

FORMOSA GARDEN NEWS

Message from the Directors

As Spring finally breathes some warmth over our wonderful Garden, the Directors would like to take this opportunity to remind residents of the key garden events over the Summer and update you on our progress in gradually improving the garden, so we can all relish and enjoy it. We've also included a short reminder of the key garden rules we'd ask everyone to respect over the Summer months as well as a new specific request around feeding the birds.

Have a wonderful summer!

Message from Robert the Gardener

Well, we've had the 'Beast from the East', several other mini 'beasts', weeks of incessant rain but still the garden is there. No matter what the weather throws at us, nothing stops nature plodding along. The plants this year are definitely later in their development than last year, but they are patiently waiting in bud for those sunny spring days to finally arrive. They then burst forth in every colour and shade of the spectrum. "Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished" - Lao Tzu

Now let's assume by the time you read this, spring has finally arrived, and our drifts of naturalised bulb plantings have done well. Cyclamen hederifolium started to flower well before Christmas, then cyclamen coum takes over and are just finishing around now. So, between them these two varieties give four to five months of flower. We have more than fifteen different varieties of dwarf narcissus (better known as daffodils) many of which are pleasantly scented. This year we planted nearly a thousand more dwarf narcissus - a variety called Thalia which are pure white and quite stunning. The daffodils this year really have been a picture, as indeed were the crocus and camassia. The bluebells we

planted last year around the central Plane tree are slowly establishing and every year will get better and better. I think we can all agree that along with the colourful bulbs, the cherries, magnolias, forsythias, ribes and crab apples all bursting into flower and becoming the stars of the show, that spring is a time when the garden says "Let's Party!"

Winter is unquestionably a time for contemplation and planning and Spring is a time for action. This Spring's action has been up by the double gates of St Catherine's Court. At the AGM last year it was voiced that this was a much neglected part of the garden and needed improvement. Two large, very rotten trees have been removed for safety reasons, but this area will still be shady. The obvious choice was to create a woodland walk. A part of the garden that would give all year round interest but that would really excel in the spring. We changed the shape and width of the narrow path that crossed the garden at this point. We also planted some more Malus Everest along with the others to achieve for the future a stunning walk of crab apples.

We brought in a digger to make the path more serpentine in form and from that we then spurred off our less formal bark covered path. This will lead you through drifts of woodland favourites such as ferns, hellebores and cyclamen together with a myriad of unusual bulbs such as Cardiocrinum and Cypripediums. The structure of this walk shall comprise good stalwarts such as Magnolia, Viburnum, Hydrangea and Chinese Cornus with their brightly coloured stems. We shall also be using beautiful Japanese Acers and exceptionally interesting ferns and herbaceous ground cover plants such as pineapple lilies and gingers. So, take a trip up there, I believe you'll find that the plants are very beautiful.



At the other end of the garden we shall be giving the 'med bed' a quick once over, planting in the gaps and replenishing the gravel in this area.

No matter what end of the garden you live you should see some positive action. We've waited too long this year for Spring to arrive so don't waste it - get out into your garden and smell the flowers.

Also...



Were you in the garden when the rotten horse chestnut tree next to Katherine Court was felled?

A reminder of the key garden rules

As summer arrives and more of us are in the Garden, please remember the key rules which are in place to ensure our Community stays a place we can all enjoy together.

- Ball games are only permitted for children under the age of ten providing it does not disturb others.
- Please do not allow children to climb the trees, pick the flowers or play in the beds or with garden equipment such as hoses. Children must not be left unsupervised.
- Barbeques and other cooking equipment are prohibited. Users of



the garden shall be responsible for removing any rubbish. Personal items must be removed.

- Residents must ensure that at all times noise is kept at a level which does not cause disturbance to others. This includes loud music, games or noisy animals particularly after 8pm.
- Commercial activities including professional dog-walkers, personal trainers, and exercise classes are not permitted.
- With the exception of official fireworks organised for the annual display, fireworks, even in private gardens, are strictly forbidden.

- Parties involving over 10 people (residents or guests) must have prior permission from Formosa Amenity.
- Feeding the birds – residents are asked not to throw old foodstuffs into the garden or onto the paths under any circumstances. Items such as bread, cake, tomatoes or fruit have been found on the pathways, presumably left for birds.

Thank you.

Our new website

Have you taken a few minutes to explore our new website? Please do visit www.formosagarden.co.uk and let us know what you think of it.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Summer party** – 2pm-9pm 7th July
- **AGM** - 7pm at our usual venue (St Joseph's School on Lanark Road) 10th July
- **Bonfire night** – 3rd November

