: Carte de visite Queen Emma. Right: Lord Hervey, in 1875, when Bishop of Bath and Wells).

Queen Emma's royal party visited St Mary's church, then St James to hear an organ recital (including pieces by Mendelssohn), toured the great churchyard and walked in the botanic garden to view the abbey



ruins. All under the guidance of Lord Hervey. Mr Robert Pettitt, the lease holder of the botanic garden in 1865, does not feature on the itinerary, clearly not important enough to be in the royal presence!



(Above left: laying foundation stone St Andrew's Cathedral Honolulu 1867. Above right: St Andrews today)

The afternoon ended at The Angel Hotel with a banquet and many fine speeches by Reverend Hoapili, Queen Emma's chaplain, various senior clergymen and Bury dignitaries. £48 was donated towards the building of the cathedral (slightly less than the £50 donated at Castle Hedingham!). In total Queen Emma's tour of Britain raised \$30000 (£8 million at today's

values). The day in Bury overran, Queen Emma's party having to be rushed to their carriage to catch the train to Ely from Bury Station. Lord Hervey is quoted as saying about the rather abrupt end to the visit ".....the train will not wait, even for royal personages". The tour of Britain was cut short by Queen Emma's poor health. She suffered from asthma, which was greatly exacerbated by the "pea souper" smogs of London. She departed from Britain for Heres in the south of France to recuperate before embarking on the long journey home via Britain, Ireland, New York and San Francisco.

St Andrews cathedral was consecrated in 1902, but Queen Emma was not there to see it; she had died in 1889 at the age of 49. The cathedral was built from prefabricated parts shipped from England, Hawaiian coral stone and Caen stone imported from Normandy. The same stone type was used by the Normans when they built St Edmundsbury Abbey between 1070 and 1090.



Find out more about how St Andrews Honolulu was built at :-

<https://www.cathedralhawaii.org/architecture.html>

AN UPDATE ON MYSTERY MAN: This is the man who fishes for coins from the watergarden and river Lark then donates them to the garden. Our team of sleuths have discovered his name! Hopefully in the next few weeks we will be able to say thankyou in person. So far this year his watery finds exceed £60.



(Left: the latest haul from the depths. When cleaned it revealed £15.37 in copper and silver coins)



BE AWARE OF TETANUS (bacterium Clostridium tetani): The abbey gardeners are periodically reminded of the risk. Gardeners especially need

to make sure they are fully immunised because of the prevalence of the bacteria in garden soil. It used be called “lockjaw” and was often fatal. The bacteria enters the central nervous system via abrasions, cuts or puncture wounds sustained while gardening. It remains a potentially fatal infection to the unimmunised. Tetanus bacteria multiply much faster in warmer weather. Things like rusty metal/nails/wire etc. make good hosts for the bacteria. Symptoms take between 3 and 21 days to emerge and include:-.

- Stiff abdominal and back muscles

- Contraction of the facial muscles

- Fast pulse

- Fever

- Sweating

- Painful muscle spasms, especially near the wound area (if these affect the throat or chest wall, breathing may be stopped)

- Trouble swallowing

If you have, or spot, the symptoms go straight to your GP or A&E Dept.

AND FINALLY SUMMER IS COMING!



Simon Hobson has provided AGFs with a sneak preview of the summer planting scheme which includes Salvia (Plum Crazy), Geranium (Magenta Syngenta, Frank Headly and Hot Pink), Nicotiana (Lime Green, Alata), New Guinea Impatiens, Gazania (Sunstopper Lemon), Fuschia (Denii Gold) and Petunia. (left: Petunias in the yard ready for planting)

Scroll down for the quiz answers.....

THE NEWSLETTER QUIZ ANSWERS:

1/D Insects

2/G Fruit

3/E Trees

4/B Soil

5/A Vegetables

6/F Flowers

7/H Seeds

8/C Lichens

THE END OF SUMMER 2025 EDITION

The Abbey Garden Friends Committee