



**OLDWAY
Gardens Group
VOLUNTEERS**

DIARY

July 2022 to June 2023



Our 2022/23 Diary is dedicated to all the Volunteers involved in helping to save and restore Oldway Gardens to it's former glory. Thank you all.



The Front cover photograph courtesy of Scott William Photography - Thank you Scott

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Trustees & Committee Members

Our Oldway Gardens Group Trustees 2023:-

Tim Eley, Jo Jones, Sue Saunders, Pete Welsby

Oldway Gardens Group Committee Members 2023:-

Tim Eley - Chairman

Pete Welsby - Vice Chairman

Jo Jones - Secretary

Abby Beckett-Smith - Assistant Secretary

Sue Saunders - Treasurer

Roger Allen

Andy Baker, Pauline Baker

David Beckett-Smith

Linda Dennis

Terry Emerson

Tony Kilbey

Pete Redfern



We are very grateful to every single Oldway Gardens Volunteer, without whom these beautiful grounds would not have been restored with such care and dedication. The grounds are being maintained by a group of over 100 dedicated volunteers, from all walks of life, for the benefit of the Community of Paignton and Visitors to Torbay who seek us out.

Our Volunteers are the 'Best of the Best' - THANK YOU



Oldway Gardens Volunteer Group

Our Jobs & Areas to be Maintained

- ❖ Benches
- ❖ Borders in Front of the Terrace x 2
- ❖ Bowling Greens Area
- ❖ Car Park
- ❖ Composting
- ❖ Concrete Troughs
- ❖ East Lawn
- ❖ East Terrace & Parterre
- ❖ Gardeners Yard
- ❖ Gates on Torquay Road
- ❖ General maintenance
- ❖ Grass in Box Parterre area
- ❖ Herbaceous Border
- ❖ House and Main Terrace
- ❖ Indoor Bowling Club Area
- ❖ Knot Garden
- ❖ Leaf Clearance
- ❖ Lime Walk
- ❖ Litter
- ❖ Main Drive 6 Borders on the Left
- ❖ Main Drive 2 Borders on the Right
- ❖ Oldway Road Entrance
- ❖ Orangery Border
- ❖ Orangery Gardens
- ❖ Paths
- ❖ Pine Tree Area
- ❖ Rockery & Woodland
- ❖ Rotunda Area
- ❖ Lime Walk
- ❖ South Terrace, 4 Borders & 4 Bowls Area
- ❖ Steps
- ❖ Tea Hut
- ❖ Tennis Courts (Hard)
- ❖ Urns x 14
- ❖ Water Gardens, Grotto, Rockery



OGG Chairman Tim Eley's Report - It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to the Oldway Gardens Group CIO Diary for the 2022/2023 season.

Since being asked by the council to start the volunteer group in September 2019 the group has gone from strength to strength and we are now one of the largest volunteer gardening groups in the South West.

Up to the end of May this year we have clocked up over 24,000 recorded voluntary hours working in the gardens since we started in 2019.

We are currently working from the 'Short Term Conservation plan' for the gardens which has enabled us to open up the views at Oldway. Thanks must go to the Community Pay Back team who have helped us with opening up some of the original views.

By the autumn we will have the Oldway Conservation plan in place for the gardens which hopefully will enable us to move forward with improving the paths and going ahead with rebuilding the Grotto.

Our Plant stall has done very well this year and thanks must go to all the volunteers who operate it and to the people who donate to it. Most of the plants that are sold are Sustainable plants that are grown on site.

A thank you must also go to the volunteers who operate the tea hut and run the fantastic trails around the gardens for children and their families to enjoy. The trails have become a great success.

Next year we should be operating a proper nature trail around the grounds.

Thank you again to all the volunteers and people who donate items to us. We are looking forward to working in partnership with Torbay Council on Oldway's future.



Every month this is the size of machinery/trailer needed to shift the greenery debris produced by OGG volunteers. The trailer makes two trips per session. We are very grateful for the support and cooperation we receive from Torbay Council and SWISCo team members.

Pictured below - Chairman Tim Eley, Vice Chairman Pete Welsby & Committee member Pete Redfern.





Oldway Gardens Summer & Autumn 2022 - Despite the hot & dry summer we had beautiful displays from the sustainable plants. In Autumn we had wonderful colours from our beautiful shrubs & trees.





From JOANNE JONES - Secretary & Trustee of Oldway Gardens Group of Volunteers.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life, and all ages, but they have one thing in common - the desire to save Oldway and their love for the wonderful building and gardens.

We are proud of our inclusive approach, we engage with a range of support groups, whose clients work, and enjoy, being in the gardens. They benefit from being part of such a friendly group.

All the volunteers get along so well, creating new friendships and bonds and working partnerships. We encourage volunteers to find a favourite area or project and to take 'ownership' of their space.

Our volunteers comprise a complete cross section of the community, and The Community Payback Team visit twice a week, and work very hard at Oldway, as well as making planters and bird boxes off site for sale at our successful Plant Stall.

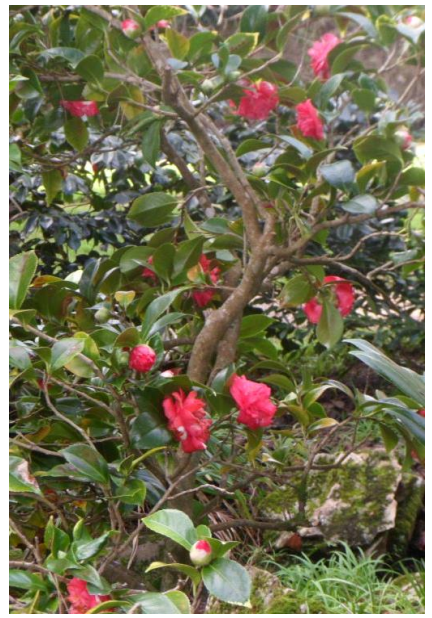
The local Primary School is involved in a pollinating project and attended the planting of the Late Queens 'Green Canopy Tree' as well as sowing seeds from King Charles 3, scattered in a new pollinator patch dug by community payback team. Various local colleges also send their students along to assist in the gardens.

Visitors to Oldway gardens are always happy to share their precious memories of what Oldway means to them, such as a unique place where they worked, the venue for a special wedding or prom ball, or simply the venue that evokes memorable childhood picnics to name a few.

This year we were approached by a Plymouth student of entomology wanting to study some rare dragonflies on the recently refurbished pond - which we were delighted to accommodate.

In the autumn of 2022, the local news TV station - BBC Spotlight - was inundated with requests to highlight Oldway when they ran a programme about local areas of interest. This is the importance of Oldway to the community!

Our Facebook page 'Oldway Gardens Volunteer Group' is very active, and currently has 1800 followers from around the country and further worldwide. It provides the source of many encouraging words and offers of support from the community, for which the Oldway Gardens Group is immensely grateful.



Oldway Gardens Winter & Spring 2023 - During the bitterly cold months of winter there was plenty of interest and colour to be found and in Spring what a magnificent floral show of bulbs and plants.





- **Bench Painting and Cleaning** - Re-painting benches as and when required, washed down weekly by Chris.
- **Oldway Diary Jul 2021 to Jun 2022** - Launched on Face Book and our web site ready for the South West in Bloom Judges visit.
- **Oldway Project Director** - Katherine Findlay, officially appointed. Working with community partners including the Oldway Trust, supported by the Friends of Oldway and the Oldway Gardens Group. The project is an important and essential first step to restore and give Oldway a new lease of life.
- **Owl Trail Launch** - New fund raising project, 14 Owls were hidden in the grounds for a Children's 'summer holiday' Trail. Supported by the local community and visitors.
- **Parterre Area** - Annual trimming and tidying of the box hedging, along with regular weeding and maintenance.
- **Plant Stall** - Open five days a week, selling a wide range of plants, wooden planters & bird boxes.
- **Pond & Grotto Area Maintenance** - Ongoing, the pond attracting lots of wildlife and visitors from the community.
- **Social Summer Get Together for the volunteers** - Held in the Gardeners Yard. Well attended and much enjoyed.
- **Tea Hut** - Open six days a week, proving to be very popular.
- **Volunteers** - Emily & Tara from an American church helping OGG and new volunteers George and Annabelle joined our group.



July's birth flowers are the Larkspur & Water Lily



Sue, Janet, Jenny & Georgie



Abby & Linda Plant Stall



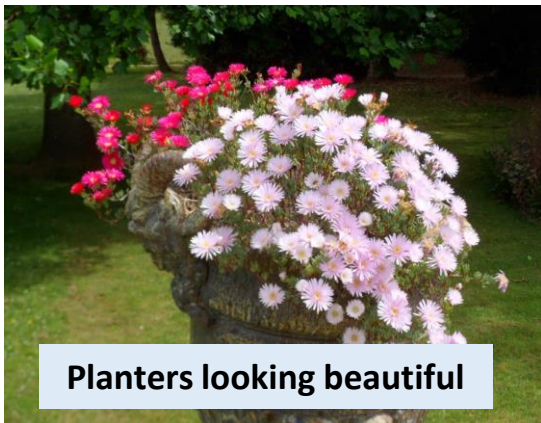
Launch of the Owl Trail at the Tea Hut



George, in the Grotto area



Sustainable Plants



Planters looking beautiful



Pete W, Bench Painting



August

- **Entomologist Visit** - Michael O'Shea visited Oldway, for his dissertation project, to study the common darter dragon fly, which was present in our pond area during the summer.
- **Magistrates Visit** - The Oldway Gardens Group welcomed nine magistrates to see the cooperation between the Probation service and the Garden Group.
- **Owl Trail** - Our very successful fund raising event, despite the very hot weather. A total of 307 trails were completed.
- **Parterre & Bushes** - Continuing the annual trimming and tidying
- **Plant Stall and Tea Hut** - Both busy with customers and the Owl Trail. The Plant Stall opening five days a week and the Tea Hut six.
- **Pond** - Looking very beautiful with lots of dancing dragon flies and abundant wildlife. Area much enjoyed by visitors and locals.
- **South West in Bloom Judging** - Lesley Jellyman and Martin Hambidge judging our SWinB Neighbourhood award entry.
- **South West in Bloom Children's Painting Competition Presentation** - An afternoon event was held in Oldway Gardens, attended by Volunteers, the Mayor and Hannah Worthington, presenting winner Connie with a bird box and a set of paints.
- **Spotlight Television** - Filming the work of the OGG Volunteers, for their evening news program, after being inundated by viewers recommending places to visit in Paignton.
- **Volunteers** - Working weekly through the heat of the long summer months, what a hot summer. Thank you Volunteers.



August's birth flowers are the Gladiolus & Poppy



South West in Bloom Judging Day
with Judges, Lesley & Martin, Pete W, Janet & Jenny



South West in Bloom Children's Painting Competition, the Overall Winner, **Connie**, Presented with her prizes by the Mayor



September



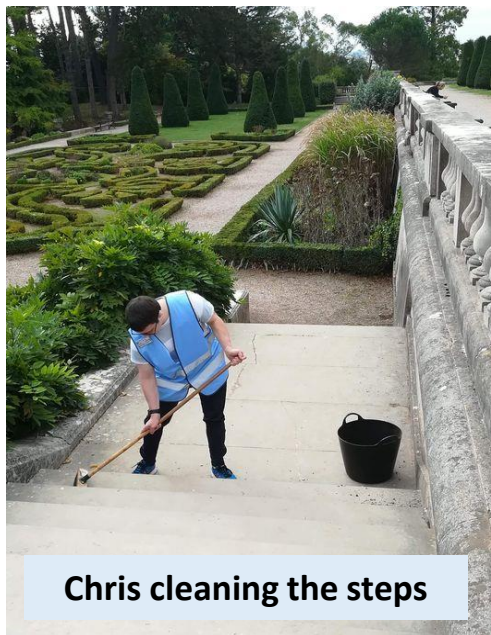
- **Ageing Well Festival in Torquay** - Pictorial talk, by OGG Chairman Tim Eley, about volunteering for the Oldway Gardens Group and the use of sustainable plants.
- **Big Border** - Great team effort on the large border at the end of the south lawn. With the recent rain the weeds needed controlling before the bed could be mulched.
- **Dinosaur Trail Event** - Organised by Devon Rocks and Stones. At the end of the count there were 521 stones, beating the original record for the 'ladybug' line.
- **Dog Enclosures** - Grass mown and tidied.
- **Donations from the community** - Tools, tool sharpening equipment, paint, plants, as well as a regular supply of cakes.
- **Ducks** - A welcome return to the pond.
- **Gardeners Yard** - Planters and Bird Boxes being made, tools cleaned and plants prepared for plant stall sales.
- **Grass** - After the hot and dry summer, the grass had started to green up and the sustainable flower beds came back to life.
- **Path near the exit from Oldway Primary School** - Cleared of debris and tidied to make a safer access.
- **Steps** - Swept and benches cleaned on a weekly basis.
- **Yew Trees and Parterre** - Volunteers completed the annual trimming and tidying, a huge team effort over several weeks.



September's birth flowers are the Aster & Morning Glory



Georgie on a tidying mission



Chris cleaning the steps



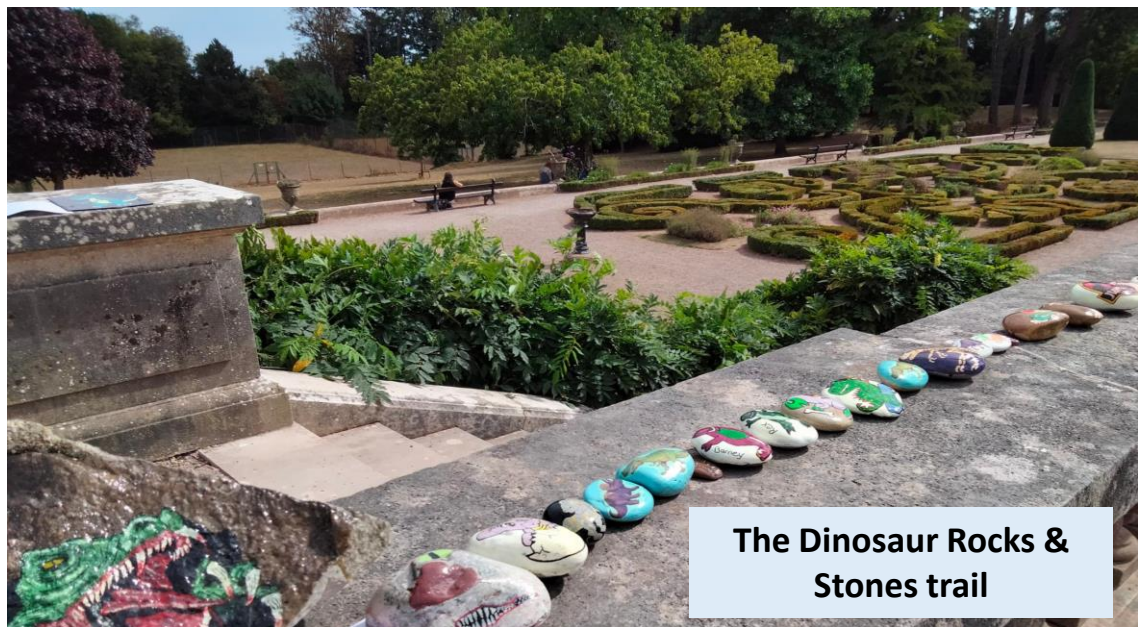
Sue weeding the beds



Pauline promoting the Owl Trail



Jenny & Janet



The Dinosaur Rocks & Stones trail



- **Bench and the Memorial Plaque refurbished** - Another bench receiving TLC, using Sadolin stain. There is a rolling maintenance programme for the benches to be carefully restored by our OGG Volunteers.
- **Donations of Cakes, Fish and Tools** - Large donation of tools, some fish for the pond and a wonderful regular supply of cakes for the Volunteers.
- **Garden Maintenance Plan Meeting** - OGG in conjunction with Dr Sarah Rutherford. The Plan has the backing of Torbay Council and Devon Gardens Trust, giving the go ahead to push forward with new projects that have been kept on hold.
- **Ghost Trail Launched** - Pauline and her Tea Hut team launched the half term fund raising initiative 'Find the Hidden Ghosts Trail'.
- **Payback Team** - Working weekend mornings to clear out masses of bay trees, as well as removing tree trunks to the rockery area. OGG are very fortunate to have their help.
- **Plant Stall** - Opened when the weather was fine and Volunteers available. Closed for the season after the school half term Ghost Trail. A very successful and rewarding fund raising project.
- **South West in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards** - OGG awarded another Outstanding grade for their efforts.
- **The Torbay Greenspace Forum 'Bloomin Marvellous' Local Presentation Event of Torbay's South West in Bloom Awards 2022** - A special evening, held at the Paignton Palace Theatre, where members of the Committee were presented with their Outstanding Award in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category 2022.
- **Volunteers** - Working all around the extensive grounds, Plant Stall, Tea Hut, Bench Cleaning, Parterre, Rockery, Pond, Gardeners Yard, Main Drive, Little Oldway Area, Leaf Sweeping, Tool Repairing along with many other tasks.



October's birth flowers are the Marigold & Cosmos

Roger, George & Richard cutting back and clearing



Local 'Bloomin Marvellous' event, celebrating Torbay's South West in Bloom awards 2022



Generous Donations of Tools, Fish, Cakes & Plants

November



- **Donations** - Cakes, Plants, Tools, Wood and Tool Cleaning.
- **Ghost Trail** - Pauline and her Tea Hut team enjoyed huge success with the half term fund raising initiative 'Find the Hidden Ghosts Trail'. A remarkable total of 1368 Trails were completed.
- **Parterre** - Two huge bags of topsoil delivered & unloaded by Volunteers ready for adding to the Parterre.
- **Queen's Green Canopy "Tree of Trees"** - In recognition of its outstanding contribution to the community, Oldway Gardens Volunteer Group received a special tree. The tree stands as a message of hope, regeneration and optimism to the nation and the world as part of the Platinum Jubilee weekend celebrations. 300 organisations from across the UK received one of these awards.
- **Team Social Event in the Gardeners Yard** - A BBQ evening for the Volunteers & their Partners along with a Jazz band.
- **Restoring Original Views** - Starting a new project clearing scrub & overgrown woodland areas to restore Paris Singer's 1900's redesigned views of the mansion and out to sea.
- **Volunteers** - Working in the Parterre area adding fresh topsoil, general weeding and tidying. Uncovering rockery stones and making improvements to the rockery area. Clearing and tidying the gardener's yard, sweeping leaves, weeding, cut back old debris and general maintenance around the grounds.



From - Cllr Darren Cowell, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance Independent, Shiphay Ward. Please pass on my enormous appreciation and gratitude for the work that all of those involved with Oldway contribute as volunteers. It truly is inspirational and I sincerely hope that over the coming weeks we can firmly establish the pathways to lead to successful outcomes for the long-term future of the whole estate.

November's birth flower is the Chrysanthemum



**Plant Stall
Chris & Suzanne**



Preparing the Queen's Tree Planting



**Volunteers & Dignitaries at the
Queen's Tree Planting**



Jenny & Janet in Rose Beds



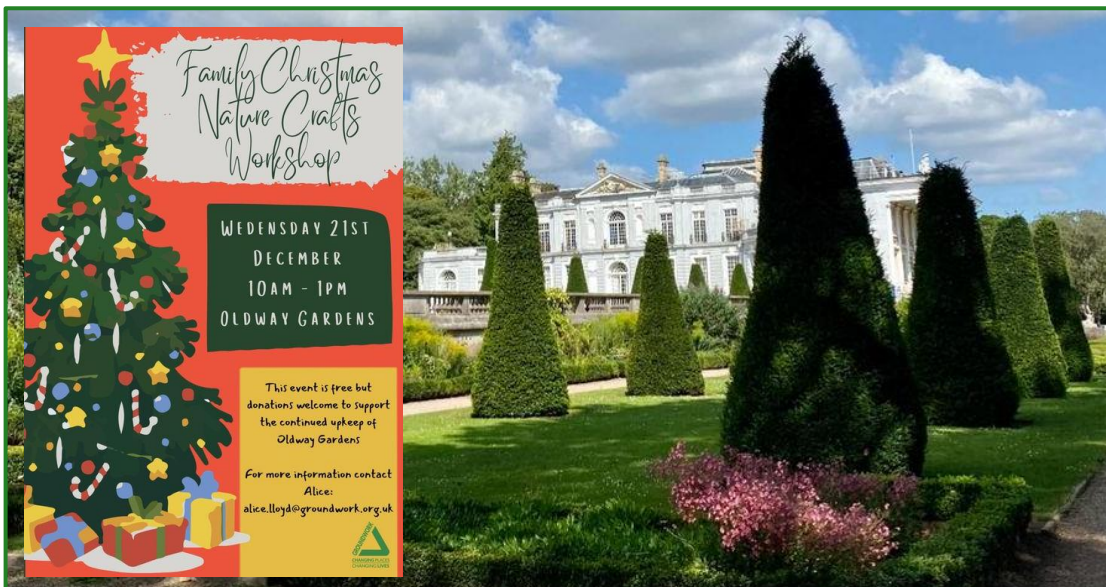
Team Social Evening in the Gardeners Yard



December



- **Compost** - Oldway Gardens Volunteers and SWISCo organised the transfer of a mountain of greenery for composting. SWISCo kindly agreed to remove greenery monthly for composting at a local site.
- **Craft Workshop** - A Christmas Nature Craft Workshop, organised by Alice at Groundwork, assisted by Oldway Gardens Volunteers and supported by visiting children & families.
- **Donations** - Plants, cakes, tools and offers of help in the Gardeners Yard with general maintenance.
- **Gardeners Yard** - A facelift and tidy up, Decluttering, Clearing, Cleaning and general improvement of storage and volunteer facilities.
- **Grass Cutting** - Keeping on top of grass cutting, even in December.
- **Opening up Views** - The Oldway Gardens Volunteers, along with the Community Payback Team, continuing to work on the Rockery, Water Gardens and Woodland areas, clearing scrub and overgrown areas, removing self seeded shrubs and suckers, especially holm oak and elder. Restoring Paris Singer's original views to the Mansion and Sea.
- **Planting for Spring** - Volunteers were out in force to start planting some of the 10,000 bulbs and over 1000 Polyanthus in the Oldway grounds ready for a 'Spectacular Spring Show'.
- **Repairs to Essential Equipment** - Working in the yard doing essential repairs to our equipment, most of which has been kindly donated by the community.
- **Volunteers from America** - Two Volunteers, on a Community program, from an American Church helping us to plant bulbs and spring flowers.



December's birth flowers are the Narcissus & Holly



Volunteers Bulb Planting



Pete R & Pete W, tidying up the Gardeners Yard



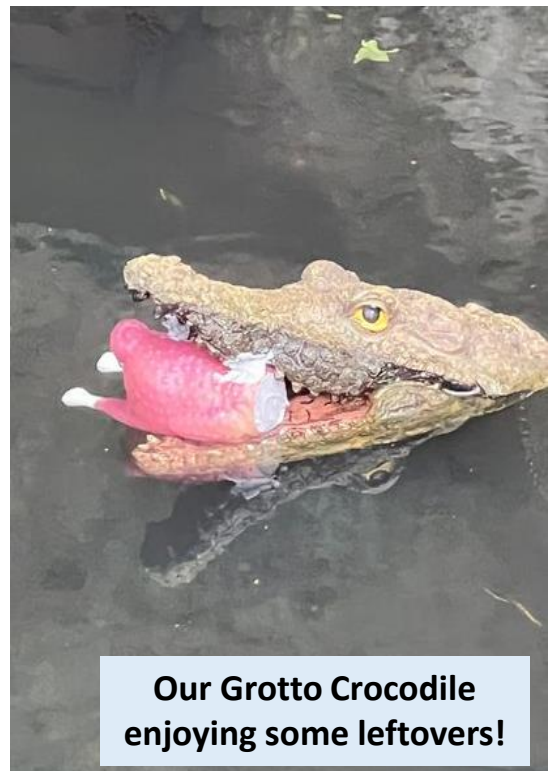
Janet, Georgie & Phil Bulb Planting



Roger in the bushes



Flowering in December



Our Grotto Crocodile enjoying some leftovers!



January



- **Bench Repairs** - The program for bench repairs ongoing, all costs paid for with funds raised by the Volunteers of OGG.
- **Community Payback Team** - Clearing overgrown areas, helping with composting and general gardening maintenance work.
- **Consultant Visit** - At the invitation of the Oldway Project Manager, a consultant visited to see the House and Grounds, and to meet OGG Volunteers and Trustees.
- **Donations** - More donations of plants, cakes, tools, garden vouchers, along with offers of help. Two magnolia trees were also donated and some collectable local pottery for us to sell.
- **Gardeners Yard** - Continuing with the facelift and tidy up, Decluttering, Clearing, Cleaning and general improvements.
- **Memorial Olive Tree Planting** - Holocaust Memorial Tree Planting Service with OGG Volunteers assisting and local dignitaries attending.
- **Opening up Views** - Continuing to work on the Rockery, Water Gardens and Woodland, clearing the overgrown areas.
- **Planting for Spring** - Volunteers completed the planting of 10,000 bulbs and 1000 Polyanthus, ready for a Spectacular Spring Show.
- **Repairs to Essential Equipment** - Working in the yard doing essential repairs and maintenance to our equipment.
- **Torbay Council** - Have appointed a team of experts to develop a Masterplan and Conservation Management Plan for Oldway. Over the next six months, the team will draw up plans and options that could deliver a pathway to get Oldway open and functioning again.
- **Volunteers** - The OGG Volunteers were working on site, three times a week, despite the bitterly cold and wet weather. Their commitment and achievements being much appreciated by the community.

News update

Expert team assembled to work up options for Oldway

TORBAY.GOV.UK

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2023!

January's birth flowers are the Snowdrop and Carnation



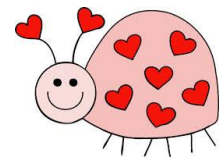
**Oldway Gardens Group Volunteers
Working on behalf of the Community**



Holocaust Memorial Tree Planting



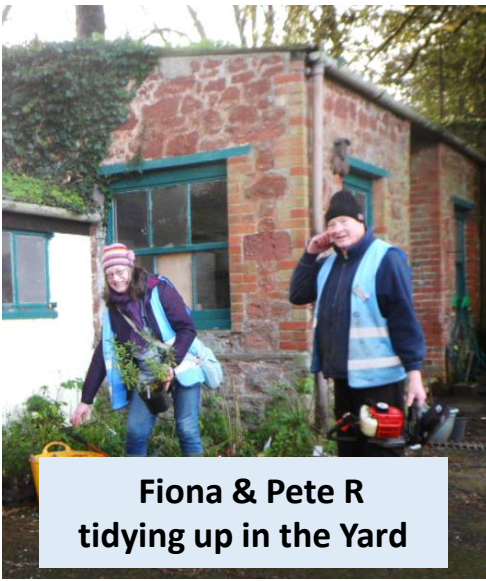
February



- **Bench Repairs** - A bench in the Parterre area completely restored.
- **Bird Boxes** - Eight new Bird Boxes installed in the area along the side of our lime walk and towards the Oldway Road. The Bird Boxes were made and decorated at the Christmas Craft Morning Event.
- **Business Cards** - OGG have had their own Business Cards printed.
- **Donations** - Plants, cakes, tools, garden planters, pottery.
- **Duke of Edinburgh** - Participants helping in the grounds as part of their awards.
- **Gardeners Yard** - Reorganisation and major tidy up in the gardeners yard to improve the volunteers working and planting areas, social and seating areas and organising an office space.
- **Gardeners Yard** - Repotting and tidying up plants. Making planters and bird boxes from donated wood.
- **Grass Cutting, Bench & Step Cleaning** - Weekly Team efforts to keep the grounds looking neat, tidy and beautiful.
- **Litter Picking** - Regular litter picker Bev keeping the grounds clear and tidy of rubbish. We also had a local social group of five ladies 'Girls Have Fun' on a litter picking day.
- **Parterre** - Weeding and hoeing weekly. The Spring bulbs and polyanthas coming into flower. The big border had a major tidy up.
- **Plant Sale** - First plant sale of the year, along with selling wooden planters and bird boxes. Plant sales when the weather was suitable.
- **Views** - More of the original views emerging by clearing overgrown areas. Walls not seen for years have been rediscovered.



February's birth flowers are the Violet & Primrose



**Fiona & Pete R
tidying up in the Yard**



**Linda, Jenny, Janet & Lyn weeding and
tidying the Parterre Area**



**Phil clearing shrubbery to
reveal a hidden wall**



Pete W & Stuart Repairing a Bench



Chris sweeping Steps

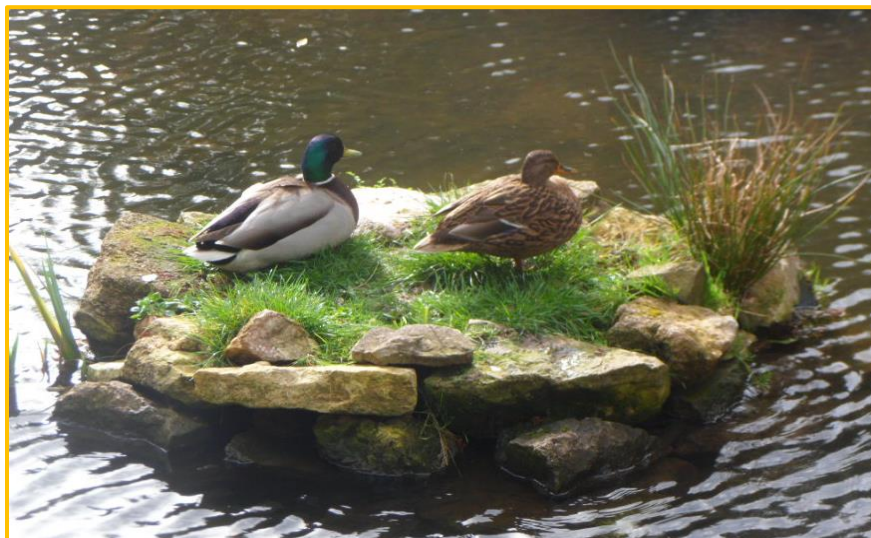


Lewis Grass Cutting

March



- **Benches** - Continuing maintenance and restoration.
- **Burma Star Rose Bed** - Preparing the area around the Burma Star Memorial Rose Garden. In conjunction with the Burma Star Memorial Fund, the Oldway Gardens volunteers have planted new roses to replace the existing ones, which had passed their best.
- **Chicken Trail** - Wooden chickens being created and painted in preparation for the new Easter 'Chicken Trail'.
- **Donations** - Plants and garden planters, cakes, various tools and lawn mowers.
- **Gardeners Yard** - Volunteers working on tool maintenance, looking after the plants as well as propagating. Preparing a new area for Plant Sales, when the weather is unsuitable for the usual area.
- **Grass Cutting, Bench & Step Cleaning** - Weekly Team efforts to keep the grounds in good order.
- **Litter Picking** - Weekly, and sometimes daily, litter picking by our OGG Volunteers.
- **Parterre** - Weeding and hoeing weekly. The Spring bulbs and flowers looking beautiful. The big border tidy up continuing.
- **Planters & Bird Boxes** - Being crafted in our Gardeners Yard for sale on the Plant Stall.
- **Plant Stall** - Opened on days when the weather was suitable. Trial of sales using the Gardeners Yard for more protection from the cold.
- **Pond Area** - A visiting heron spotted and several regular ducks.
- **Tea Hut** - Repairing and painting ready for the opening on April 3rd.
- **Views** - Continuing the significant work required to open up the original views. Clearing out scrub by the tennis courts.



March's birth flower is the Daffodil



Linda, Abby & Lyn on the Plant Stall



Jenny in the Parterre



Sally & Val weeding a Border



Phil planting daffodils



Fabulous display of daffodils at Oldway





- **Benches** - Continuing maintenance and restoration.
- **Chicken Trail** - Launched at The Tea Hut on 3rd April, with lots of excited children, parents and grandparents joining in the fun. 875 Participants took part in the trail. Another very successful community event.
- **Community Payback Team** - Always on hand to help weekends with some of the heavier gardening jobs.
- **Donations** - Of plants, plant pots, cakes, tools and lawn mowers.
- **Gardeners Yard** - Volunteers working hard to upgrade the yard, making new work benches, working on tool and lawn mower maintenance, looking after the plants and propagating.
- **Grass Cutting, Bench & Step Cleaning** - Weekly Team efforts to keep the grounds in good order.
- **Litter Picking** - Regular litter picking by our OGG Volunteers and helpers from the community.
- **Parterre** - Weeding and hoeing weekly. Daffodils, tulips and other bulbs looking beautiful, along with the primroses and polyanthas.
- **Planters & Bird Boxes** - Being crafted in our Gardeners Yard for sale on the Plant Stall.
- **Plant Stall** - Opening five days a week. When the weather was unsuitable to set up by the Mansion, we operated from the newly created Plant Stall area in the Gardeners Yard.
- **Pond & Grotto Areas** - General cleaning and introducing more barley straw bags to control the blanket weed. In hand is the duckling retreat which hopefully will help protect them from the seagulls.
- **SWISCO** - Grass cutting the big lawn areas and clearing green waste.
- **Tea Hut** - Opened for the season on April 3rd.
- **Views** - Continuing the significant work required to open up the original views. Clearing out scrub by the tennis courts.



April's birth flowers are the Daisy & Sweet Pea



Easter Chicken Trail - The Mayor, Mandy Darling, guide dog Pepsi along with escort Heather, Oldway Volunteers and visiting families joining in the fun, hunting for wooden chickens.



A splendid show of Tulips in the Parterre



Sue on trolley duty, taking plants up to the Plant Stall



Chris & Suzanne running the Plant Stall



- **Benches** - Ongoing repairs, restoration and painting.
- **Donations** - An amazing month for donations, especially plants for sale.
- **Garden Group Visit** - 39 members of Surrey County Garden Club, on a Gardens of South Devon Coach Tour, visited our grounds and purchased lots of plants from our plant stall.
- **Gardeners Yard** - Volunteers, some wearing new hard hats, working on various jobs and tool maintenance. Plants being given lots of TLC.
- **Grass Cutting, Bench & Step Cleaning** - Weekly Team efforts.
- **Litter Picking** - The amazing Bev continuing her early morning's tidy up.
- **New Nature Trail** - Planning meeting to create a new Nature Trail.
- **Office** - A new Office area has been completed in the Gardener's Yard, with a desk, chairs, storage cupboards and a printer.
- **Owl Trail** - Re-launched for 2023 at the Tea Hut, with families and friends once again joining in the fun.
- **Pond** - A Duck Retreat and Wetlands area, created by the 'Pond Team' of Joe, Terry & Tony, providing a ducking and small fish sanctuary. Installed two plastic raptors in the pond and cleared the blanket weed.
- **Parterre** - Fabulous display of Tulips, weeding, tidying and trimming.
- **Plant Stall** - Manned five days a week by Volunteers, running from the Gardeners Yard if the weather is inclement.
- **SWISCO** - Grass cutting the big lawn areas and clearing green waste.
- **Tea Hut** - Opened and manned Daily by Volunteers.
- **Wooden Planters** - Crafted in our Gardeners Yard for sale on the Plant Stall. Also taking orders for custom sizes.
- **Wooden Planter** - Large bespoke planter presented to Kathy Hughes, a gift for the Oldway Tea Rooms, to enhance her front café entrance.
- **Views** - Volunteers continuing the project to open up the original views, along with help from the Community Payback Team.



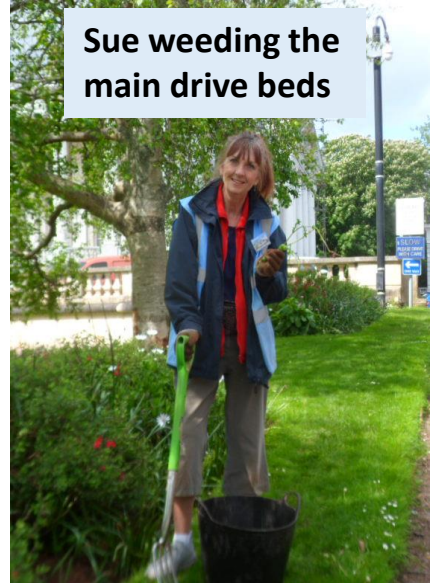
May's birth flowers are the Lily of the Valley & Hawthorn



Wednesday Morning Volunteers



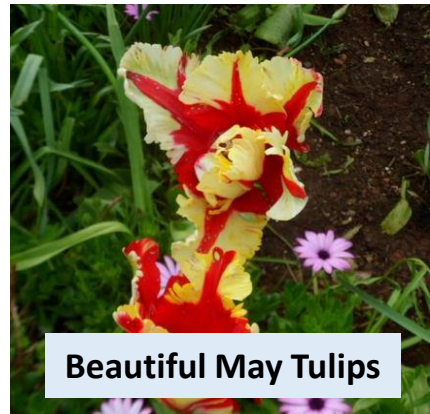
**Tony & Terry
In the Pond**



**Sue weeding the
main drive beds**



**Oldway Gardens pretty
in pink and white**



Beautiful May Tulips



Tea Hut Volunteers



- **Benches** - Continuing the program of maintenance and repairs.
- **Councillors Visit** - Council Leader David Thomas, Deputy Leader Chris Lewis and Cllr Katya Maddison, visited Oldway to meet with the OGG Trustees and tour the grounds.
- **Flags** - New Oldway Gardens Group flag banners to promote us.
- **Grass Cutting** - Ongoing weekly and with help from SWISCo on the big lawn areas. Maintenance of mowers and garden equipment.
- **Main Drive Flower Beds** - Amazing display of sustainable plants.
- **Oldway Primary School** - The children received seeds from King Charles 3, they scattered and planted them in a new pollinator patch dug by the community payback team.
- **Parterre Area** - The annual box hedge trimming and tidying started, along with weeding and clearing of flower beds and the big border.
- **Plant Stall** - Open five days a week, with some generous plant and planter donations from the community.
- **Podcast** - Torbay Hospitality recorded a Podcast with our Secretary.
- **Pond Area** - The pond team continue their good works, weekly cleaning and clearing. Six rescued ducklings and mother duck given a home in our pond. Dragonflies spotted enjoying the sunshine.
- **RAM Pump** - Six volunteers received training from SWISCo.
- **South West in Bloom Judging** - Preparing for our Neighbourhood Award entry in the South West in Bloom July 2023 competitions.
- **Tea Hut** - Open daily and running the new Owl Trail.
- **Torbay Council** - Two Public Consultation events at Oldway, to view and discuss proposals. The events were aimed at families to see how future generations can be part of Oldway's future.
- **Voluntary Hours** - Since the group started in September 2019 to the end of May 2023, we have registered 24,328 recorded hours of voluntary work. We now have over 1800 Facebook members.



June's birth flowers are the Rose & Honeysuckle





Oldway Volunteers working in the glorious sunshine, grass cutting, weeding, litter picking, seed sowing, running the plant stall and tea hut, always busy and always smiling.



Beautiful Oldway Mansion Gardens in June



A selection of our Social Media 'Trail' Comments

We have over 1800 Followers on Facebook. We receive comments from far and wide. Our followers are in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and UK.

Caroline Baker - Thanks for having us at the ghost trail, we loved it!!

Diana Treavartha - The kids and nanny loved the ghost trail today, well done to everyone involved! Fab idea.

Jean Worth - It's great that there are so many activities going on at Oldway.

Lorraine Robson - Thank you so much for organising! I took 2 x 11 year olds, they loved it! Some were well hidden. The lady in the hut was lovely!

Maria Sedgebeer Hartfield - Went with family yesterday, the grandchildren loved it, thank you so much.

Norma Purver - The grandchildren really enjoyed the ghost trail. Thanks to all involved in its organisation.

Paul Forsey - Wow, what a great result! Well done to all involved. We had been watching the numbers rise and hoped the magical figure of 1,000 might be achieved, and low and behold it now has! Quite incredible, and another accolade for the wonderful army of cheerful and helpful volunteers that Oldway is now blessed with.

R.I.P Paul, Mr Paignton, a true gentleman - One of our early Oldway supporters, much missed by us all. A great Friend of Oldway.

Rachel Hext - We came with our family yesterday and had a lovely time doing the trail with all ages involved.

Sally Carter - Great to see so many families out enjoying this trail.

Susie Wighton - A very big well done to Pauline and the team for all the hard work and effort put into the Halloween trail for us all to enjoy.

Tasmin Cornforth - Thank you to all the team at Oldway, we had a wonderful afternoon searching for ghosts.

Tina Britannia - Having undertaken the trail with two children yesterday, the enthusiasm of all the children, (minus any electrical item in hands just cardboard paper and pens), the confusion of adults with them as children were running with joy to the 'next ghost', having read their own clues, then arriving back at the tea hut excitedly, the gentleman volunteer was a star, we watched him as individual or family groups arrived back as he 'quizzed them ' to read their answer. FABULOUS HALF TERM ACTIVITY, FANTASTIC WORK BY ALL VOLUNTEERS. Keep up the great work...seeing the smiling faces of all was wonderful.





**A Selection of our Popular Photo Collages 2022/2023
Oldway Gardens Group of Volunteers**

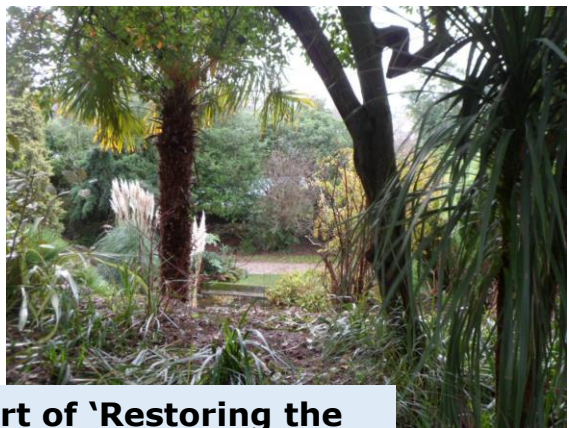


Oldway Gardens Group CIO Update - The landscaped Grade II listed Gardens at Oldway Mansion reached their ornamental peak by 1910 when Paris Singer's elaborate scheme was complete. It was based on Achille Duchene's design. He was an internationally significant French architect who after working at Oldway went on to work at Blenheim Palace on the water gardens.

The Rock Garden and Grotto at Oldway were constructed between 1900 - 1902 and were built by F W Meyer. He was one of the foremost rock garden designers of the time. He worked for Veitch Nurseries of Exeter. The Ram pump which was installed at the time to pump the water to the rockery and pond still works today some 120 years later and is highly efficient and very eco friendly.

During the Autumn and Winter of 2022 OGG started work on the Rockery, Water Gardens and Woodland areas clearing scrub (elm and hazel) along with anything else inappropriate in the area. In the woodland areas which were overgrown we removed self seeded shrubs and suckers especially holm oak and elder to clear the views to the Mansion and to the Sea.

It must be remembered that when Paris Singer had the gardens remodelled in the early 1900's they were constructed to a luxurious standard where views of the sumptuous Mansion and out to sea were all important and it is these views we have been opening up.



Autumn 2022 - Start of 'Restoring the Original Views' Project



The Future for the OLDWAY GARDEN GROUP CIO Working on behalf of the COMMUNITY

- **The future for the Oldway Garden Group is looking good.**
- When I first set up the group, I made sure it was on a sustainable basis both plant wise and monetary wise.
- Monetary wise we set up the Plant Stall and Tea Hut to raise funds for the group.
- Plant wise I moved the Sustainable Plant Project to Oldway.
- Volunteer wise we have gathered together a great team of volunteers who are passionate and love Oldway. The volunteers in our group come from a variety of backgrounds and bring all sorts of skills to the group and this is where our strength lies.
- We are currently waiting on the Conservation Plan to restore the historic Grade II listed garden which should be out in the autumn. I hope this will enable the Grotto to be repaired and that the Devon Garden Trust will release some of the money they are holding to enable this to go ahead.
- I trust that some common sense will be applied to the Conservation Plan as to what is possible in a public park that is open 24 hours a day.
- Also, it should be pertinent to the times we live in, and it should take account of climate change.
- The future is bright for the Grade II listed gardens at Oldway with a dedicated team of volunteers looking after it and working in partnership with Torbay Council. **Tim Eley, Chairman**

Thank You to all Supporters of our Success Story, including:-

- **Community of Torbay**
- **Community Payback Team**
- **Councillors - David Thomas - Leader, Chris Lewis - Deputy Leader**
- **Councillors - Barbara Lewis and Katya Maddison**
- **Councillors - Steve Darling and Darren Cowell**
- **Customers of the Plant Stall & Tea Hut**
- **Customers of our Owl, Ghost and Easter Trails**
- **Devon Garden Trust**
- **Face Book Followers**
- **Local Businesses**
- **Local Press**
- **Mayor of Torbay - Cllr Mandy Darling**
- **Oldway Primary School**
- **Oldway Tea Rooms**
- **SWISCo**
- **Torbay Council and Staff**
- **Torbay M.P. - Mr Kevin Foster & Mrs Hazel Foster**



Volunteers - Lee, Bev and Chris



Volunteers - Barry, Jeane, Lewis and Sally



Volunteers - Danielle, Abby and Linda

This Diary has been compiled by Linda Dennis, an Oldway Gardens Group Committee Member and Volunteer, with grateful thanks to the exceptional Team of Volunteers, for their dedication and efforts in helping to restore the magnificent Oldway Mansion Gardens. Without whom this Diary could not have been made. You are all amazing.



Jenny
Miss January



Tony
Mr February



Janet
Miss March



Phil
Mr April



Val
Miss May



Pete R
Mr June



Pauline
Miss July



David
Mr August



Sue
Miss September



Pete W
Mr October



Georgie
Miss November



Roger
Mr December

January 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
4	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
5	29	30	31				

February 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5				1	2	3	4
6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9	26	27	28	29			

March 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9					1	2	3
10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
12	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
13	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
18	29	30					

May 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18			1	2	3	4	5
19	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
20	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
22	27	28	29	30	31		

June 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22						1	2
23	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
24	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
29	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
31	29	30	31				

August 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31				1	2	3	4
32	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
33	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
34	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
35	26	27	28	29	30	31	

September 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
35							1
36	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
37	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
38	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
39	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
40	30						

October 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40		1	2	3	4	5	6
41	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
42	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
43	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
44	28	29	30	31			

November 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44					1	2	3
45	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
46	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
47	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
48	25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
48							1
49	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
50	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
51	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
52	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1	30	31					

We hope you have enjoyed reading our July 2022 to June 2023 Diary



Oldway Gardens Group
VOLUNTEERS

Working on Behalf of the Community
We believe in making a difference