

Friends of the Porter's Garden
<http://www.portersgarden.hampshire.org.uk>

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Fifteenth Annual General Meeting
Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust
12 March 2015

Fourteenth Annual Report



IN FLANDERS FIELDS JOHN MCCRAE May 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Garden News

The Judas Tree responded to its pruning by flowering beautifully in 2014. Peter Goodship donated the new stone pots which are at the far end of College Road as bollards. All the new planters look good. The wisteria on the ESS was threatened in January 2015 by naval base contractors, but fortunately the gardeners spoke to them before they carried out the job. Lorraine succeeded in averting the threat. Just to be on the safe side, it was pruned quite hard. The sunshine through February brought out the crocuses on the lawn and the flowers in the Raised Garden.

Visits and Events

The two main events this year were our celebration of *Royal Marines 350* on 2 June 2014 and remembrance of the First World War on 6 August. A flower bed depicting the Royal Marines escutcheon and colours of their flag was created in the Raised Garden. PNBPT carpenter Stephen Broad designed a wooden container, embellished with the RM Globe and Laurel crest, to be visible from the garden entrance. Val Pennycook, whose idea this was, carried out all the research and with Gordon May, the NMRN Senior Facilities Manager, designed the

planting: yellow marigolds, red geraniums, green box and blue lobelia. We welcomed Major Robert Bruce OBE RM, Chief Executive of Portsmouth Historic Dockyard Trust until 2012, and now Director of the Royal Marines Museum, to open the bed. Val and China-Rose have just replanted it in March with yellow and blue pansies and red primulas.

To commemorate the First World War, which ended 8.5m military lives throughout the world and shaped our physical and emotional landscapes, we planted the field poppies honoured in John McCrae's poem. We read personal accounts of what the war meant to individuals with local, national and international connections, to remember the dead and their families.

Peter Goodship, Consultant Chief Executive of the Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust, treated the Friends to a superb Christmas Lunch at the Lord Raglan, Emsworth in December. Our thanks to Lorraine Carpenter who organised it. Once again there was no summer outing for the Friends, although some garden visits did take place.

The website, thanks to John Scott, keeps members up to date with what's going on in the Porter's Garden at: www.portersgarden.hampshire.org.uk Hampshire County Council supports the Friends of the Porter's Garden - as a community organisation - by hosting the web site and providing free 50MB of web space. A magnificent gallery of pictures is displayed on the website, and this year a Twitter account has been added: <https://twitter.com/portersgarden>.

Volunteers

The Friends value the contributions made by all the volunteers during this year.

Thanks especially to the Porter's Garden Committee Friends:

- Pauline Powell for her hard work as Secretary and Photographer and Joan Munro and Lorraine Carpenter for standing in to take the meeting minutes
- John Scott for updating our excellent website
- Cristine Kervin as Treasurer, for keeping us fully apprised of our finances, and approving Pauline's spending
- Margaret Judd, Social Secretary, assisted by Val Pennycook and Maggie Knox, for arranging interesting garden visits and lunches
- Gill Dawe for donating plants to stock our Plant Stand with unusual varieties
- All the other Committee members, Gill, Angela, Nadya and Sue for their valuable input to meetings
- Last but not least, to Peter Goodship, Lorraine Carpenter, Karol Jeffery and the PNBPT staff for their support
- We have also had much help in the Garden from Peter Lambert's Maintenance Team, for which we are very grateful
- The 'Diggers' for hundreds of hours digging, watering, propagating, composting, lawn care - especially Vincent - historical and horticultural research, designing, use of petrol to collect plants, emails and telephone calls, administration, photographs, plants, tools, fertiliser and sundries

Dr Ann Coats Coordinator, 12 March 2015

