



Friends of Windermere

It's Your Neighbourhood 2013



Sharing the best in Gardening

RHS **BRITAIN IN BLOOM**
Finalist 2013

CONTENTS

Introduction 3

Friends of Windermere Introduction 4

Blooming Lovely Project 5

Save Our Benches Project 6

Photographs 7

INTRODUCTION

Community Involvement

- ◆ Windermere and Ulverston Neighbourhood policing team
- ◆ Windermere in Bloom Advisory Group
- ◆ St Cuthberts Primary School
- ◆ Lakes Secondary School
- ◆ Windermere School (formally St Annes)
- ◆ 'Save our Fell' group
- ◆ ageUK volunteers
- ◆ Goodley Dale Community School

Funding - Current

- ◆ Cumberland Building Society - £500
- ◆ Chief Constables Property Fund - £300
- ◆ United Utilities - £500
- ◆ Impact international Crag Wood, Briery Wood and Merewood hotels - £140
- ◆ North Of England Horticultural Society - £250
- ◆ Britvic Transform Your Patch People - £2,000
- ◆ Lake District National Park Authority - £1,000

Funding - Applied For

- ◆ The Bay Radio Summer of Difference grant - £150
- ◆ Santander Community Plus Fund - £1,500
- ◆ Cumbria County Council - Cllr. Stephenson - variable
- ◆ United Utilities - £500

Volunteer "In Kind" Time

- ◆ 'Save Our Benches' Project
 - ◆ Adults - 26
 - ◆ Hours - 676
 - ◆ Youth - 35
 - ◆ Hours - 630
- ◆ 'Blooming Lovely' Project
 - ◆ Adults & Youth - 50
 - ◆ Hours - 500

Bulbs Planted - 6,5000

Refurbished Benches - 10



FRIENDS OF WINDERMERE PROJECT

The 'Friends of Windermere' are a group of local people made up from the schools, local young people and volunteers from ageUK, jointly lead by the Community Problem Solver (CPS) from the Windermere and Ulverston Neighbourhood policing team. Tony McMichael leads the South Lakeland ageUK volunteers. Collectively they undertook 2 projects from the winter of 2012 to the present time:

- ◆ Blooming Lovely - CPS
- ◆ Save Our Benches - CPS and South Lakeland ageUK

Both projects are used by the police as one of the tools to engage with the young people in the area to help make aware of and reduce anti-social behaviour within the community. The project was about enhancing the local area that many of the young people regularly use. Queen's Park was the first area to be looked and had a skate park, children's play ground with various pieces of equipment and a large grassy area to play football or cricket on. However it had no other colour other than the trees. During a previous bench project which some young people took part in in January 2012, when an existing wooden bench was renewed by them, they mentioned it would be nice if maybe some flowers could be planted up on the banking and if something could be done to rectify the large pools of standing water that gathered on the path when it had rained.

All ageUK volunteers have been CAB checked and had generational work training.



Ian Age UK Volunteer checks and advises



Lakes School bulb planting

FRIENDS OF WINDERMERE PROJECT

BLOOMING LOVELY

This project was funded by United Utilities and the North Of England Horticultural Society. Six and half thousand daffodil bulbs and five tonnes of gravel were bought with the money for the recreational ground Queens Park Windermere. The bulbs were purchased from Hayes Garden World, Ambleside. The area of land where the bulbs were planted is on a grass banking at the side of the park, and in amongst the trees and path ways that lead to various public paths to the estate. Some of the Windermere in Bloom Advisory Group members also came out to assist the young people and even brought a quantity of bluebell bulbs that were planted close to the stream.

The young people involved came from three schools in the area, St Cuthberts Primary School, Lakes Secondary School and Windermere School (formally St Annes). Windermere School actually supplied pupils from three different ranges on three different days. They supplied girls and boys from years 11. They also supplied boarding pupils of varying ages from 7yrs to 18yrs from the school. And when they heard about the gravel their 'Save our Fell' group of lads volunteered to spread it.

The group identified the week, and allocated best times to attend when planting was to be done but were hampered by the torrential rain and planting was put back a week. The smaller children from St Cuthberts were very excited to be part of this project and managed to plant almost 1,000 bulbs between a maximum of 20 of them. All were under 7yrs old. The remaining 5,500 bulbs were planted by The Lakes School and Windermere School in five days.

The young people who took part in this project were selected by their schools. Windermere school offered to spread the gravel with a group of young men who have an interest in out door work on the Fells. The funding paid for five tonnes of gravel. This was used on the path ways in the children's play area that link the pieces of play equipment together. Over the years the paths have sunk and when it rains, the water gathers in a pool making it difficult to get from one piece to another.

As a result of this project, the young people have seen for themselves how hard work it is to make an area look lovely. They have been able to appreciate how hard others work and hopefully this will deter them from 'Dissing their Neighbourhood' and look after their facilities and we should have a fantastic display of colour in the spring months which hopefully will produce a mass of colour for years to come. When Blooming Lovely finished and was publicised It created an influx of calls from residents and organisations who had heard about the project and wanted to work on future projects. an offer of funding to enhance the area further was received and this has also led onto a developing partnership between The Policing Team, Windermere Town Council (the In Bloom Committee), ageUK and pupils from the local school and also those who access the alternative provision through the South Lakes Federation for schools.



Parents and children planting bulbs at Queens Park

FRIENDS OF WINDERMERE PROJECT

SAVE OUR BENCHES!

BACKGROUND

Around Windermere and Bowness there are over 171 public seats in our parks and public spaces with around 54 found by a recent survey to be in dire need of repair, renovation or ready for full replacement. These benches have been identified as either belonging to the Town Council or are "in memoriam." The total number of benches were identified when a bench survey was undertaken by Diane Fisher, a member of the Windermere & Bowness Civic Society.

Age UK Volunteers with carpentry and engineering skills have teamed up in to pass on their skills often learnt through many years working originally as apprentices; they are keen to pass on these skills by working with younger people to carry out repairs or replace public seating.

THE PROJECT

The participants have been recycling the iron legs on some of the benches by re-galvanising them and then fixing the new wood to them. It is estimated to be around 3-4 hrs a session with the young people. The most recent part of the project has been to replace the recessed wall seating area at Bowness Bay. These benches were remade by some of the students from Lindeth College. There have been 3 benches in Baddeley Clock gardens that have been revamped by the Sixth Formers from Windermere School (formally St Anne's). Two benches on Limethwaite Road have also been upgraded by some 13/14yrs olds from Windermere School as part of the Service to the Community project. 9 pupils from The Lakes School come to work on Lake Road outside the Glenburn Hotel Windermere; in the Library gardens and outside the Sun Inn, Troutbeck Bridge area. Radio Cumbria also came along and interviewed the pupils and volunteers on site. This project is on going and will be dependent on securing funding for the next phases.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The aim of the project is to:

- Increase the engagement with the children of today ... the youth of tomorrow
- Enhance the local community areas and create respect within the children to prevent the urge to damage it later
- Reducing crime through creating tidy environment (as identified previously resulting in our community visual audits)
- Reassuring the local community by showing what can be achieved by the children and breaking down barriers between old and young
- Creating social inclusion and ownership. The success of this project is because there are so many different organisations and partners involved in the process, all with different skills pulling in the same direct. AGE UK South Lakeland has been the main player in this project. Without whose volunteers the renovation work would not have happened. Their skills and expertise developed over the years are now being shared with our young people. The ageUK village agent is Tony McMichael.

The Friends of Windermere Group with their Save our Seats project have completed phase one of the renovation programme. Other seats refurbishments will continue over the next year having brought together a number of skilled older people through Age UK South Lakeland, young people through Windermere based schools, our local Cumbria Neighbourhood Police, the local Town Council as well as South Lakeland District Council. Part of phase one completed 3 benches which were revamped at the Lakes School with the help of 6 ageUK volunteers and 2 pupils.

FRIENDS OF WINDERMERE PROJECT

Altogether 10 benches are now fixed on site at:

- ◆ Beresford Road Gardens - x3
- ◆ Baddeley Clock Gardens - x3
- ◆ By the wall of the Bellsfield Hotel, The Promenade - x2
- ◆ Limethwaite Road - x2

FUTURE PLANS

Over the next few months the intention is to identify more seats that need repair or replacement, arrange further funding for materials, plus look for a base from which the project can develop providing opportunities for all ages to work together, for the team to learn or pass on traditional skills as well as making our local area more attractive for everyone

Age UK Village Agent Tony McMichael said “when public spaces look cared for right down to individual seating it encourages everyone to care for their area, makes for happier visitors who are vital for our economy as well as building pride in our community amongst all age groups”

Retired men who are interested in DIY or have joinery or wood working skills have come forward as a result of a media request to offer their experience and skills to join forces with the young people to renovate/replace wooden benches in the town.



In need of repair!



After repair

Some of the volunteers from the schools, youth groups, ageUK ... and the Mayor of Windermere who helped on the “Save our Benches” project.



FRIENDS OF WINDERMERE PROJECT

