

HENLEAZE GARDEN CLUB

WWW.HENLEAZEGARDENCLUB.COM



No 77

NEWSLETTER

January 2024

Hello Members!

HAPPY NEW GARDENING YEAR!



I hope you enjoyed a happy and peaceful Christmas and are looking forward to another busy gardening year. Mrs McNamara (left) brought a smile. She was poking through the grass in mid December and in full bloom on Christmas Day. She was an extravagance from Colesbourne Park. Colesbourne will be open every Saturday and Sunday from end Jan to end Feb and I note that individuals can join an Open Guided Tour on 9 Feb. www.colesbournegardens.co.uk

At school my best subject was Statistics, so please indulge me while I share a few with you! The Club is entering 2024 with 188 members - that's 7 more than this time last year. We peaked at 223 during the course of the year. Like many other clubs and groups we experienced a surge of new members as we came out of the pandemic and some, like me, have found that their enthusiasm for all things horticultural exceeds the time available! We are a thriving club. Joff Elphick, our December speaker said of us:

“ What an amazing, successful group you have. And what a venue!!! “

St Monica certainly did the Hall proud with their Christmas decs. I'm only sorry we didn't take photos!

The best total turn out of the year was for Sue Kent in January with 124 attendees, but that figure includes 37 zoomers. 106 attended live to hear Cleve West in November closely followed by 103 for Joff at our festive meeting. 92 joined by zoom for our first ever “live from California” speaker when Robin Parer shared her love of all things geraniaceae.

My personal highlight was the March meeting when agro forester, Rob Handy, so engagingly entertained us without so much as a slide to view. That was in sharp contrast to October when Howard Drury not only impressed with his horticultural knowledge, but also his “all bells and whistles” presentation which proved to be something of a technical challenge! Pat got the chance to invite back her favourite speaker in November and had her photograph taken with him – albeit without a watering can!!

Who knows what challenges 2024 will bring us gardeners. If I could rub the lamp I'd ask the genie for less extremes of weather. From a personal perspective I rather lost my gardening mojo in the second half of 2023, so I need to get out there and get on with it!



Pat Dury, Cleve West and Chris Radford

Here's to an enjoyable speaker programme in 2024 There may be a surprise in store!

7 February
The Green Jeanie
(Jean Vernon)
“THE SECRET LIVES OF GARDEN
BEES”

Some of you may have met Jean at the Bee Festival at the Botanic Garden last September. She will be demystifying the secret world of these important garden pollinators and will be bringing along her nature table.

6 March
Pip Smith
‘The Fragrant Garden’

Gardens can be fragrant all year, with scent throughout the seasons” to quote Pip who will give us some ideas on how to achieve this. He has a wealth of horticultural experience, latterly as Head Gardener of Old Wollerton Hall, Shropshire.

Update on residential tour to the Gardens of
Buckinghamshire 14-17 July



Turn End

At the time of drafting this Newsletter I can confirm that 26 members or members and their guests have booked a place with Brightwater for our bespoke residential tour to the Gardens of Buckinghamshire. This is good news as it means that the trip is definitely able to proceed and only 4 more bookings are needed to secure the lower price. Demand for single rooms has been high and Brightwater were able to negotiate an increase in our allocation, but we have now reached our maximum.

I am delighted to be able to let you know that the Tour Guide will be Colin Crosbie, former curator of RHS Wisley. Colin was a very popular guide on a previous HGC residential tour.

NEW MEMBERS’ TEA PARTY

A very warm welcome to our new members. We look forward to meeting you over the coming months. Those who have joined since mid May last year will be invited to join me and the team for afternoon tea in my garden prior to the annual plant sale.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Club continues in a healthy financial position. The accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 will be discussed for approval at the Organising Team meeting later in January. If any members would like to see a copy please contact Club Treasurer at richardkochanski@gmail.com

MEMBERS’ PLANT SALE

11 and 12 May

It’s going to be a tall order to improve on the success of last year’s plant sale both in terms of plants grown/sold and funds raised! Fingers crossed for a good Spring. We have decided to hold the sale on Saturday and Sunday this year to enable as many as possible to participate, although it is anticipated that most will attend on Saturday. If you are growing plants to donate to the sale, please can you major on ornamentals. We always receive more vegetable plants that we are able to sell. This only goes to show what good gardeners we are. People sometimes ask what they should grow – a plant that you would really love to purchase!

A brief reminder of our planned day visits

Wednesday 8 May 2024

Bowood - Wiltshire



One of the perks of the “job” is going on a reccie for the day visits. Sarah and I spent a very enjoyable afternoon at Bowood last July. It was so much more than the English Landscape garden I had expected. Our tour of the 4 acre private walled garden was excellent.



We will first visit the Woodland Gardens for the annual display of azaleas, rhododendrons, magnolias and bluebells. Then a quick coach ride round to the main part of the estate with time for coffee and a wander round the arboretum. After lunch, there will be guided tours of Lord and Lady Lansdowne’s Private Walled Garden where we hope to see the Wisteria in bloom. Beyond the formal gardens lie the Capability Brown landscaped gardens with lake and grotto. There will also be the opportunity to visit the house.

Monday 3 June 2024

Mottisfont (NT) and Sandhill Farm (Andy McIndoe’s garden), Hampshire



A full day’s visit - first to Mottisfont to see the famous rose collection at its best. After lunch we travel to nearby Sandhill Farm, home to Andy and Rosamond McIndoe, where we will have a tour of the 2.5 acre garden followed by tea and cake. You may remember Andy spoke to us in 2021



Tuesday 2 July 2024

RHS Rosemoor



Full day visit to **RHS Rosemoor** in Devon. See the new Cool Garden, the rose gardens, enjoy the herbaceous perennials in the Long Border, visit the vegetable garden, take a walk through the woodland areas. Lots to see in 65 acres of gardens.

Sarah will e-mail full details of timings, prices and the booking process in due course

New year's resolutions of a horticultural type

Here are mine – why not share yours on the Forum

- 1 Take all shears and secateurs to Mogfords for sharpening
- 2 Collect up all tools at the end of the gardening day and return to the workshop
- 3 Do not dispose of hand trowels or forks in the green wheelie
- 4 Do not plant gardening snips in a hanging basket
- 5 Buy new waterproof – see right
- 6 Learn from experience – reread 3, 4 and 5
- 7 Keep a keener eye on the Box moth
- 8 Garden first, e-mail later !



*At the Newt
4 July 2023
AND IT'S STILL RAINING!*

CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman:	Chris Radford	c.a.radford@btinternet.com
Membership:	Kate Harvey Sally Wilkinson	henleazegardenclub.members@gmail.com
Day Visits:	Sarah Davies	sarahdavesvisits@gmail.com
Website, forum and livestream	Christeen Davis	henleazegardenclub@gmail.com
Treasurer	Richard Kochanski	richardkochanski@gmail.com
Sale Table	Sue Knight Chris Purvis	sue.knight.1@googlemail.com
Technical support	Ian Sturland	