

Memorial Messenger

"YOUR NEWS GATEWAY TO THE GARDENS"

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PORTCHESTER
MEMORIAL
GARDENS

Welcome to our Newsletter, within which, after a three year break, we are delighted to have the opportunity to update all of you on what has been happening over the last three years, and future plans for our Gardens.

If you have any feedback, please do get in contact using the details below.

Christmas Memorial Service – an invitation

After the cancellation of our 2019 service due to the weather, and the additional cancellation of a Summer service and two further Christmas services due to the COVID pandemic, we are absolutely delighted that our Christmas Memorial Service can return this year, and we once again hope to welcome hundreds of people through our gates to share in this special event.

This year's service, led by Rowans Hospice Chaplain, Carol Gully, and supported by Independent Celebrant, Erika Biddlecome, will start at 3pm on Sunday 4th December, however you are most welcome to come along from 2pm to enjoy early refreshments and listen to the euphonious voice of our professional singer, Karina Hind, whilst waiting for the service to start. As in past years, there will be a selection of carols led by our local choir, a memorial reading and The Southcoast Piper, Daniel Del Piccolo.

Following the ceremony there will be the opportunity for families to light a candle of remembrance for their loved ones who have passed away while volunteers continue to serve mulled wine, hot beverages and mince pies (donations to Rowans Hospice would be most appreciated).

* If we should have severe rain or snow leading up to the Service whereby our overflow parking field may become unusable, we may have to postpone. In such circumstances, we will of course endeavour to contact everyone in advance who has responded. However, if you are at all uncertain, please contact the office or visit our website or Facebook page prior to setting off to check if the service is still going ahead.

We would be grateful if you could return the enclosed reply slip to the office no later than Friday 25th November. Alternatively email us at enquiries@pmgardens.com, stating how many people will be attending. This will help us cater for refreshments. Please be aware that if you do not let us know you are coming, we will not be able to warn you personally if bad weather forces us to cancel the event*.

Parking will be in Portchester Crematorium's car parks, with our top field being used for the overflow parking, if dry enough. We would appreciate you trying to car share where possible, as space is limited, even when we can use the top field. If you are a blue badge holder, please display this to use our designated disabled car park area within the Crematorium overflow car park. These spaces are limited and given out on a first-come, first-served basis.

As only the grave owner of each memorial plot receives this newsletter, do please notify other relatives directly if they'd like to attend and ensure that we are told how many will be coming.



Garden Gossip! Keeping you up to date on what's happened & what's happening!

Welcome to Alfie our Apprentice - Alfie joined us in September 2020 on an Apprenticeship Programme in Horticulture with Sparsholt College. He has proven to be a great asset to the team and is now coming to the end of his apprenticeship. We are delighted that he will be remaining with us in his role as Assistant Gardener alongside Ollie.

Goodbye to Jodie - Jodie our Office Manager left us in October 2021 in order to spend more time on her home refurbishment projects. We are most grateful for the 7 years she dedicated to our business and wish her all the very best in the future.

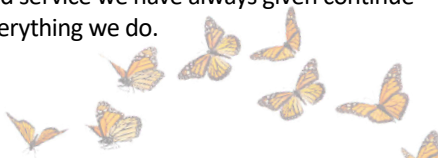
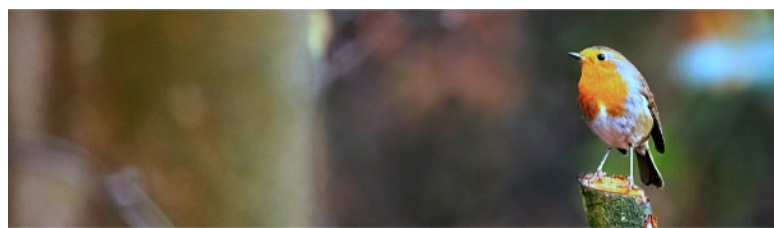
Welcome to Julie - Julie joined us in December last year and very quickly settled in to her new role as Office Manager. Not to confuse her with Julie the Director, the Julie's are now affectionately regarded as **Julie one** and **Julie two**! "Julie two" has a background spent working in funeral care, and has the empathy and understanding that we appreciate is so important when you contact us. We are most grateful for the dedication and notable contribution that Julie has made to our business in such a short space of time. Together we will ensure that our standards and service we have always given continue to remain at the centre of everything we do.

Congratulations to Ollie - In May this year Ollie and his wife Ruth became proud parents to Baby Jessica. Ollie has taken to fatherhood with great pride and joy!

Great achievement to Martin - Well done to our Head Gardener, Martin, who walked the entire length of The Pennine Way (270 miles) this year, thoroughly enjoying the challenge and experience. An expedition to Nepal is next on his wish list!



The sad passing of Tony Trimmings
The beloved husband of Barbara Trimmings (founder of the Portchester Memorial Gardens) passed away on 4th March 2020. Tony's priority in life was his family, especially "Barbara-the-Boss", his number one. He is sorely missed by us all and has left behind a legacy of love and support.



The Queen's Green Canopy - A gift for Her Majesty's 70 years of service

The initiative encourages the planting of trees that will not only thrive, but enhance the environment and landscape for generations to come, therefore creating a lasting legacy to honour Her Late Majesty's leadership. It was with great pride that we took part in this initiative, and we were grateful to the Mayor, Councillor Mike Ford, together with his wife, Mayoress Ann Ford, for visiting our Gardens to officially plant the tree, a Paulownia Tomentosa (Empress or Princess Tree) on the central lawn. This tree was carefully selected for its fragrant flowers, purple in colour and, of course, its name. A Welsh slate plaque was also placed below the tree to commemorate this significant event.



Garden Gossip

A few highlights from the landscaping team

Winter/Spring 2022-23 - projects completed & pending

- Two of the rose beds in The Hill of Roses replanted
- Grass paths created in borders outside Garden of Time and north of Garden of Sea (lawn side)
- Stream re-lined and improved
- New planting completed in Garden of Time with new Gothic style seating
- Obelisk Lawn replanted
- Box shrubs removed because of Box beetle infestation
- Continued hard pruning to bring planting back to a more attractive shape
- Removal of existing planting and replanting of the north east quadrant of Garden of Peace (other quadrants being done in next 2-3 years). Planting in oriental style.
- Replanting along path by the summerhouse
- Shrub removal in southern end of Little Springs. Replanting with more attractive shrubs and perennials
- New seating to be placed in South Boundary with views up through Garden of Time

We've gone wild!

Over the last couple of years visitors may have noticed that we have been creating a Wildlife area that runs alongside the central stream just above the Temple. Our aim is to encourage pollinators ie bees, hoverflies, butterflies, moths etc., and to provide habitat for "garden beneficial" insects, amphibians and small mammals. All of which naturally reduce the pests resident in any garden, meaning we are able to continue to be insecticide free!

We would, therefore, respectfully ask people to refrain from putting their own slug pellets on the ground.

Water Butts - these were placed around the gardens during the Covid restrictions when watering cans were removed, and have remained as a permanent feature so that we can collect rainwater for watering thus reducing our carbon footprint, lowering our environmental impact.

Fruit producing planting - we are delighted to have had a good crop of pears, grapes, currents and apples and welcome our visitors to pick the ripe fruit (*just ask one of our gardening team!*)



PMG visit to Hampton Court Flower Show

GOLD AWARD

South & South East in Bloom 2021/2022
Cemetery category



"The gardens are continually being adapted and developed to meet the needs of the customers, and to provide that lovely balance of tranquillity with year round interest and accessibility"

"What's on Offer" - We are delighted to have formed a close link with a very well known local florist, Jeannette Rawson, who can provide beautiful seasonal floral arrangements and deliver to us to personally place on your loved ones' graves should you not be able to travel to the Gardens. Just telephone our office, place and pay for your order over the phone, and we'll do all the rest. *Jeanette can also provide xmas tributes at this time of year.*



Crematory Memorial Jewellery - 'Ashes into Glass' - Please enquire

Christmas wreaths clearance

As usual over the festive period, we will leave the various wreaths and decorations on graves until the New Year (the Twelfth Night). All items will then be removed on Monday 9th January and displayed alongside the office for two weeks. Any items you would like back, can be collected from there. If you are unable to do so within this time span, please contact the office to arrange a collection time for the item.

As in previous years, anything not retrieved by mid-January will be offered to Fareham Floral Club where they will recycle into arrangements and sold to raise money for charity.

Remaining items will either be recycled or disposed of. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

Grave/memorial plot general clearance

At the same time as removing festive items from all grave/memorial plots, we will also be removing all items that are prohibited in accordance with our Rules and Regulations.

It has become noticeable over recent months that many unauthorised items are being placed on memorial plots. We are therefore taking this opportunity to enclose with this newsletter a copy of our updated Rules and Regulations to ensure that the appearance and unity of the Gardens is preserved in line with its original ethos. All items that are removed will be labelled and dated, and kept for three months in a designated area for collection, after which they will be recycled or disposed of.

Please note: Any spring bulbs, eg cyclamen, hyacinth and daffodils removed from grave area are re-planted in the garden and if possible we try to plant near the grave they came from.

Keep us informed

Don't forget to keep us informed if you are moving house, changing phone numbers or email addresses.

This will enable us to keep you updated with newsletters, details of Memorial Services, and lease renewal letters.

Simply call on **01329 828250**, email enquiries@pmgardens.com or message us via Facebook and we will update your records. *Thank you!*

