

SAVING SOUTH CLIFF GARDENS

Monthly Update June 2020



A great place to live, work & play

Friends of South Cliff Gardens



SouthernGreen



Hello and welcome to the June newsletter. With the Summer Solstice just passed, it feels as if we are hurtling through this year. It is nice to see that the weather has finally conceded it is summer.

June has been a really interesting month from an environmental perspective. We've marked both World Environment and World Oceans Day, enjoyed the Great Yorkshire Creature Count and rounded off the month with National Insect Week.

Here at South Cliff Gardens we are big fans of insects and that's why we have teamed up with our friends at Invisible Dust to create a fantastic new programme of activities aimed at encouraging children to see bees in a completely new light. From mid-July children and families will be able to take part in our exhilarating new adventure, 'Garden to Garden', which will lead them through a series of exciting explorations of the importance of bees, both in the context of our Victorian ancestors who shaped the gardens we love today, and the modern world.

Whilst we continue to find new techniques to adapt the way we live, work and play in response to coronavirus, and in order to encourage as wider participation as possible, this project will be delivered digitally. On the next page is an extract from the news release that gives an overview of what you can expect from the collaboration. If you would like to learn even more about the project, the full launch blog can be viewed at

invisibledust.com/journal/garden-to-garden-with-south-cliff-gardens-scarborough



Thomas

Photograph: Victoria

‘Garden to Garden’ with South Cliff Gardens, Scarborough

A moment to be alive to the vulnerability – and vitality – of the natural world

In an exciting new partnership with Scarborough’s Victorian-era [South Cliff Gardens](#), award winning art-science organisation, [Invisible Dust](#), is delighted to launch ‘Garden to Garden’, a programme that will explore the changing ways we see, hear and experience nature; all through the lens of bees.

In these unusual times, as many of us are forced to slow down and stay home, we gain an opportunity to see deeper into our home worlds, and by doing so, realise that we are far from alone within these micro-universes – and in our communities. A garden, be it our own modest patch, window box or our local public green space, offers the perfect setting for some creative exploration that delves deep and close, into the natural world that surrounds us.

Launching in July 2020 and led by visual artist, [Feral Practice](#), with the support of sound artist, [Rob Mackay](#), in collaboration with a range of scientists and researchers from across the UK, this digital programme will connect a global digital network of people exploring their own green spaces to South Cliff Gardens; an inspiring expanse of sea-facing public gardens in Scarborough, which began development in the mid 19th century. Managed by Scarborough Borough Council, the gardens are currently being restored with the help of National Lottery Heritage Fund and National Lottery Community Fund.

Through a variety of online engagement activities for young people and families, and a final film celebrating our bees (featuring a range of scientists and members of the Scarborough community), ‘Garden to Garden’ will be a creative exploration of the insects and nature that we coexist with and depend on.

‘Garden to Garden’ is also an opportunity to reflect where we are as a people and planet, and to look back at the past and connect ourselves to some of the ways of being that we have perhaps lost and can learn from again.

The formation of the Victorian South Cliff Gardens came at the time of both Charles Darwin, Alfred Russel Wallace and Mary Anning, whose research and understanding of the Natural World brought the Victorians closer to nature and changed the world’s thinking on how we relate to plants and animals. Scarborough is notable for its expertise in natural history, with local societies being active in recording and collecting since the mid 19th century, significant collections held by Scarborough Museum, and the (now digitised) Natural History of the Scarborough District (Rimington, F.C. and Walsh, George B., 1953) as powerful benchmarks for biodiversity comparison. The very active Scarborough Field Naturalists Society is currently working with the artist on the project.

From learning from the Victorians with an insect and flower identification guide, to going on micro-cosmic journeys and ‘ento-sleuthing’ with hand held microscope and more, we will explore how Victorian entomologists learnt about their subjects and see how it compares with and influences the way we collect data and study today.



Photography / Art Contest



As part of our planned activity programme we are going to hold an annual art calendar competition. This will include photograph and art focused images of the South Cliff Gardens. Shortlisted images will be included in a calendar, which will then be made available for sale.

We are looking for creations based on the South Cliff Gardens that fit within the following themes:

- ♦ Historical habitats
- ♦ Wistful wanderings
- ♦ Connecting conservation

Please send all digital entries or photographs to:

victoria.thompson@scarborough.gov.uk or gemma.alexander@scarborough.gov.uk

PROJECT OFFICER'S BLOG



At least once a year, every year since I can remember, I head up north to Scotland to see my family and connect to my roots. My mum is a Mackenzie and my family gather every year in a little place called Findhorn for our annual clan gathering. It's a jolly old doo involving traditional Mackenzie story telling passed through the generations, songs that have never been written down (probably a good thing), copious amounts of whisky, terribly played bagpipes and usually some Munroe exploration of some sorts. Many moons ago, a younger version of myself journeyed out to explore the Scottish highlands under the trusted supervision of an older member of the Clan. As I walked along the hillside, grass seeds running through my fingers, and the hot sun beaming down on my face, I came across my first ever wild orchid.

In fact I had to stop abruptly so as to not step on it. It was an early purple orchid. A striking flower of vivid purple colouring and it was packed full of characterful expression as it danced in the breeze. I was entranced. My family call the flower 'Gradh is Fuadh', which means 'love and hate'. They say eating the larger root of the plant would make someone fall in love with you but eating the smaller root would make them hate you. I love a good old Scottish yarn, but I'd highly recommend you do not consume any part of the plant! Here was where my love of wild orchids started and I've been hunting them ever since.

So you can imagine the absolute joy I felt in the first year of starting this job as Project Officer, when I strolled through the garden during a sunny June lunch break and turned a corner to find colonies and natural drift after natural drift of wild orchids living in the South Cliff Gardens. A sea of pink if you like. June is a really good time of the year to see them and if you have not had the incredible opportunity to experience this absolute treasure before. go out now, right now and explore. The bank just above the Clock Café, behind the octagonal shelter below the putting green and on the Holbeck landslip are good places to see the orchids. I've seen Pyramidal, common pink and even the odd delicate bee orchid, which are slightly harder to find. Please share photos of your orchid exploration adventures with us. Although orchids have been around for 120 million years and were one of the first ever flowering plants to evolve, please help us protect them and be careful not to damage the orchids as they are critical to the local biodiversity. If you cannot find them, please get in touch; I'd love any excuse to meet up for an orchid hunt!

Welcome to the beautiful world of wild orchids.

Victoria Thompson

Project Officer



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER'S BLOG

To coincide with the launch of "Garden to Garden" this month I would like to shine the spotlight on bugs; not the kind that get into your computer and wreak havoc but rather the insect kind. There are 27,000 different species of insect in the UK alone and they are essential for the continued health of any green space, be it public park or private back garden. It might be hard to believe whilst swatting a persistent wasp away at a picnic or admiring a butterfly on a walk through the Italian Gardens, but insects are in rapid decline. They may still outweigh human numbers by 200 million to 1, but scientists fear we are on the verge of a mass extinction across species and that insects are one of the hidden casualties.

40% of insect species are already in decline globally, with a third listed as endangered. Their numbers are falling by 2.5% each year meaning that in just ten years' time we could have lost a staggering 25% of the world's total insect life with a catastrophic knock on effect for the species who rely on them to survive.

The simple inescapable fact is that love them or loath them we are one of those species, they are the lynch pin of our eco system, they pollinate our flowers, clear away our mess and feed innumerable other species. Even the pesky Diptera, more commonly known as fly, has an indispensable role to play. They are an important food source for many different species of birds, lizards and mammals as well as other insect species and also act as nature's housekeepers, clearing up things we would probably rather not think about. They and their larvae have been used in a diversity of ways including medicine, crime scene detection and fresh water fishing, so next time you are visited by one, remember that whilst they can undoubtedly transmit pestilence and are always an unwanted visitor around food, they are also one of nature's top grafters and a necessary evil.

Sadly the usual suspects are to blame for their wane in numbers. Loss of habitat, poor farming methods, including the use of toxic pesticides, and climate change are all driving insect life to the edge. In the UK we have already lost 58% of butterfly species commonly found on farm land. Numerous other species, including beetle, moth and bee are all facing decimation.

In the case of bee loss, the consequences could be catastrophic for humans globally. 70 out of 100 crops we consume are reliant on these tiny workers for pollination.

The big question is can we do anything to help as individuals? The simple answer is yes and the good news is it doesn't have to be difficult to make a real difference!

If you're growing your own this year then ditch the pesticides and go organic. Hints and tips on organic food production can be found all over the internet but these are great places to get started:

<https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/vegetable-growing>

<https://www.planetnatural.com/start-organic-garden/>

Encourage insects into your space by creating a wild flower patch, this could be anything from a window box to a corner of the garden left to go wild. To misappropriate a phrase from the film Field of Dreams, if you grow it they will come. Also remember to plant some spring bulbs to support emerging insect life and to leave dandelions whilst they are in flower as they are often one of the only food sources for insects such as bees in early spring. A guide to insect attracting plants and shrubs can be found here:

<https://www.lovethegarden.com/uk-en/article/20-insect-attracting-plants>

Give nature a home by building a bug hotel, a handy how to guide can be found here:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/give-nature-a-home-in-your-garden/garden-activities/build-a-bug-hotel/>

Record the insect species you spot and help the UK's entomologists get a better picture of the health of our nation's bugs. All the details on creating a biological record can be found here:

<https://www.nationalinsectweek.co.uk/record-insect-species>

That's just a few simple ways we can all help and there are lots more ideas to explore online.

Gemma Alexander

Community Engagement Officer

COMMUNITY NEWS

Scarborough and Filey Covid-19 Community Response



What we are doing

Co-ordinating local trusted groups and volunteers to support people in their community

Pooling the existing volunteer and staff workforce to support vulnerable people with tasks such as delivering prescriptions, running urgent errands, collecting shopping

Offering information and advice on services available and local businesses offering delivery and collection of essentials

Providing weekly emotional and social support via telephone or skype

Providing regular updates via social media and local media on changes to services and accessing urgent help

If you need help, information or would like to volunteer, please get in touch with us via

Telephone: 01723 379058

Email: scarbcomsupp2020@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://fb.me/sfcr2020>

Online form: <https://bit.ly/2Uswzch>

In Partnership With



COMMUNITY NEWS

time to change
north yorkshire
let's end mental health discrimination



ScarboroughSurvivors

Mental Health Resource Centre



Telephone support during Covid-19 Isolation

**Telephone support available 7 days & 7 nights
during Mental Health Resource Centre Closure**

07516 916290

(Main number for professionals/referrals 7 days)

Wednesday 9am – 7.30pm

Saturday, Sunday 9.30am – 7.30pm

07860 102516

Monday & Tuesday, 9.30am – 1am

Friday, 9.30am – 7.30pm

07395 824526

Wednesday – Sunday, 7.30pm – 1am

Thursday, 9.30am – 7.30pm

07562 974101

Wednesday – Sunday, 7.30pm – 1am

07759 638733

Whitby area - Wednesday, 9am – 4pm

**Normal mobile charges apply – if you would prefer us to
call you, send a text message (please include your name)**

**For other sources of telephone and online support please
visit our website at www.scarboroughsurvivors.org.uk**

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.

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 this 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

This 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/>

NEW! Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/southcliffgardens/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/southcliffgardens

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

Project Officer: Vicky Thompson
victoria.thompson@scarborough.gov.uk

Community Engagement Officer:
Gemma Alexander
gemma.alexander@scarborough.gov.uk

NEW! <https://www.facebook.com/southcliffgarden/>

