

**SHEFFIELD BOTANICAL GARDENS
£1.22m RAISED FOR RESTORATION**

Sheffield Botanical Gardens Trust (SBGT) and the Friends of the Botanical Gardens (FOBS) are very pleased to be able to announce that, to complement a £5million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, they raised the £1.22m match funds to restore the Gardens. The restoration of the Botanical Gardens is nearly completed and marks a horticultural renaissance for the people of Sheffield.

The Sheffield Botanical Gardens are the only public open space in the country where the voluntary sector has raised more than £1m matched funding.

In expressing our great pleasure at this achievement, we wish to thank the very many contributors, charitable trusts, companies and members of the public for their great generosity. We are sure that the completely rejuvenated and beautifully restored Gardens will provide great pleasure and satisfaction to all those who have given so generously and worked so hard to bring it about – as they will to the many thousands who visit the Gardens.

We particularly wish to acknowledge the great and invaluable contribution made by our partners:

- The **University of Sheffield** who provide expert advice on many aspects of the work
- The **Town Trust** who own the Gardens and of course
- **Sheffield City Council**, who have managed the work of the restoration and will continue to maintain the Gardens in the years to come.

Dr. Sue Kohler, Chairman of SBGT and of FOBS said "I am absolutely delighted at this wonderful achievement. When we started eight years ago, fund-raising for the Project, it truly seemed a daunting prospect. But with so many dedicated people working so hard and such generosity around, we have made it! The Gardens and Sheffield can now take their rightful place in the national horticultural scene, the first proof being Sheffield's Gold in Entente Florale and the Gardens' Gold in Yorkshire in Bloom. An ambition realized at last!"

David Stone, SBGT chairman of Fundraising, said "This has been a real team effort. I cannot speak highly enough of our hard working and committed fundraisers, nor of the generosity of all our contributors. Thanks to you all! Can I add that SBGT does not see its work as finished. The Partners are now looking at some additional projects to build on the Restoration and enhance further the Gardens as a centre of horticultural excellence. More in due course. Meanwhile, thanks again!"

Quote from Councillor David Barker, the City Council's Cabinet Adviser for Parks and Countryside "Congratulations to the Trust and the Friends for all the hard work undertaken to raise this funding! The Botanical Gardens is truly one of the city's 'jewels in the crown' and contributed significantly towards our success in achieving Gold in this year's Entente Florale."

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