



**FRIENDS OF  
ST ANN'S WELL  
GARDENS**

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2013**

Registered Charity Number: **1141038**

**Trustees (who are also committee members) :-**

Linda Austin  
Juliette Bidwell  
Melanie Davis  
Natalie Hall

**Co-opted:**

Chantelle Hoppé

**Correspondence Address:-**

**Bankers:**

HSBC, Ridgeland House, 167 Dyke Road, Hove BN3 1TX

**"The Friends of St Ann's Well Gardens" was set up in November 2007 to promote, enhance and conserve the well being of St Ann's Well Gardens and to assist with the planning and delivery of the centenary celebrations in 2008.**

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report for 2012 and accounts for the financial year 2011-2012.

## **Organisational Structure**

The Friends of St Ann's Well Gardens now has 70 paying members, an increase on last year, 40 people are signed up to the Wildlife Newsgroup and there are 168 likes on the Facebook page, with 287 signed up to the Friends of St Ann's Well Gardens Facebook group. We are also on Twitter, with 832 followers. We have also re-vamped our website – our thanks to our designer Fiona Mostyn.

In shaping our objectives and planning our activities for the year, the Trustees have given consideration to the duties set out in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit. In particular the trustees have considered how the planned activities will contribute to the overall aims and objectives that they have set.

The Trustees believe that the following paragraphs relate in detail to the benefit that the charity provides to the public.

## **Governance and Decision-making**

The Trustees met on 8 occasions.

## **Objects**

"To promote the preservation, restoration, and improvement of St Ann's Well gardens for the education and benefit of the public, by associating the local authority and local community in a common effort to provide facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the lives of local inhabitants.

To work with the staff of the local authority to develop the Gardens as a wildlife habitat and to encourage park users to respect the animals and plants in the Gardens."

## **Activities**

### **Fundraising & Projects**

#### **Sponsorship**

In the 2012/13 financial year, the Spring Festival was sponsored by the Montefiore Hospital and this sponsorship was acknowledged by a plaque at the entrance to the Sensory Garden. Austin Rees sponsored the Christmas Market.

#### **Other Donations**

We also raised substantial sums from donations at the 2012 Spring Festival, Welloween, and Christmas Market.

#### **Tree Project**

We are working towards getting additional funding for interpretation boards for St Ann's Well Gardens' rare and unusual trees.

## **Working Group Reports**

We have 2 active working groups :- Entertainments (Ents) and Wildlife.

### **Entertainment Group**

The Ents Group is responsible for the Spring Festival and Welloween, as well as smaller events put on through the year.

#### Sassoon Donation Centenary and Croquet Event

We celebrated the centenary of Flora Sassoon's donation of the land on which the Sensory Garden and tennis courts are now situated. Sadly, the weather was terrible and the event was poorly attended. We also used this event to "open" the new lighting bollards between the cross path and Summerhill Road, and to unveil the Montefiore sponsorship pack.

#### Spring Festival

The 2013 Spring Festival, again sponsored by the Montefiore Hospital (see Fundraising section) was even more successful than in previous years. We had over 40 local organisations, companies & businesses participating on the day a range of activities, along with over 200 artists and performers. There was again a vast array of free activities and workshops on offer and something for all ages. The financial risk was again reduced by working in partnership with a number of organisations who controlled their own entry charges in return for a substantial donation to the Friends of St Ann's Well Gardens. Due to the wet conditions over the winter, the Music Stage had to be relocated to the Nizells Avenue side of the Gardens, which worked well and there were fewer noise complaints. The Stage was again organised and managed by Creative Law & Business – our thanks to Dean Marsh.

We also had more volunteers out shaking buckets than in previous years, with people from local schools and churches involved.

#### Heritage Walk

Ranger Neil Doyle led the usual Heritage Walk on the Saturday of National Heritage Weekend. This year, Neil's wonderful booklet "The Story of St Ann's Well" was also available.

#### Pamper in the Park

This event was a spin-off from the Spring Festival's Pamper Zone.

#### Welloween

Our annual halloween party 'Welloween' was again huge success. Attended by over 200 children in fancy dress, it was an afternoon of spooky activities, scary music and ghoulish fun. The party went on until 6.30pm when everyone gathered for spooky stories by park ranger Neil Doyle. Many thanks for all those who helped with this event.

#### Christmas Market and Santa's Grotto

This was a new venture for the Friends and was very popular with families.

#### **Wildlife Group**

The Wildlife Group now has a regular programme of events and activities.

#### Big Garden Birdwatch

The Wildlife Group and local families joined in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch in late January 2013 and counted the birds in St Ann's Well Gardens. This will now be a regular event and we will build up an ongoing picture of our birds in winter.

#### Nestboxes and Feeders

In 2012 we received a grant of £700 from Brighton & Hove City Council for bird & bat nest boxes, a nest box cam and squirrel-proof bird feeders. These were installed before by BHCC's Aboricultural team before the spring and they were soon in use. A flat screen television has also been donated, for use as a "Springwatch"-style monitor. We were unable to install this properly for 2013 but will be employing a TV aerial installer to connect everything in February

## **Community Activities and Partnership Working With Brighton & Hove Council**

### Heritage Booklet

Ranger Neil Doyle's "The Story of St Ann's Well" was funded by the Friends and was launched in May. The booklet expands on the vintage photographs used in the Heritage Trail. Neil has also made a handcrafted wood display box for the booklets, which is now in the Garden Café. They are also available for purchase through our website.

### Playground

Phase 2 of the Playground rebuild was completed in October 2013 with the installation of 2 fabulous totem poles which reflect the wildlife residents of the St Ann's Well and an acoustic chair, funded by Aiming High funding to make the playground more accessible to children with disabilities.

### Lighting

After a 5 year campaign by the Friends, new lighting bollards were installed between the cross path and Somerhill Road past the Garden Café, as well as new lamp posts. This was funded in part by Brighton & Hove City Council, with top-up funding through a grant to the Friends by the Montefiore Hospital.

### Health Walks

St Ann's Well Gardens is now host to Health Walks twice a month, led by one of our members.

### City in Bloom

We were again part of the Brunswick & Regency in Bloom entry for South East in Bloom, which was once more awarded Silver Gilt.

## **Future Plans**

We are already making plans for the next Spring Festival on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

We will continue the programme of events & activities now well established and we also have some exciting plans for new events. We need lots more volunteers to come forward.

## **Financial Report**

Following advice from Sharla Mann of Impact Initiatives, Natalie Hall, our treasurer, and Jasmine Fish our bookkeeper, have set up an electronic account system – thanks to both of them for their hard work in getting the annual accounts into shape. The 2012/13 accounts are attached to this report – please note that they are for the financial year, and do not cover the period from 1st April 2013 to present, which will be the subject of a separate oral report at the AGM.