

Friends of Fletcher Moss Park and Parsonage Gardens



Autumn Newsletter 2018

RHS AWARDS - SOUTHPORT

It was another clean sweep of awards at the RHS 'It's Your Neighbourhood' and 'North-West in Bloom' presentations in Southport in October. 'Didsbury in Bloom', which represents all of the volunteer groups in Didsbury again came away with the title of 'Best Urban Community'. And Parsonage Gardens and Fletcher Moss Park both gained Gold medals, as did 13 other community groups in Didsbury.

And there's more to come: Ford Lane won a Certificate for being 5 years in the 'Outstanding' category; and Parsonage Gardens was awarded a 'RHS National Certificate of Distinction' as well as the 'Proud of Manchester' trophy.



Heather with her certificate at the Parsonage, her second home!

But perhaps the most welcome of the awards was a personal one for Heather Stemp who was given the '2018 Award for Outstanding Contribution to North-West in Bloom'. As we know Heather has worked tirelessly for Parsonage Gardens and for Didsbury in Bloom and it is very pleasing that the RHS has seen it appropriate to recognise her achievements. Well done Heather, and thank you for everything you have done for us!

POND PROJECT ON ITS WAY



Can you make out what this photo is? Well, it is the start of digging out the dipping pond in Fletcher Moss which has been overgrown with vegetation and with a platform that is falling apart and dangerous. Thanks to a number of funding sources we now have the resources to complete our 'Path and Pond' project, which aims to link up the wildlife area and bird feeding station with the restored dipping pond and platform by way of a hard surfaced path through our 'buttercup meadow'.

The funding for the project has come by way of a grant of £1990 from the Gregg's (bakery) Foundation, one of £1400 from Manchester Airport, and rounded off by £1500 from the City Council 'Neighbourhood Investment Fund' (NIF). We are very grateful to these sponsors—and also to Moira Sykes who has only narrowly avoided a nervous breakdown in making the necessary (and often tortuous) applications!

Important change to the publication of the 'Newsletter'

The Officers and Committee of the Friends' group have decided that we can no longer produce the Newsletter entirely in print form. The time and cost (printing, copying, envelopes, distribution) are a considerable strain on our resources. This will be the last printed copy. From now on we will e-mail the Newsletters to all our members who have e-mail accounts, but we will have printed copies available for those who do not. All members with e-mail accounts should already get a monthly 'update' from our secretary, Moira Sykes; this will be in addition to that.