



Community Waterway Adoptions

Telling the story of Waterway Community Adoptions

Group Name:

Friends of Freda's Garden

The Friends of Freda's Garden volunteer adoption group took their name in remembrance of Freda Turner, a dear lady who lived in a small cottage on the banks of the Aire & Calder Canal in West Yorkshire.



Where is your adoption?

Freda's cottage is located along the A&C Canal between Cow Lane Bridge and Hunter's Bridge in Knottingley. This is also the same stretch of canal adopted by the Friends of Freda's Garden volunteer group.

Why did your group adopt?

Known for being a little eccentric, Freda's cottage only had a small garden attached and to fulfil her love of gardening she took to expanding her garden along the canal towpath. Freda relied on gifts and cuttings and anyone was welcome to take cuttings from her plants. She also encouraged people to pick the flowers. The Friends of Freda's Garden adoption group is, in tribute, dedicated to restoring Freda's planting and clearing the brambles, nettles and ivy that has invaded the garden and towpath.

Biggest achievement to date?

Freda's proud boast was that she never paid for a plant and many a church display came from Freda's Garden. The Garden became so well known to canal users that it featured in the British Waterways guide. And, for the Friends of Freda's Garden adoption



volunteers, they are proud of securing a donation from a local resident to install a seat in Freda's name.

Mark Lovell comments:
'It is not necessary to try to change the world. It is much more satisfying to change a little bit of it – and do it well.'

What are your plans for the future with your adoption?

The Friends of Freda's Garden is a small group of five volunteers dedicated to maintaining and continuing the spirit of Freda's Garden.

How long has it been going?

Sadly Freda developed dementia and died a few years ago, but the Friends of Freda's Garden, who formed two years ago, aim for her garden and the flowers along the towpath to remain.

Would you recommend it to a group thinking about adopting?

Yes, the Canal & River Trust are very supportive to volunteer adoption groups.

Is your groups open to new members?

If you are interested to join Friends of Freda's Garden then contact Mark Lovell at the Friends of Freda's Garden; marklovett@aol.com

Facebook page 'Friends of Freda's Garden' - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/108416309569561/>

