

# The Porter's Garden

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Dear Friend,

## The Friends of the Porter's Garden - Autumn Newsletter

### The Midsummer Garden Party

Held on Sunday, 21 June 2009 our midsummer garden party was another great success and the weather was kind to us this year; we had a sunny afternoon for our celebration of the 500th anniversary of the accession to the throne of Henry VIII. The Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Councilor Terry Hall was pleased to attend and perform the opening ceremony accompanied by her consort, husband John. Mike Hall, the Chairman of Hampshire Gardens Trust was also in attendance. The Mary Rose Trust demonstrated coin striking, there was a game of Nine Men's Morris for the energetic and we had a surprise visit from the great man himself, Henry VIII. With a traditional strawberry and scone tea, some additional Tudor sweetmeats and a delicious fruit punch, a good time was had by all. This year for entertainment we had the St Ann's Handbell Team and Con Brio, our favorite singing group. Due to the generous support of our Friends, we made just over £325.00 profit for the garden.

### Leaflets

Our Porter's Garden information leaflet has recently been updated and a new leaflet produced about the Pique stone and the voyage of HM Frigate Pique across the Atlantic. Both freely available in the Garden.

### New in the Garden

A major project came to fruition on 20 March 2009 when the raised extension to the Garden was opened by Mike Hall.

The extension was designed by Professor Sir Colin Stansfield Smith and features Breedon gravel, a flight of steps, a double wall garden and five *juglans nigra* (Black Walnut) trees.



Mike Hall Photo by Pauline Powell

### Visits and Events

1. On Sunday 19 April 2009, seven Friends visited Bramdean House for one of their NGS open days. It is a very attractive traditional 6 acre garden with carpets of spring bulbs and mirror herbaceous borders.
2. On Saturday 13 June 2009, to celebrate 25 years of making a difference, Hampshire Gardens Trust held an Anniversary Party at Jermyn's House. Five

Friends went along to this splendid evening event with jazz and picnics in the beautiful grounds of the House.

3. Eight Friends took part in the 20 July 2009 visit to The Hill Garden and Kenwood House Garden on 20 July 2009. Both of these gardens are in Hampstead. Hill Garden is an early 19th Century Garden redesigned in the early 20th Century by Thomas H Mawson and its main feature is a wonderful colonnaded pergola around the west and south sides of the formal garden in front of its mansion, Inverforth House. We also visited the walled garden in Kenwood House which was a kitchen garden at one time but is now laid out with lawns and flower beds.

4. The second meeting of the Association of Friends of Hampshire Gardens took place on 18 August 2009 at Townhill Park, Southampton attended by Honorary Secretary Pauline Powell. The first one took place in March. This forum is the brain child of Hampshire Gardens Trust and the idea behind it is a mutual self help group of like minds for the exchange of expertise and information. There are fifteen active Groups in the Association and subsequent meetings will take place at the other gardens maintained by the Friends.

5. A very enjoyable visit was made on 23 August 2009 to Old Alresford House, the 18th Century mansion and 35 acres of garden at Old Alresford, owned by Mike Hall, Chairman of the Hampshire Gardens Trust. It was opened as part of the HGT programme of the Celebration Series of Open Gardens. Five Friends attended.

6. Dr Ann Coats gave guided tours of the Porter's Lodge and Garden during Heritage Open Days on 12 and 13 September 2009.

7. A new venture this year has been an autumn lunch which took place in Boat House 7 restaurant in the Dockyard on 22 September 2009. Nine Friends enjoyed the occasion.



### Dates for Your Diary

? The Historic Dockyard Festival of Christmas will be held 27 – 29 November 2009.

? Our AGM will be on Thursday 18 March 2010 and

? the Summer Garden Party will take place on Sunday 20 June 2009.

Autumn lunch Photo by Pauline Powell

### Web Site

Don't forget to log on and keep up to date with what's going on in the Porter's Garden at: [www.portersgarden.hampshire.org.uk](http://www.portersgarden.hampshire.org.uk)

### Volunteers

We are still in need of more gardening volunteers. Any help is welcome. Why not join us on the first weekend in the month or on Wednesday mornings when we all get together to make a difference. At the same time we exchange gardening tips, plants and expertise which help us in our own gardens. There's no heavy work involved so you don't need to be a 'spring chicken!'

Hope to see you soon in the Garden or at one of our other enjoyable occasions.

Yours sincerely, *Ann*