

An FGG Calendar of Events

The Coffee Morning and Plant Exchange Saturday 27th April 10.30 am
Yetholm Youth Hall. A great opportunity to exchange and purchase plants at prices that will bring a tear to the eye. There will also be a range of stalls offering home baking, tombola, DVDs, games, crafts and a raffle. All money raised will go towards Summer Bedding purchases.

Hedge Planting at the Stank Saturday March 23rd 9am - 12pm in the area just below the caravan site. Get your wellies on and come and plant a variety of hedge plants to form Yetholm's newest hedge row. As part of the Yetholm Conservation Project we will be carrying on the work that the school-children started days earlier and planting out hazel, rose, crab, guilder, holly, honeysuckle and blackthorn [a total of over 300 plants.]

Town Yetholm Village Green Plant Sale Saturday 8th June 9.00 am - 12.00 pm A vast range of bedding plants most at 50% less than anywhere else as well as shrubs at prices that you have to see to believe. So buy your summer stock from us and have a garden that will delight your friends and family.

FGG AGM on Monday 9th September 7.00 pm takes place in the Yetholm Youth Hall

The FGG Autumn Coffee Morning Saturday 14th September 10.30 am
Yetholm Youth Hall. All the usual stalls - homebaking, books, DVDs & CDs Bric a Brac , plants and a grand raffle. A wonderful opportunity to grab a bargain.

We are also planning a number of week day and week end days of planting, sowing and weeding to which we invite you to join us for one or two hours. These days and dates will be advertised by poster and in the Southern Reporter nearer the time.

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Floral Gateway Gathering Newsletter

The 2013 PROGRAMME

FGG Welcomes Spring 2013

Winter is fading and once again we begin to look forward to what hopefully will be a gloriously sunny summer. We have yet another modest but achievable schedule of work that will take us all the way through to the November finishing with our plans for National Tree Week at the end of that month.

This year we have all the usual events such as Plant Exchanges, Coffee Mornings, Village Green Sales as well as work on Mothers Day presentation pots, summer bedding displays and a whole lot of maintenance. February 2013 sees the start of our big project The Yetholm Conservation Project sited between the banking at the bottom of the Caravan Park and the Electricity Sub Station.

This will involve the FGG, Yetholm Primary School and a further group of enthusiastic volunteers from February to November this year and beyond. So please read on for more information about this exciting project and some of the other pieces of work planned for this year.

Mothering Sunday

Friday 8th March saw the usual FGG crowd down at the Primary School with pots, and just for a change a great variety of primulas, as well as ribbons, sleeves and of courses spikes with cards all ready for the children to put together a special gift for all Mums on Mother's Day.

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The Yetholm Conservation Project

As previously mentioned the area in which the work of the project will take place is below the Caravan site. With an area of approximately 0.2 ha it stretches to within a few metres of the electricity sub-station. The site is quite varied considering its size and gives ample scope for all involved in the project to create and explore a range of habitats. The site presently offers a roadside hedge; ash, sycamore, gean and hawthorn on the bank below the caravan site; a large holly on the banks of the burn, a tributary of the Bowmont; rough grassland between trees and burn and a wet grassland area alongside the south side bank of the burn.

Working sympathetically with what the site already offers us, we intend to erect a stock fence outside the line of the old dyke with a mixed hedge planted between creating another linear habitat along the stones of the dyke; small scale tree planting of rowan, birch and crab apple; 4 to 5 hundred wild flower plants on the caravan banking and a few other selected areas; a scrape in the wet area to create a larger area for the planting of plants such as ragged robin, cuckoo flower and yellow flag iris and a number of specially created habitat areas to encourage bugs and insects.

This mixed habitat area of wetland, pond, hay meadow, rough grassland and copse will provide the young people of Yetholm the opportunity to gain practical experience in hedge and tree planting, the propagation of plants as well as an opportunity to manage a conservation project and work within an outdoor laboratory where the sciences of biology and botany can be studied.

We shall in the months ahead be putting up posters and placing information in the local news section of the Southern Reporter detailing what is going on and how you the community of Yetholm can involve yourself in this fun and exciting project. In the meantime if you would like more information about this particular initiative please email ireid@yetholmtown.plus.com

Maintenance

Once again we emphasise the importance of maintenance and the need to constantly monitor the development of sites that we have previously established to ensure that they develop in a way that realises their full potential as well as the taking into account the views and opinions of the community of Yetholm.

This year we are paying particular attention to the shrubs around the Wauchope Memorial, the area in front of the Old Brewery and of course as always our wildflower banks of Dow Brae, the Manse Brae and the banks around and opposite the Old Manse in Town Yetholm. We are, as always, keen to hear from anyone who feels we need to look at or concentrate more on other areas in the village. So apart from emailing members of the FGG you can fill in the slip inserted into this newsletter and pop it through the letterbox of Greenbank telling us exactly what you want done whether that be maintenance or work on an entirely new project.

The Wauchope Memorial

Work has at last finished - all the scraping, the sanding, the painting, the cleaning of the Wauchope Memorial and the placement of new red chips around the base have come to an end. A big thank you to those members of the community who helped, a special mention for all those who stopped to give advice and made us laugh and a very special thank you to Margaret for the scones and coffee. This year will see the Memorial railings receive a second coat of paint. We also plan to provide an additional two troughs, which will be placed either side of the memorial to complement the existing single trough. The troughs will be made by one of the village tradesman. This will give us the opportunity to plant more colourful bedding plants without detracting from the beauty and simplicity of our greens.

Village Benches

During 2012 Yetholm Community Council asked us to do a survey of the benches and assess their state of repair. This report has been submitted to the Community Council. It would appear that SBC no longer has a budget to cover the ongoing maintenance of the benches.

FGG needs you

Yes, it is our customary call for volunteers. In our annual bid to bring down the average age of FGG committee members to about 60 we call upon anyone who may be interested in the outdoors, planting trees, hedge plants, shrubs and summer bedding to get in touch. Our group holds three meetings a year, organises a couple of coffee mornings, a green sale of shrubs and plants and continues to work with the primary school on a range of projects. So please have a think about joining us in making Yetholm look even more beautiful. If you would like to email or ring us for the briefest of chats then you will find our telephone numbers and email addresses at the bottom of page four.