***FRIENDS OF SUNNY BANK VALE***

***NEWSLETTER NO. 11 – AUTUMN 2015***

Our 5th Annual General Meeting took place on 10th November at St Martin's Church, Greenside Lane and those hardy few who attended heard about what the Friends of Sunny Bank Vale had achieved this year and contributed to our plans for next year.

As you walk the Vale this autumn and hear the birds singing and see the glorious colours we hope you feel uplifted a little. We as a group of like minded residents certainly do and we are very proud of our achievements to date and this newsletter is dedicated very much to those organisations who have helped us to win some prestigious awards for the Vale over the past year.

A big thank you goes to the Bradley Park Community Fund for the funding which enabled us to buy some professional maintenance which meant that the path verges were mowed regularly, undergrowth was cut back and the whole Vale at last looked well managed. This in turn went a long way to helping us achieve our goal of a Community Green Flag which we won in September. We would also like to thank Landcare Manchester and Grantscape for their help and support and also Tameside MBC.

We were again successful in maintaining our Level 5 Outstanding rating from the Royal Horticultural Society and North West in Bloom, with a 2015 It's Your Neighbourhood Award. Our hard work over the past year has certainly been worthwhile.

Earlier this year we heard that we had been successful in applying for funding for a wildflower meadow from the Bardsley Fund and again we would like to thank them for this. Over the coming weeks a stand alone raised area will be formed which will be sown with seeds later in the year. This will be a plot in the middle of Vale near a well walked path which will give a splash of colour as you walk by but will also be a much needed pollinator area for insects and birds.

The Friends Group continues to flourish with a core group of a dozen people but if you have an hour or two to spare and would like to join us for one of our work parties please come along. We have two more work parties scheduled for this year:

**SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER**

We meet on the field at Peakdale Road Road at 11.00 a.m. (weather permitting).

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