

November 2023

2022-2023

Trustees Report



Waterloo Roses, Potters Barn, planted
2023, following donations



Friends of Waterloo
Seafront Gardens

Registered Charity 1169385
contact@fowsg.co.uk



Friends of Waterloo
Seafront Gardens

Protecting our spaces

Pruning the Raised Flower Bed, Potters Barn

The Friends of Waterloo Seafront Gardens was set up in 2009 to help Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council look after the Waterloo Seafront Gardens. Since 2016, we have been a charity.

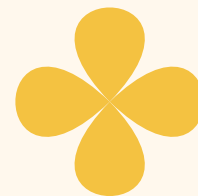


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Who we are

Friends of Waterloo Seafront Gardens help the local authority to care for the Waterloo Seafront Gardens - five separate gardens where the city meets the sea.

We want to maintain and restore the gardens as an attractive and safe area for all ages and abilities to use for recreation and environmental wellbeing.

Website: <http://www.fowsg.co.uk/>



What we do

Protecting

Maintaining the Gardens for the pleasure of local people through weekly volunteer sessions, include regular litter picking.

Preserving

The weekly volunteer sessions include gardening activities where we renovate beds and the special features in our Gardens.

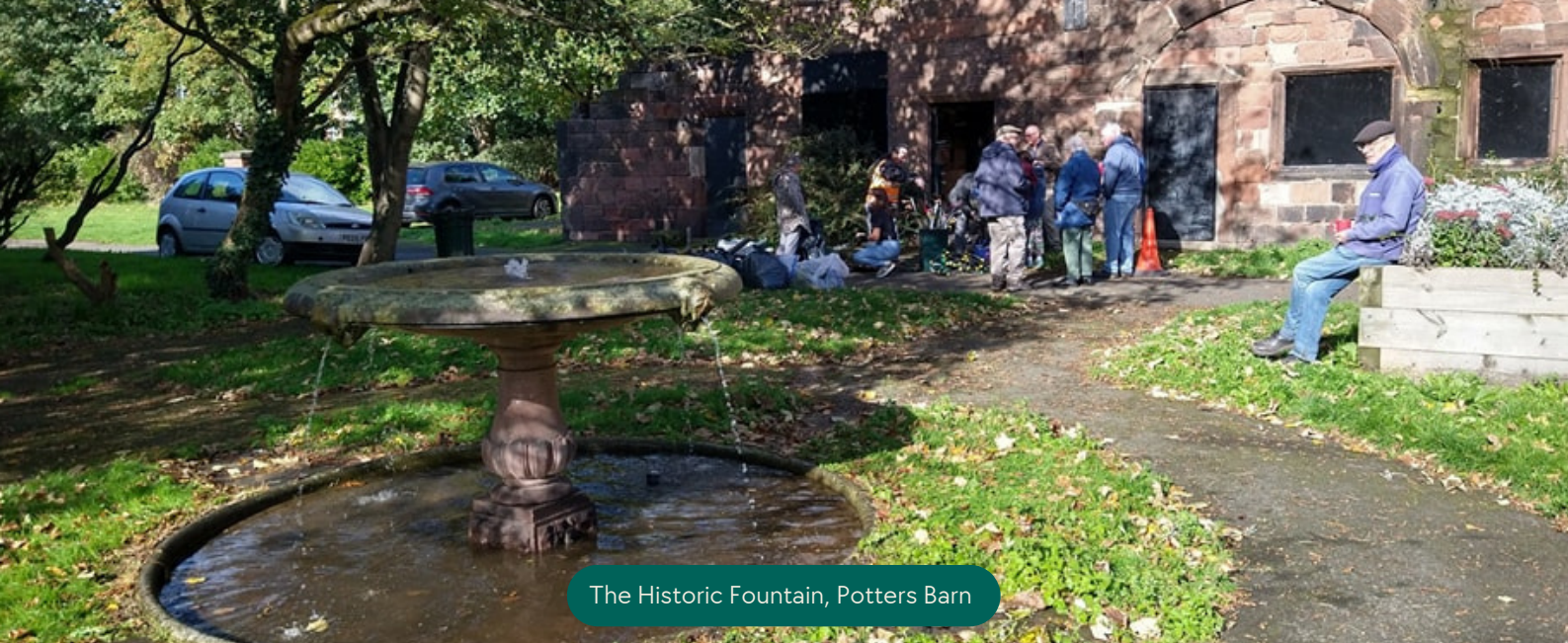
Rebuilding

Fundraising to preserve the heritage of the gardens through online donations second hand book and card sales and our annual Autumn Festival.



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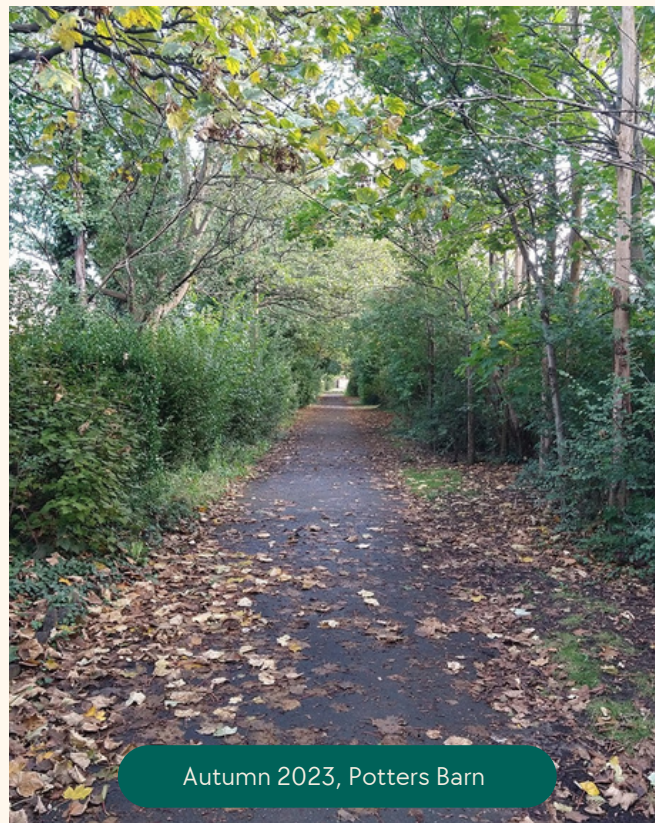
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The Historic Fountain, Potters Barn

Potters Barn

Potters Barn is a lively park with great facilities for dog walkers and skaters alike. It is also a green lung by the main road and this year we have focused on the rose bed following last year's fundraising campaign.



Autumn 2023, Potters Barn



The true-to-name Energy Generation Team at United Utilities, clearing Marine Garden's Honeycomb Paving

Marine Garden

Marine Garden - along with Crescent Garden – act as the two entry points for the Gardens from South Road. The Garden has a substantial rockery, bog garden and large lawned area. It also hosts our annual Autumn Festival. This year we have continued to renovate the rockery. We were grateful for the work of United Utilities in clearing a large section of the honeycomb paving between the rockery and bog garden. They brought barrow loads of enthusiasm to their work!



Energy Generation Team, United Utilities Marine Garden, May 2023



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The Team from DEFRA Plant Health & Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI), Crescent Garden, June 2023

Crescent Garden

As our largest garden, there is always much to do in Crescent. In 2023 we have continued to clear back overgrown mats of grass to uncover the original 1930s edging. The central bed – the former pool – has also had some regenerative work which is natural now that the bed is in its 8th year.

Thank you to our members, volunteers, Crown Commercial Services and the DEFRA Plant Health & Seeds Inspectorate for your many hours of work.



The Team from Crown Commercial Services, Crescent Garden, May 2023



FoWSG Members weeding the Adelaide Welcome Bed, July 2023

Adelaide Garden

Adelaide is one of our most elegant gardens with a pleasing symmetry to it. The trustees are keen to do further work in Adelaide in 2024 and some preparatory work has been done by our members to assess and clear some of the beds.



Adelaide Garden, March 2023



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Seafront Gardens

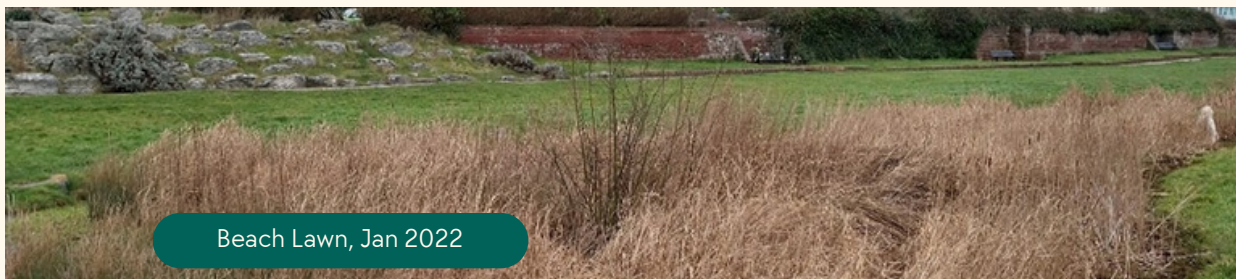
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Flag Iris in Bloom, Beach Lawn, June 2023

Beach Lawn

We had a further set of action days in Beach Lawn to continue the work of clearing the invasive bulrushes which has taken over much of the area. 32 volunteers worked one weekend in January and subsequent Sundays to do this, helped this year with a mechanical digger to clear the reeds.



Beach Lawn, Jan 2022



Beach Lawn, March 2023



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Beach Lawn

We left the excavated material out so that aquatic and amphibious life could return to their home and replanted with water lilies, water crowfoot, water chestnuts and oxygenating plants.

Wildlife has continued to return to the pond, from a place for starlings to preen and clean, to newts and the rare small red eyed damselflies. Thanks to Pete Kinsella who spotted and photographed them. Our pond is one of only three places on the Sefton Coast where these little damselflies can be found.





Repainted and Rebuilt Bench Area, April 2023

Brickwork Renovation

The renovation work around the bench bays in Crescent Garden completed after being successful in obtaining a grant from the Council. Thanks to Karen and Frank who have been instrumental in getting this project off the ground and the support of Cllr Paul Cummins, Kerry Pavey and Sefton Council in completing this. The work was done by George Howells, a former gardener in the Gardens and his brother David.



Crescent Garden, April 2023



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Autumn Festival 2023

FoWSG 

12.00 Welcome + Opening

12.15pm Valewood School Choir

Autumn Festival

The Autumn Festival took place on Saturday 16th September 2023. We hosted a number of stalls from independent providers, children's games, a steam train, Sefton Libraries reading session and our array of refreshments and plant sales. The dedication of the organising committee and the good weather made this our most successful Festival to date.



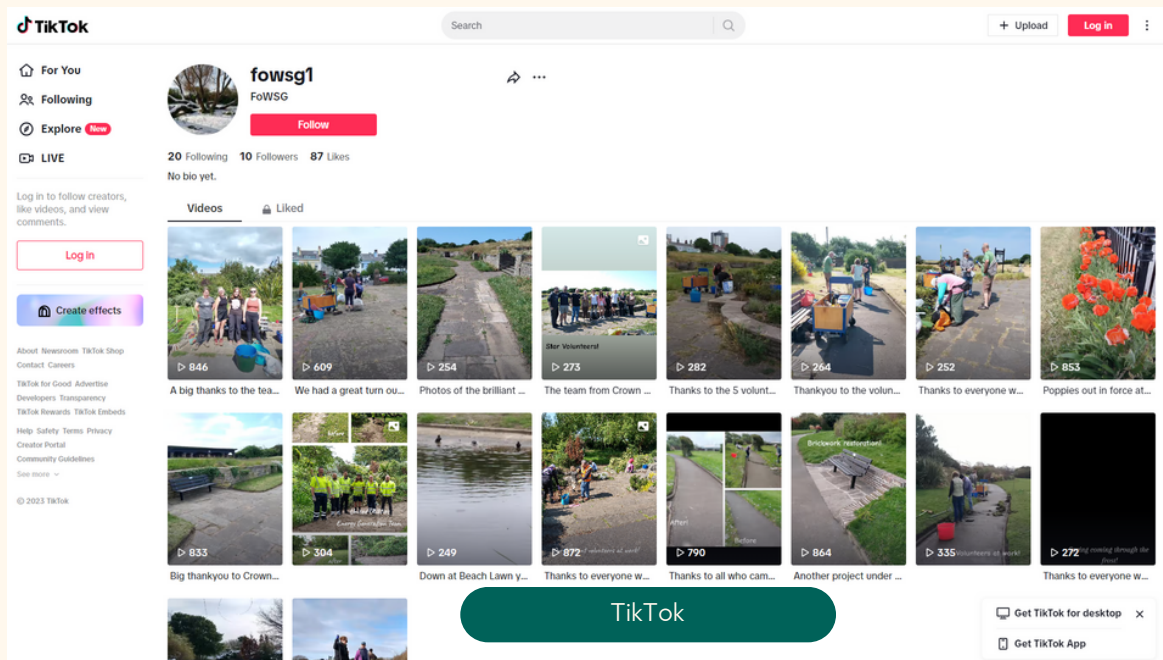
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Our Impact

20,000

Our maximum monthly
reach on Facebook

2,624

Twitter/X Follows

7%

Increase in Facebook
followers

The Friends continues to have a strong on-line presence. In addition to our web-site we have a number of active social media platforms.

In 2023, we also joined TikTok. We have 10 followers so if you are one of the nearly 4 million UK users – please follow!

Thanks to Karen Abram who manages our social media presence with great aplomb and to Malcolm Marriott of Barkeley Media for his help with the website



www.fowsg.co.uk



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[@fowsg1](https://twitter.com/fowsg1)



[@fowsg](https://www.tiktok.com/@fowsg)



[FriendsOfWaterlooSeafrontGardens](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfWaterlooSeafrontGardens)



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Volunteers, Marine Garden,
May 2023

Our Impact

159
hours

Litter Picking

358
hours

Gardening

378
people

Helping

"Start where you are.
Use what you have. Do
what you can."

Arthur Ashe



At the Heart of the Community

The charity is nothing without the support of its 102 members, volunteers, the local community and organisations, charities and businesses that continue to support us.

The table overleaf captures some of the people that we thank and have worked with this year.

We also thank Don Stewart's family who two years on from his death, marked his memory with a session weeding and clearing the drains in the gardens.

We also remember and celebrate Madeleine Litchfield, former Trustee whose energy and passion helped drive the group forward in its formative years.

Finally, we give thanks to Richard Bryson and his late wife Jenny Chapman. Richard is retiring as a trustee and with Jenny - who died in 2020 - provided much needed practical support with his woodworking skills and oversight of the charity.



Don Stewart's Family, August
2023



Madeleine Litchfield
Former Trustee
1948-2023



Gratitude

Members of FoWSG

Trustees of FoWSG

Mencap

Energy Generation Team, United Utilities

Crown Commercial Services

The Victoria Pub

DEFRA Plant Health Agency

Crosby Symphony Orchestra

Steve Thorn, Resident

Malcolm Marriott, Barkeley Media

Green Sefton

Angela Griffiths, Green Sefton

Cllrs Cummins, Veidman and Webster

George and David Howells

Kerry Pavey, Sefton Council

Tess Almond, Tony Almond Home & Garden,

52-54 South Road, Waterloo, L22 5PQ

Claire Magill, Magill's Nurseries,

Leasowe Rd, Wallasey, CH45 8LW



Friends of Waterloo Seafront Gardens Accounts 01-September 2022 to 31-August-2023

Opening Balance at bank 01/09/2022			£6,314.50
INCOME			
<i>Bank Income</i>			
Local Giving		1,205.13	
Autumn Festival 2022		1,351.50	
Subscriptions and Memberships		54.91	
Donation Posts		37.08	
Donations		20.00	
Autumn Fayre 2023 - Stall Deposits		60.00	
Crosby Symphony Orchestra Ticket Sales		64.00	
PayPal Receipts - Subscriptions		72.75	
Cash Receipts			
Debtors	None	0.00	
PayPal Receipts	Subscriptions	127.82	
INCOME			£2,865.37
EXPENSES			
<i>Bank Expenditure</i>			
Festival Expenses 2022		261.30	
Plants & Bark		628.93	
Gardening Equipment		175.33	
Equipment Security		15.95	
Volunteer Refreshments		64.85	
Public Liability Insurance (Two Years)		689.53	
AGM Expenses		199.50	
Fundraising Charges		180.00	
Card Reader		34.80	
External Services - Beach Lawn Pond		250.00	
Cash Payments	Creditors	None	0.00
PayPal Payments	Website Payments		55.07
EXPENDITURE			£2,500.19
GAIN(LOSS)			£365.18
Closing Balance 31/08/2023			£6,679.68



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