

Friends of the Porter's Garden  
<http://www.portersgarden.hampshire.org.uk>

Twitter @portersgarden  
Fourteenth Annual General Meeting  
Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust  
20 March 2014

*Thirteenth Annual Report*



***But These Things Also***

But these things also are Spring's -  
On banks by the roadside the grass  
Long-dead that is greyer now  
Than all the Winter it was;

The shell of a little snail bleached  
In the grass; chip of flint, and mite  
Of chalk; and the small birds' dung  
In splashes of purest white:

All the white things a man mistakes  
For earliest violets  
Who seeks through Winter's ruins  
Something to pay Winter's debts,

While the North blows, and starling flocks  
By chattering on and on  
Keep their spirits up in the mist,  
And Spring's here, Winter's not gone.

Edward Thomas (3 March 1878–9 April 1917)

**Non-Events**

For the second year running we had to cancel our Garden Party due to lack of interest, despite switching it to September in the hope of avoiding competing events. We have now decided to do something different, such as an evening event. There was no tour of the Porter's Lodge and Garden for the local Heritage Open Days, as we can only cater for a small number within the confines of the house, and that was not viable. There was also no summer outing for the Friends, although some garden visits did take place.

**News in the Garden**

The Judas Tree (*cercis siliquastrum*), planted by Lord Mayor at our opening ceremony on 21 June 2001, was pruned in March 2013 to protect it from wind damage and improve its shape.

The damson was also pruned, allowing the yew hedge to give it protection from westerly winter blasts. In December a valuable supply of well rotted horse manure, the mainstay of the garden, arrived to feed the plants for the next year. Despite the gales this winter the rain benefitted the garden. Come the spring the crocuses looked magnificent on the square lawn and the Pride of India (*Koelreuteria paniculata*), a gift from Mrs Gilly Drummond of Hampshire Gardens Trust in 2004, has grown noticeably in girth. The 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Coventry is said to have introduced it at Croome House in Worcestershire in 1763.

#### Visits and Events

Looking ahead to our celebration of the Royal Marines 350 event in May 2014, interested parties met on Wednesday 19 February to discuss details. A flower bed depicting the Royal Marines escutcheon and flag will be displayed in the Raised Garden through the summer.

The Friends held a picnic in the garden on 24 July 2013 and Coffee and Cake (after the Garden Party that never was), on 19 September 2013.

Peter Goodship, Consultant Chief Executive of the Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust, treated the Friends to a superb Christmas Lunch at the Ship Hotel, Chichester in December. Our thanks to Lorraine Carpenter who moved us to this venue with great aplomb at the last minute.

The website, thanks to John Scott, keeps members 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) Hampshire County Council supports the Friends of the Porter's Garden - as a community organisation - by hosting the web site and providing free 50MB of web space. A magnificent gallery of pictures is displayed on the website, and this year a Twitter account has been added: <https://twitter.com/portersgarden>.

#### Volunteers

The Friends value the contributions made by all the volunteers during this year.

Thanks especially to the Porter's Garden Committee Friends:

- Pauline Powell for her hard work as Secretary and Photographer and Lorraine and Joan for stepping in to take the meeting minutes
- John Scott for updating our excellent website
- Cristine as Treasurer, for keeping us fully informed as to our finances, and approving Pauline's spending
- Margaret Judd, Social Secretary, assisted by Val Pennycook, for arranging interesting garden visits and lunches
- All the other Committee members for their valuable input to meetings
- Last, but not least to Peter Goodship, Lorraine Carpenter, Karol Jefferies and the PNBPT staff for their support
- We have also had much help in the Garden from Peter Lambert's Maintenance Team, for which we are very grateful, in particular for the new compost bins
- The 'Diggers' for hundreds of hours digging, watering, propagating, composting, lawn care, historical and horticultural research, designing, use of petrol to collect plants, emails and telephone calls, administration, photographs, plants, tools, fertiliser and sundries

*Dr Ann Coats* Coordinator, 20 March 2014

