***FRIENDS OF SUNNY BANK VALE***

***NEWSLETTER NO. 9 – AUTUMN/WINTER 2014***

As the year turns and the glorious summer and its warmth fades away it is time for an update as to what has been happening on the Vale over the past months. You will have noticed some new signs indicating the paths that have now been designated an official right of way. We have worked hard with the owners and Tameside MBC Footpaths Officer to achieve this, it has taken some time, but at last we can ensure that future generations will be able to walk these two paths that have been used by the local community for many years.

Over the summer months our landscape contractor Greenscape finally completed the second phase of work that we had commissioned, so all paths have now been refurbished and we have a brand new path from Haven Drive joining up with the path at Ansdell Drive. This completes the network of safe paths and footfall has increased significantly.

The wildflowers that we had sown were beautiful and the perfume from them quite intoxicating, the butterflies and bees certainly enjoyed them, and yes we had a sprinkling of poppies as well. One of our future plans is to sow more wildflower seeds.

Did you notice the stunning flower display we created near the entrance on Edge Lane? We hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did. It was our way of celebrating the Royal Horticultural Society's 50 Years of “Britain in Bloom”. I am delighted to say that the Friends were presented with a special award for our efforts by the North West Britain in Bloom Society at this year's prize giving. We again entered the RHS “It's Your Neighbourhood” competition and were presented with a Level 5 “Outstanding” certificate. We were delighted with this prize as this was only our second entry and outstanding is the top award.

Thank you to all the people who have given their time over the past year in helping us achieve this award, we couldn't do it without you. New members are most welcome and one of our youngest, and newest members would like to share a message with you. *“My name is Cheyanne and I am 14 years old. This year I have been given the opportunity through my school to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award scheme. As part of this award I have chosen to volunteer with the Friends of Sunny Bank Vale. This is an excellent opportunity for me to give back something to my community and I am looking forward to it”.*

Finally we would like to invite you to our **Annual General Meeting** which will be held on Tuesday, 18th November at St Martin's Church, Greenside Lane, Droylsden starting at 7.00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you.

The next two work parties for this year are on Sunday 23rd November and Sunday 14th December and we meet on the field at Peakdale Road at 11.00 a.m. (weather permitting).

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