



**Friends
of
Old Durham Gardens**

News... Issue 6 Spring 2013

Dear Friend

Welcome to this Spring edition of the Friends of Old Durham Gardens newsletter. Hopefully, over the next few weeks the weather will start to improve and we can begin to look forward to one of the spectacular sights in the gardens the blossoming of the fruit trees in the orchard. This usually starts around the middle of May and is not to be missed.

We also extend a warm invitation to attend our **Annual General Meeting**, whether you are a member or not. The AGM will be held **at 7.00pm on 9th May in Committee Room 2 at County Hall**. It will be followed, as is our normal pattern, at 7.30pm by a **presentation** which this year is from Michael Richardson, well known author and local historian from Gilesgate Archives; it is entitled “**Photographs of Old Durham and Surrounding Areas.**”



**Volunteering
-give it a go!**

Helping to maintain and develop Old Durham Gardens can be incredibly rewarding. It is also an opportunity to learn new skills, meet new people, or simply enjoy doing something completely different.

There are a huge variety of gardening opportunities and we will always try to match your skills or interests to the volunteering opportunities available. Just come along when you have some time and in the process learn about the history of this little known jewel within Durham City.

Keep your shoes clean

You don't need to be splashing around in the mud and wielding a spade to be a volunteer. We have opportunities such as assisting visitors to the gardens, organising events, researching the history of the gardens, exploring funding opportunities, helping with publicity or developing closer relations with local schools and the community. If any of these takes your fancy either come along to one of our regular open days (see opposite) or contact :

**Chris Lee at email olddurhamgardens@gmail.com
or Tel 07966 504 597**

Volunteer Sessions March to September 2013

Thursday 2.00pm to 4.00pm

March	7, 14, 21, 28
April	4, 11, 18, 25
May	2, 9, 16, 23, 30
June	6, 13, 20, 27
July	4, 11, 18, 25
August	1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Sept	5, 12, 19, 26

Sunday 2.00pm to 4.00pm

March	24
April	21
May	5, 12, 19, 26
June	2, 9, 16, 23, 30
July	7, 14, 21, 28
August	4, 11, 18, 25
Sept	1, 8, 15, 22, 29

NEW
Open
Every Sunday
May
To
September

What's been happening

Apples, damsons and greengages



Despite, snow, ice and floods some heritage fruit trees and old fashioned roses were planted within the orchard during a rare spell of mild weather. We are indebted to the volunteers from the Business School and the University for their fortitude, hard work, and for giving their time so generously.

Water, water, water



The leak in the water supply pipe to the gardens has been repaired and at the same time a meter has been fitted so we are well prepared for the hot weather ahead!

Signs

Signs are to be erected at the two main entrances to the gardens. Many people walk past the gardens every week and are unaware of their existence or that they are open to the public.



The Green - Fingred Vandal



Although the lower garden is accessible at all times there has thankfully, been very little vandalism. However, one of the newly planted trees had all the side shoots neatly cut back to the stem. Perhaps the person responsible could be persuaded to become a volunteer.

What's on !

A new Spring programme of guided visits to local historic gardens has been planned by Martin Roberts. Further details are provided within this newsletter.



Building on the success of our first music event in the gardens last year, the intention is to repeat the event on Sunday 15th September during the Heritage Open weekend. Further details will be provided nearer the date. Hopefully, the weather will be as kind as it was last year.

Other musical events are being planned with students from the University in June as well as occasional performances on Sunday afternoons by local groups subject to weather conditions. Further details will be provided.

Although it seems a long way off, we are hoping to resurrect the Apple Day event which may be held in the orchards on the 19th October. Further details to be provided.



The year ahead

We will be seeking to continue improving the condition of the gardens through careful traditional management. Similarly, plans for the restoration of the planting within the walled garden will be developed along with the completion of the replacement fruit tree planting within the orchard.

With help from the Countryside Rangers we are hoping to repair all the gates, stiles and fences that have fallen into disrepair. The friends of Old Durham Gardens could not exist without you - our members - and similarly, the work that we do could not happen without volunteers, so please come along and help.

Spring Garden Walks

The following programme of guided visits to historic gardens has been organised by Martin Roberts, a Trustee of The Friends of Old Durham Gardens and an authority on local historic buildings and gardens.

There may be a very modest charge (about £1.00) to cover any photocopying costs.

For all visits please let Martin Roberts know if you will be attending so we can judge numbers. Martin's email is martin@fleece.wanadoo.co.uk, and his address is Old Fleece House, 20B Front Street, West Auckland, Co Durham DL14 9HW

10.00am Sunday 14 April - Durham College gardens

The college gardens of Durham University are a hidden delight, rarely open to public view. But thanks to the kindness of the college heads, they are exclusively open to the Friends. This all day event will take us through landscapes that date back to the medieval city, through seventeenth and eighteenth century gardens laid out by the gentry on the Bailey, to the modern gardens of the South Road colleges. We shall be visiting gardens at St Chad's, St John's, St Mary's, Trevelyan and St Aidan's colleges. We suggest lunch at the Botanic Garden (own arrangements). Meet on North Bailey, at the East end of the Cathedral (close to Heritage Centre) at 10.00am.



2.00pm Sunday 12 May - Newton Hall

An afternoon walk through the modern landscape of Newton Hall housing estate in search of the evidence for the eighteenth century landscape of the great house that once stood there. You will be surprised just what evidence can still be found. Armed with old photographs and maps we shall investigate just how even a twentieth century house builder could not totally eradicate the historic landscape he inherited. Meet at 2.00pm on Carr House Drive, the main E-W spine road through Newton Hall, opposite the open land, that lies north of the road, between Rochester and Coventry Roads, that is just W of 117 Carr House Drive. (see Google Maps)

10.00am Sunday 16 June - Cocken and Finchale

In the mid-eighteenth century the young Ralph Carr of Cocken Hall married well and spent much of his new wealth laying out the grounds of his estate. It became one of the most visited County Durham landscapes, such was the fame of its dramatic walks and panoramas. Despite the loss of the Hall, the remains of that landscape, and the evidence of earlier, formal parkland can still be traced on the estate today. Carr's landscape ended with the perfect, tree-framed view of the medieval ruins of Finchale Priory, and it is there, at 10.00am, that we meet for this all day visit (bring picnic lunch). The terrain is at times uneven so come with good walking shoes and the usual country attire.

Membership

We are pleased to report that 2012 was another successful year for the Friends of Old Durham Gardens. All credit goes to our hardworking volunteers and generous supporters - we couldn't do it without you.

Membership of the Friends of Old Durham Gardens, which was formed in 2010, currently stands at 75 with 51 new members joining in 2012 as well as many more renewing their membership.

If you are considering becoming a member or are a member already but haven't completed a standing order mandate, we would be extremely grateful if you would consider doing so as it really helps to reduce our administration costs.

A copy of the Application Form and Standing Order Mandate is provided opposite.

Volunteer Skills Audit

If you are thinking of volunteering in the gardens, or have already been helping us this year, it will help us if you can fill in one of our skills audit forms. This lets us know what gardening and other tasks you are prepared to contribute. The form is available on our website :

www.olddurhamgardens.co.uk

or you can telephone [Angela Lee](#) on **0191 3865188**

for a copy to be sent through the post.

We look forward to seeing you in the coming year.

APPLICATION FORM

I/We wish to become a member of The Friends of Old Durham Gardens and I/We enclose cash / standing order mandate / a cheque payable to The Friends of Old Durham Gardens.

Full Name & Address (capitals) Dr / Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms

..... postcode

Tel. No. Mob. No

Email

Signed Date

Annual membership subscription:

Ordinary £5

Joint (couple)..... £10

Completion of the following Standing Order Mandate will enable your bank to make the payment now for this year and on 1st January of each subsequent year. We would prefer members to pay by this method which is convenient for them and for The Friends Group.

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To:..... (Subscriber's own bank)

(address).....

Please pay to the Unity Trust Bank plc, Nine Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HB (sort code 086001) now and on each 1st January of each subsequent year starting 1st January 20..... Until further notice, the sum of £....., for the credit of The Friends of Old Durham Gardens, A/c no. 20253921, and debit my

Account Number

Signed..... date

Name (capitals)

Address (capitals)

..... postcode

Please send application to: The Treasurer, Friends of Old Durham Gardens, c/o 16 Mountjoy Crescent, Durham City, DH1 3BA



Trustees

Chris Lee (Chair) 07966 504597

Sandra Robertson (Secretary)

Colin Jubb (Treasurer) 0191 3867619

Angela Lee (Membership Secretary) 0191 3865188

Paul Beard

Adam Ofler

Martin Roberts