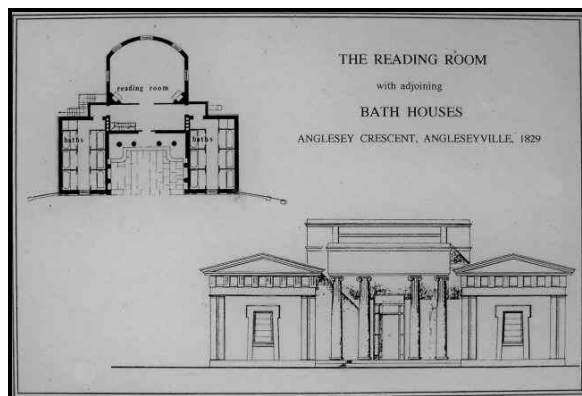


CRESCENT GARDENS

Situated in Crescent Road, Crescent Gardens sits in the Eastern corner of Robert Cruikshanks's spa, Anglesey Ville.

Crescent Gardens is a faithfully re-created Regency garden, and was part of the Architect, Thomas Owen's grand design for a crescent in 1826. It surrounded a central Reading Room with a sea garden and was designed to create a relaxing location for the new and popular recreational activity of sea bathing.



Visitors strolled, bathed or read as small children played safely in the garden, while the elderly and frail not up to the rigours of the sea-shore could benefit from the salty breezes on the Terrace Walk. The warmth and shelter of the garden added to the splendid views across the Solent. The garden was visited by local residents such as Charles Austen, Jane Austen's younger brother, who lived in the Crescent.

Today, the Crescent Gardens are maintained in a close partnership between the Friends of Crescent Gardens and Gosport Borough Council. The Gardens are free to be enjoyed by everyone and are particularly suited to

those in wheelchairs, the elderly, small children and the visually impaired - the latter especially appreciate the scents of old fashioned roses, pinks and other flowers.

The Area's Period Character

Examples of Regency Gardens are quite rare, and the Friends work hard to preserve the garden's historic character. The paths and the benches, have been laid out according to the positions indicated on the earliest maps of the site, the plants have been carefully researched to ensure that everything you see is authentic to the 1850's.



At the Eastern end, a winding path leads into a small secluded woodland garden where Bluebells, Foxgloves, Violets and Primroses herald the spring. Almost undisturbed in Summer, wildlife has a peaceful haven here – there is a colony of stag-beetles and sometimes, Pipistrelle Bats.

Located at the heart of the Gardens where the patrons once read the news of the day, and perhaps gingerly lowered themselves into cold sea water baths, is a small Dolphin Fountain that sparkles into a pool of Portland Stone.



The Involvement of the Community – Gardeners and Historians alike

Gardens are for a living community, and society has changed unbelievably since 1826, but the hectic pace of present day life makes quiet beauty and serenity even more precious now, than when the only traffic in Crescent Road was drawn by horses.

The Garden is regularly visited by local residents and is a setting for a variety of community events such as the Friends' great annual Garden Party, children's birthday parties and plant sales.

The success of the Friends Group is evident from their achievement of winning and retaining the **Green Flag Award** since 2004. More recently in 2010, the Friends were also the overall winners of Best Small Park/Large Garden in the regional **South and South East in Bloom** competition, achieving a Gold Award along with outstanding status in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category.



The gardens are open to all throughout the year. For further information please contact Gosport Borough Council on 023 9258 4242.

Or visit the Anglesey Ville website at:

www.angleseyville.com



CRESCENT GARDENS HOW TO GET THERE



By Car:

M27, A27 or A32 to Fareham, follow the A32 to Gosport.

By Train:

The nearest station is Portsmouth Harbour (not Portsmouth and Southsea). The Gosport Passenger Ferry is a 2 minute walk from the station entrance and offers a frequent service to Gosport every 15 minutes.



CRESCENT GARDENS ALVERSTOKE GOSPORT, HAMPSHIRE



A RE-CREATED REGENCY GARDEN

