

The Friends of
The Forgotten
Woodland Garden of Lewtrenchard



Newsletter No. 21

Spring 2020

St Peter's church this Spring



Chairman's Update:

Welcome to the Spring newsletter.

It is impossible with this issue to not mention the *elephant in the room* of corona virus and its affects on the whole of the locality, which is currently in a state of *lock-down*. The garden is still open to exercising walkers keeping to suitable social distancing rules and keeping their dogs under good control.

The year in nature's terms has had a great start. Brian, Tony and Fernley need special praise for taking on the mammoth task of clearing the brambles from a swathe of the woodland. We expect the bluebells to be really good at the top of the wood with brambles cleared from the south facing bank ready for next year.



One piece of interesting information came my way in the past few weeks from Martin & Shan Graebe who still send a newsletter on behalf of the Sabine Baring-Gould Appreciation Society. In it they stated the following -

The Holy Well

On a recent visit to Belfast, Shan and I met Stiofan O'Direain who is studying the life of the Irish lawyer, folklorist, and writer, Joseph Bigger, who corresponded with Baring-Gould.

Bigger wrote an obituary for the *Belfast News-Letter* (05 January, 1924) in which he

described the life of his friend, with a particular emphasis on his studies of the Celtic saints. He also told the story of SB-G's reconstruction of St Petroc's Well at Lewtrenchard and how he enlisted Bigger's help in obtaining an Irish Cross to stand on the well's gable. The cross was carved in County Down, using stone from Downpatrick, where "... the weary feet of Ireland's Patron Saint had so often travelled. "

The Holy Well, in its current location in front of Lew House



The Holy Well of 2013, in the glen at the original *Petrock* position



St Peter's Church from the Forgotten Garden; Brush clearing (below) **The Woodland:**

Brian Wilkinson,

Fernley Harding and Tony Butland's winter exploits in controlling the brambles, laurels and rhododendrons have transformed the south facing bank below the high wood.



Forthcoming Events in 2020:

The AGM will not be scheduled for June 2020, but we anticipate that the date will be in the Autumn. It will be posted on the website as we find out more about the restrictions of meetings.

Please check our website, Notice board by the Lewdown village shop or Lewdown Link for dates.

Thanks to all the Friends and neighbours who have given support to keep access open. We would never have achieved so much without this invaluable assistance. Informal work mornings are usually at 10am on a Saturday and all volunteers are welcomed. Check with Brian or Graham to confirm time and dates.



Membership

New members are always welcome to join and support this historic local amenity woodland. Please contact the Secretary for more information.

Subscriptions: Individual £10 Joint £15

Please contact the Treasurer or any committee member. Payment may be made by standing order.

Donations towards our conservation and development work are always gratefully received. A regularly emptied collection box can be found at the Forgotten Garden on the top bridge past the Holy Well.

Friends Committee

Patron: Merriol Almond

Chairman: Graham Yeo 01566 783511 (GYeo@aol.com)

Secretary: Frances Girling (Frances@middleraddon.co.uk)

Treasurer: Sue Butland (the2relics@gmail.com)

Project Manager: Brian Wilkinson 01566 783466 (wilkibg@gmail.com)

Woodland: Peter Webb 01837 52926 (peter.webb60@btinternet.com)

Committee Members: Audrey Jones, Monica Horn, Fernley Harding

Website: Always remember that a good source of up-to-date information if you have the Internet is our website - <http://www.forgottengarden.co.uk/>

Kindly maintained by Rees Kenyon Design

Location and outline plan of the Forgotten Woodland Garden

