

FRIENDS OF OLD DURHAM GARDENS

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1, SEPTEMBER 2010

Dear Friend

Thank you for showing an interest in supporting the formation of a Friends Group for Old Durham Gardens.

The purpose of this, our first newsletter, is to bring you up to date with what has been happening over the summer; what is planned in the near future; and also to ask if you would kindly consider becoming a member of the Friends of Old Durham Gardens. (Details at the end)

May 2010

Canvassing of visitors to the World Environment day event held in Millennium Square suggested that there was clear support for some form of voluntary public intervention to assist Durham County Council to arrest the decline of the Gardens, as well as developing their undoubted potential.

July 2010

A series of public meetings were held in the Town Hall to discuss how this support could be mobilised.

August 2010

A well attended meeting in the Town Hall agreed to form a Friends group for Old Durham Gardens and elected a steering committee.

September 2010

The Group was formally constituted and measures are currently being put in place to cover finances and insurance for volunteers when working in the Gardens. A website is in preparation and discussions are taking place on funding.



Action Days in the Garden

With the help of Durham County Council, a group of volunteers spent the weekend of 21st & 22nd August engaged in various horticultural tasks in the Gardens, as well as painting the gazebo and cleaning out the undercroft. Everyone involved was encouraged by the spectacular results and were determined to build on their efforts.

Membership

We would be delighted to see you at any of the regular volunteer sessions and will keep you informed about when they are taking place.

If you would like to be a member of the Friends of Old Durham Gardens, email olddurhamgardens@gmail.com or call **Alison Danforth** (secretary) on 07702825065.

Members are being sought for various working groups to cover the following areas :

- Planning and research
- Horticulture / training
- Publicity
- Fund raising
- Events, etc.

If you feel that you can help in any way, please contact **Gordon Hull** (0191 3736146) or **Paul Beard** (0191 3841558).

Forthcoming events

We hope to have a joint event with the Durham Fruit Group in October to mark National Apple Day. The traditional orchards at Old Durham Gardens makes this an ideal venue. If you would like to be involved please contact: **Adam Offler** (0191 3782883)