

History of the Wisteria Arbour - Hilda Kirkhope Rock Garden

An arbour has graced the walkway from the Bull Paddock to the Tear Drop Driveway from at least the 1960's. Here pictured in 1965, it is nicely painted and seems to support a small Banksia Rose.



Arbour Circa 1965

A Wisteria overtook the structure - here pictured just prior to terminal damage by storm in 2002. FOBG funded a replacement wooden structure which was completed in 2003.



Wisteria Arbour Circa 2001

In 2003, whilst The Hon. Sir Rupert Hamer was the Friends's Patron, and Kay Hirst the President of the Management Committee, a small brass plaque was created to commemorate FOBG support for garden projects. It was placed on the new wooden arbour. An opening ceremony was organised, with the Patron unveiling the plaque, followed by a basket lunch and garden tour on the day of the AGM in 2003. Funds that year were also used for new trees and plants (as recorded in the archives).



Arbour (model 2003) Circa 2014

In 2021 this wooden Wisteria Arbour fell down under the weight of age, decrepitude and the huge wisteria. Garden manager Andrew Smith, in his retirement year (2022), and in the midst

of the pandemic, arranged for the removal, quotes, designs and rebuilding of the elegant metal structure by which the original (severely pruned) Wisteria is now supported. Once again the Friends supplied the funding for the second replacement of the arbour.



Construction by DMD Headstock, March 2022

Isn't it a wonderful thing that 20 years later FOBG is still supporting projects in the gardens? Another plaque has been made to commemorate the FOBG commitment to garden projects. The previous one being safely stored in the Burnley Archives.



Completion 2023



Spring 2023 - the wisteria loving life on the new arbour, with plantings in the Hilda Kirkhope Garden supplied by new Garden Manager Sascha Andrusiak. Fittingly the FOBG have now placed a new plaque on the elegant structure to proclaim our ongoing support of the beautiful gardens.



Kirsten Binns Smith 2023