



SAVING SOUTH CLIFF GARDENS

Monthly Update November 2019

***Hello and welcome to
the South Cliff Gardens
Monthly Update!***

*Here we will share all the most
recent news from the South Cliff*

**South Cliff
Community Group**



A great place to live, work & play

Friends of South Cliff Gardens

SouthernGreen

AUTUMN ON SOUTH CLIFF

Reasons to wrap up warm and take a stroll around South Cliff



Always a view to take the breath away. Work has been undertaken to expand the boat bed so look out for even more spectacular floral displays in 2020.

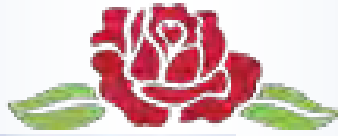
It's time to enjoy the naturally sculpted drama of the autumnal gardens. Don't forget to kick some of those fallen leaves as you go!



Even late into autumn there is still lots of wildlife to enjoy like this female Southern Hawker dragonfly spotted zipping around the pond in the Italian Gardens.



Friends of South Cliff Gardens



The Yorkshire in Bloom judges pictured in Shuttleworth Gardens along with Nick Allen, the owner of the Red Lea Hotel, one of our kind sponsors.



The Friends of South Cliff Gardens received awards from Yorkshire in Bloom and from Scarborough's Muck & Magic.

Friends of South Cliff Gardens



The Friends have been hard at work on Wednesday mornings finding homes for a generous donation of plants from B&Q and clearing the Italian Gardens of fallen leaves.



SouthernGreen

Exciting times! The first of the Scarborough Borough Council and National Lottery Heritage Fund capital works - the proposed tree works - started on site on Monday 25 November. The work will be completed in phases, with each phase of removals and crown works being marked out by the tree works team and supervised by the project Landscape Architect before the felling of dead, diseased and damaged trees commences. Please take care when using the park and be observant of any signage or safety guidance. Works are due for completion by the end of March 2020 in advance of nesting season. Over the coming months you will see the opening up of key views, historic vistas and selected reduction of self-seeded trees to reduce overcrowding and restoration of character to the South Cliff Gardens. For every tree removed, two new trees will be planted.

We've had a great time exploring with the Love Exploring team and their app. We're hoping the app could become a key part of how we interact, engage with and explore South Cliff Gardens. Through the Love Exploring app we could create Dinosaur and Fairy heritage trails to engage younger explorers, fitness and rambling routes and the opportunity to start groups and classes and get us all meeting and sharing in South Cliff Gardens. Download the Love Exploring app and get exploring some of the parks already using this amazing resource. Please let us know what you think.



SouthernGreen

Shelters update

You may have noticed that during the last couple of months holes have been appearing in some of the shelters in the gardens, however they should have now been closed up and filled back in. This work was a part of our design investigation to check the condition of all the shelters across the South Cliff Gardens so that we could identify the extent of wood which needs replacing through the restoration works.

We started out by opening up the roof voids to check there was no asbestos present. You might think this an odd action due to the age of the shelters, however it is possible that repairs over the years could have introduced asbestos. You'll be pleased to hear no asbestos was detected. Phew!

A lead paint analysis and timber decay report quickly followed and the design team started to get a better picture of the condition of the shelters. Lead was detected in the paint work, which was not unexpected due to the age of the shelters and

previous fire damage was found in some of the shelters' roof rafters. Generally the shelters showed signs of rot where their original design had changed from rosemary tiles to a tin roof, which holds the moisture in and reduces the air flow needed to retain healthy wood. This can be mitigated by restoring the shelters to their original design, using original materials, reinstating guttering and changing the paint to allow better air flow. Our architects are now finalising the draft restoration designs for the shelters, which will be completed during the next couple of weeks.

As a result of the surveys, we noticed that there was a bit of movement in one of the shelters. The dog walkers amongst you will have noticed we have propped up and fenced off shelter 8 (the shelter below the putting green). This is to prevent any further movement during the winter before the National Lottery Heritage Fund project gets underway next August. Please respect the cordon and ring 101 if you see anyone entering the shelter as it is unsafe.



SouthernGreen



Tin roof

Fire damage



SouthernGreen

Tunnel update

Situated in the middle of the beautiful South Cliff Gardens is the historically interesting Cliff lift, which was opened on 6 July 1875. It was the first funicular railway in Great Britain. Although a really interesting heritage feature within the garden, the cliff lift creates a huge design challenge as it cuts off access to the south side of the gardens from the north side. However not all is lost as the Victorians had thought about this and built a tunnel underneath the lift connecting the two sides of the garden. Hidden by vegetation and closed for many years, lots of people were unaware of the tunnel's existence. As part of the National Lottery Heritage Fund



restoration

and with the

help of the South Cliff Community Group, we plan to reopen the tunnel to create access from the north of the garden to the south once again. Not knowing if opening the tunnel is achievable, our excited engineering team has been busy digging trial pits and carrying out extensive vegetation clearance to check the condition of the tunnel and surrounding area. We are very pleased to inform you that it is possible to reopen the tunnel. Interestingly, whilst digging, the engineers found a set of original stone steps running down towards the tunnel. We are also designing an alternative route to avoid the steps if needed. The tunnel works will be a part of the main restoration contract due to start in August 2020.



PROJECT OFFICER BLOG

The secret of long life and legacy...?

I find it can be unsettling when you feel like you don't have a place in your local community. It can be difficult to lay down roots, which can lead to you feeling lonely. Whether that's your local park, local pub, community group, school or town for example, sometimes it's devastatingly difficult to integrate. This is why place making is so important, but in particular to give people the power over designing the spaces they live in themselves, whilst leaving space to welcome new people to contribute in the future as the community grows.

Here in the South Cliff Gardens we want to welcome everyone, but we've noticed that our children and young people do not have a place to call their own. It is the law that when building a certain number of new houses, developers have to provide a play area within the new settlement, however we did not have this law back when the houses on South Cliff were built so children missed out. This could give the subconscious message to our children that they don't belong or in true Victorian fashion "seen but not heard".

Play areas were originally produced to try to keep children from playing on bomb sites following the war and keep them safe, but today they are much more sophisticated. Play areas today are not just about building a space to give children somewhere to go; they are about improving and maintaining their mental/physical health and emotional wellbeing, creating a place that increases their self-awareness, self-esteem and self-respect and allows them to increase their confidence through developing their dexterity and new skills for the future. Designed well, play areas today have the power to shape a healthy future society of strong independent people who have the confidence to assess risks, be kind to each other, build healthy relationships and work collaboratively and creatively together.

We would like to demonstrate how important our young people are to us by investing in them and building a brand new play space in the South Cliff Gardens to support a strong future for our community.

Last year we set up a Youth Steering Group made up of children and young people who live in or regularly visit the South Cliff area. This group worked with our team of architects to design the play space they would like. Natural features that blend into the landscape took centre stage along with a focus on quiet reflective space, wildlife, art and a sense of physical challenge. Designed by our local children, our new play area will offer opportunities for children of all abilities and backgrounds to play together, develop their social skills and learn whilst promoting their imagination and independence. Drawing our young people closer to their heritage will help them respect and protect it, whilst feeling more rooted and grounded in a more relevant landscape that will become an important part of their identity and their children's identity.

My 94 year old grandma tells me the secret to long life is to be playful, have as much fun as possible and not to take life too seriously; a strong message from someone who's seen two wars, trialled the first iron lung and fought off devastating diseases. I'm very much looking forward to seeing more people having fun and families playing happily together in the South Cliff Gardens.

Vicky Thompson

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER BLOG



Hello and welcome to my first blog as Community Engagement Officer for the National Lottery Heritage Fund project to regenerate South Cliff Gardens.

In the first few weeks since my appointment, I have tried to get out and about as much as possible and have had inspiring meetings with a diversity of local people, from community action groups to theatre troupes. I have been overwhelmed by the warm and generous welcome I have received and by the genuine sense of pride and affection that South Cliff Gardens generate. They really are Scarborough's hidden gem and I'm one of the lucky people selected to help polish them up and put them firmly on show.

I've already discovered so much to enjoy in the gardens. Whether it's promenading on the Paxton Steps, drinking in the tranquillity of the Rose Garden, enjoying the glorious architecture of the Italian Gardens whilst feeding/ fending off the cheeky resident squirrels, sending a letter to the fairies in the Shuttleworth Gardens or playing for bragging rights on the putting green, there's just so much on offer.

With that in mind I would like to reassure you that I'm not here to reinvent the wheel, but to build on the gardens' existing foundations in order to help restore their original purpose of providing a haven for improved health and vitality.

I also really want to celebrate just how unique South Cliff Gardens are by using them as a canvas for the exploration and appreciation of local art's and heritage.

I appreciate how generously the local community has given to this project already and I look forward to working both with and for you moving forwards. There is still so much exciting potential to unlock within the gardens and together we have the chance to build a fantastic legacy for future generations to enjoy.

If our paths haven't crossed yet and you want to know more about my role and how it fits within the wider restoration of South Cliff Gardens, how you can get involved or are simply wondering why the regeneration project even needs a Community Engagement Officer, please get in touch; I'd love to have a chat.

Likewise if we have been introduced and you now have a burning question or brilliant suggestions, then please don't hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Gemma

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Scarborough Sparkle

The Open Air Theatre, North Bay
Free Entry

Friday 29th November:
4pm-8pm

Saturday 30th November:
11am-8pm

Sunday 1st December:
11am-5pm

Festive food and drink
Luxury Gifts
Meet Anna, Elsa and Olaf

Funfair
Competitions and Giveaways
Live Entertainment
Synthetic Ice Rink



Free bus service - Eastfield-Sparkle-town

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COMMUNITY NEWS



North Yorkshire
County Council



WELCOME TO SCARBOROUGH LIBRARY'S

Handmade Christmas and Glitterfest!

SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

FROM 11AM TO 2PM.

FESTIVE BEVERAGES AND SNACKS SERVED AT 1PM.

COME ALONG AND MAKE YOUR OWN HANDMADE
CHRISTMAS CRAFTS!

FREE EVENT

Crystal Decanter Glitterfest drag queen
will read stories at 12pm

**Wellbeing Choir will be singing at 1.30pm and all
donations will be given to St Catherines Hospice.**

SCARBOROUGH LIBRARY TEL 01609536602

Saving South Cliff Gardens Benches Appeal



Across Scarborough's South Cliff Gardens there are more than 300 memorial benches commemorating the many people and families who, over the years, have fallen in love with Scarborough's South Bay. People from across the world have taken out leases for benches to lay down their legacy within the stunning setting of the South Cliff Gardens, however over the years some information about these leases has regrettably been lost.

The Scarborough South Cliff Community is appealing for people to come forward and claim their memorial benches. We would like to unlock these hidden personal connections and reinstate their place within the South Cliff Gardens.

In March this year Scarborough Borough Council and the local community were awarded a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to renovate the South Cliff Gardens. The proposed work will include refurbishing some of the benches and tidying up around some of them to reinstate the stunning views. The modern metal benches will be replaced with heritage equivalent designed benches to be more holistic within the special Victorian landscape.

If you have a lease for a bench within the South Cliff Gardens or on the Esplanade we'd love to hear from you. We'd like to hear your stories and hidden social connections and get your input. In return we will keep you in the loop about our plans for the site and what will happen to your benches.

Please get in touch with us via the contact page at the end of this newsletter.

CONTACT US

Please get in touch

If you're interested in getting involved in the project, would like to know more or you have a great idea, fabulous painting of the South Cliff or an interesting photo, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us....

The more people involved the merrier!

Oral History Project

Next year we will be launching an exciting new project aimed at capturing the stories of those who have enjoyed the gardens over the years. If you or anyone you know either locally or internationally has a story to pass on to future garden visitors please watch this space. More details coming soon.

Website: <http://friendsofsouthcliffgardens.com/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/southcliffgardens

Twitter: [@HLFSCGardens](https://twitter.com/HLFSCGardens)

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Find out more about the Heritage Lottery Fund here:
<https://www.hlf.org.uk/about-us>

