

## Gardening

# Gardening

Article from the Hayling Island Horticultural Society



## THE STEAD & RITCHIE MEMORIAL GARDEN

From Liese Holden

In addition to supporting our large membership, the Society is always keen to be involved in the local community and to support local initiatives and events. One such initiative is our help in renovating The Stead & Ritchie Memorial Garden (located on Selsmore Road on the right hand side next to Ramsbottom's Solicitors). More recently we helped out with activities at the Community Fun Days

organised at HICCA for local children and their families in the summer holidays.

The garden has a very interesting history going back to the 19th century when William Stead, social reformer and editor of 'Pall Mall', the 'Gazette' and 'Review of Reviews', owned Holly Bush House on Selsmore Road, which he used as a holiday home from 1895 to 1912. He was one of the most famous people lost in the Titanic disaster of 1912 and was an early pioneer of investigative

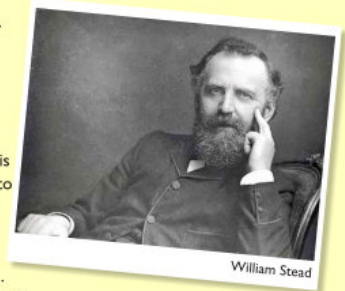
journalism, paving the way for today's tabloid press. William was also a spiritualist, a supporter of women's rights, a defender of civil liberties and an influential peace activist. He was on his way to New York attend a peace conference when he boarded the Titanic at Southampton in 1912.

He is remembered by the Stead/Ritchie Memorial Garden, established at Mengham in 1986, which commemorates both Stead, and Norman Ritchie, a blind local man who set up the

talking newspapers for the blind project. When Stead Close was developed on Selsmore Road, this piece of land was donated to the Borough of Havant.

Over the summer a small team have cleared all the weeds from the Garden which was an enormous task. A section is planted but most is still bare and ready to plant. We need easy care, evergreen shrubs for the back and easy care, evergreen, perennial ground cover for the front. Some areas are heavily shaded. This is where we now need some help so if you have any spare plants or would be able to grow some from seeds please get in touch. We would be happy to supply some seeds and collect any plants you might be able to offer. We won't be planting it all at once, so any time over next year will do. If you would like to get involved and if you can spare some time, please join us to help maintain the garden we would be delighted to see you. Next time you are passing, take time to have a look at the garden.

A big thank you goes to Positive



William Stead



The Stead & Ritchie Memorial Garden

Pathways of Havant who sent us a team to clear the last of the tougher weeds. Also thank you to Ramsbottom's Solicitors, our neighbours at the garden who gave us access to a vital water source. Getting involved in the community is really fulfilling, so if you have a little time to spare and can help, please message [lesleyc.horti@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyc.horti@gmail.com) or [a.athill@ntlworld.com](mailto:a.athill@ntlworld.com)

For more information about the Society visit our website [www.hihs.org.uk](http://www.hihs.org.uk) or busy facebook page.

By: Liese Holden

Posted on Mon, October 25 2021

Source URL: <https://www.postcodepublications.com/local/gardening-4>