

FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDENS

NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2013

Dear Friends

A brilliant summer is drawing to a close in which much has been achieved in the Gardens – Julian Courtauld's report, on behalf of the Trust, outlines the progress of the various gardening projects.

We were blessed with good weather for all our events this year; the Golf Day and Little Legs Day – which were both organised by the Trust were hugely successful and the Band in the Park and the monthly Brass Band Concerts were extremely well supported. These events are going to be run again next year and details will be outlined in the Spring Newsletter. We have two more events for you to enjoy this year; there are still tickets available for the AUTUMN SUPPER to be held at the Howard Hall on 15th NOVEMBER (see booking form below) and we have again organised CAROL SINGING in the Gardens on Wednesday 11th DECEMBER 6.00 – 7.00. Unfortunately we have been unable to arrange for the Ice Skating this year... will see what we can do next year.

With the wonderful weather the gardens have been much used. It has been lovely to see all the families at the weekends and in the school holidays and to see the tennis courts occupied. We are obviously disappointed that the café was not open all through the summer but, rest assured, the Trust are doing all in their power to have the business re-opening as soon as possible and it is expected that a new tenant will be in residence shortly.

PROGRESS IN THE GARDENS

The Gardens have had a mixed year with a great disappointment rising to some spectacular successes. To get the disappointment out of the way first; it is of course, that the Café had to close during the Summer. We are well on the way to finding a new tenant and are very confident that the Café will be open again soon and be ready to welcome you, well before the Winter sets in. Now for the even better news! I told you in the Spring Newsletter of our plans for the Lily Pond and a new bridge. That is now complete and I hope you have all seen the bridge and the babbling brook that flows underneath it. The next stage is to plant up the pond with Water Lilies and resurrect the fountain. This will clarify the water and bring the pond back to what it should be. This has all been made possible by a very hard working Trustee, Tony Harrison, who master minded and supervised the job as well as totally erecting the bridge. Financially it was made possible, by generous funding from Grant Making Trusts as well as a magnificent legacy from the will of Pauline Hart, who as many of you will remember was Clerk to the Trustees and Secretary of The Friends for many years. Pauline's sister Janet has kindly agreed to name the new bridge The Pauline Hart Bridge, at a ceremony to be held in the Spring when all the work to the surrounding area is finished and the weather is a little more reliable – to which you will all be invited.

The gardens have benefitted from the generosity of families wanting to establish a memorial for a loved one. An Oak tree for Sir Richard Butler, a Ginkgo biloba for Lord Newton, an elegant stone seat for Ray and Michael Barrett, the replanting of the Rhododendron bed for Simi Shah, a fine wooden bench for the crew of HMS Kite.

During the year Mike Bardell's extremely interesting history of the gardens entitled "Whither the tired mechanic could resort" was published. If you have not already got a copy, they are available from Braintree Museum.

The very successful events in the gardens and elsewhere have already been mentioned, but the important thing is the Gardens continue to perform the service for which they were originally set up, and are used by an ever increasing number of people. The Gardens are there to be enjoyed, and if ideas occur to anyone of improvements that could be made please do let us know. The best of wishes to everyone for Christmas and 2014.

Julien Courtauld

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As always I add to Julian's words that we are extremely grateful for your support and always looking for extra members and any little help you can offer –if you can help with postage by delivering Newsletters in your area please do give me a ring. Help with social events is most welcome too.

We look forward to seeing you at the Autumn Supper and the Carol Singing.

Eve Boatman.

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AUTUMN SUPPER
for 7.30

FRIDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2013

7.00

HOWARD HALL, BOCKING END, BRAINTREE. LICENCED BAR TWO COURSE
SUPPER £10

NAME.....
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ADDRESS.....
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.....tickets @ £10 = £.....

Cheques to Friends of the Public Gardens

Please send to Eve Boatman, 83 Bradford Street, Braintree. CM7 9AU. Please enclose
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