

**Friends of the Porter's Garden**  
**Sixteenth Annual General Meeting 3 March 2016**  
**Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust**  
**Fifteenth Annual Report**

We can all relate to these excerpts from “The Glory of the Garden” by Rudyard Kipling:

...“Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made  
By singing:--"Oh, how beautiful!" and sitting in the shade,  
While better [men?] than we go out and start their working lives  
At grubbing weeds from gravel-paths with broken dinner-knives

Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees  
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees,  
So when your work is finished, you can wash your hand and pray  
For the Glory of the Garden, that it may not pass away!  
*And the Glory of the Garden it shall never pass away!" ...*



*Miss Jekyll's Gardening Boots by Sir William Nicholson*

Weather-worn, practical, busy and out of sight!

### **News in the Garden**

The garden was particularly floriferous in 2015. Cherries, damson, Judas tree, Pride of India, echium, hops, crocus, fritillaries and apothecary roses, all performed well. The William III bed looked wonderful in July with white antirrhinums and lavender. We had good autumn colour as well.

The cherries provided a good crop for jam making and as did the damson and both now have been (mostly) pruned. We had some pruning instruction from Andy Knight, Portsmouth City Council Arboriculturalist. Val and Sue did a magnificent pruning job on the limes. We also had professional help to raise the canopy of the old walnuts and we continue to worry about the new ones. Green Thumb have been working on the lawns.

The crocuses on the square lawn have lacked sun at the right time in 2016 but the tête-à-tête narcissi are really wonderful again under the new walnuts.

Cris continues with seed propagation and bulb and plant buying, the new spring bulbs are beginning to show through in beds and tubs. She leads on keeping the troughs looking good as well.

The Royal Marines planter has been kept up to scratch throughout the year led by Val but has now been cleared for refurbishment by Stephen Broad the carpenter.

We have ordered a new plant stand to be made by Peter Clutterbuck in keeping with his marvelous gates.

### **Website**

Our website, started and maintained by John Scott, until recently, when he had to give up due to ill health, keeps members up to date. We now have a new web master Mark Pearson and a new domain name [www.portersgarden.org.uk](http://www.portersgarden.org.uk) from [www.tsohost.com](http://www.tsohost.com) who also provide the hosting. Hampshire County Council is withdrawing its free web space offer in July. We are very grateful to John for his past valuable work and to Mark for taking over.

### **Visits and Events**

The Friends celebrated a Spring lunch at the Marmion pub in Southsea on 2 March 2015 organised by Angela Stafford, and a picnic in the garden on a lovely 29 July 2015.

Our visit to the Queen's Gallery in London on 1 June 2015 to view the exhibition "Painting Paradise" organised by Maggie and Angela was a particular treat.

The Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust treated the Friends to a superb Christmas lunch at the Chapter House Restaurant in Salisbury on 9 December 2015. Thank you Lorraine for organising it.

### **Volunteers**

The contributions made by all the volunteers during the year are really appreciated by the Friends and are most valuable.

The Friends also thank Orchard Close gardeners for continuing to donate plants in such generous quantities.

Thanks especially to:

- Joan Munro for taking on the role and her hard work as Secretary, and to Lorraine for stepping in to take the committee meeting minutes on occasion.
- Cristine Kervin as Treasurer, for keeping us fully informed as to our finances, and approving necessary spending on plants, seeds and equipment.
- Margaret Judd, Social Secretary, assisted by Val Pennycook, Angela Stafford and Maggie Knox, for arranging interesting garden visits and lunches.
- All the other Committee members for their valuable input in the garden and to meetings.
- John Scott for all his work on our website, we wish him well.
- Mark Pearson for taking over as webmaster and updating our excellent website.
- Peter Lambert's Maintenance Team, in particular for Stephen Broad's meticulous contributions.
- 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, and to husbands, partners and friends when they can be persuaded.
- Last but not least, Peter Goodship, Lorraine Carpenter, Karol Jeffery and the PNBPT staff for their support.

*Pauline Powell* Coordinator,  
2 March 2016