

Friends of Fletcher Moss Park and Parsonage Gardens



Summer Newsletter 2018

RHS JUDGING

Fletcher Moss Park and Parsonage Gardens have both been judged twice recently, along with the other Didsbury in Bloom groups. The North West judges arrived first, followed by the national Britain in Bloom judges who had come to judge Didsbury in Bloom, as it is in this year's **Champion of Champions** competition. All our amazing volunteers put in many extra hours of work to make sure that both the park and the garden were looking as good as possible. It was a pleasure to show the judges what had been achieved and to introduce them to some of the volunteers (*picture below*). We hope that the judges were impressed, but we will have to wait patiently until 19th October when the Britain in Bloom results will be announced in Belfast, followed by the North West results in Southport a week later.

A huge thank you to everyone who played a part in the preparation and who will continue to work hard at Fletcher Moss and Parsonage Gardens.



COPING WITH THE DROUGHT

Keeping plants alive and thriving has been quite a challenge during the recent period of dry weather. At Parsonage Gardens we prioritised certain plants for watering: plants and shrubs planted within the last twelve months; the three newly planted trees and the plants in the half barrel tubs. We also followed the advice from the RHS which said if a plant droops give it some water, otherwise leave established plants to push their roots deeper into the soil to find moisture.

Some of the azaleas, in particular, are looking rather sad, but we will be leaving them as long as possible to see if and how they recover. The long, cold and wet winter, the Beast from the East and now the drought will have affected some plants more than others, but time will tell.

EMILY WILLIAMSON PLAQUE

The plaque commemorating the occupancy of the **Croft** (the house in Fletcher Moss Park) by **Emily Williamson** has now been installed on the side of the house near to the café. Emily is recognised as the founder of the bird protection group which was later to become the **RSPB**. Next year (2019) will be the 130th anniversary of the founding of the group and the RSPB are planning a celebration event, which will also be part of the Manchester Nature Month to be held in June.

