



HENLEAZE GARDEN CLUB

WWW.HENLEAZEGARDENCLUB.COM



No 70

NEWSLETTER

March 2022

Hello Members!

Welcome to Spring! I hope your gardens survived the effects of Dudley, Eunice and Franklin. Storms hopefully behind us, at a local level at least, there is much good news to report both here in the playground and at the Club. Happiness is planting a new shrub border, buds bursting, leaves forming, much pricking out, the greenhouses filling up with plants and the whole kit and kaboodle getting underway again!

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Sunday 3 July**

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Welcome to Spring! I hope your gardens survived the effects of Dudley, Eunice and Franklin. Storms hopefully behind us, at a local level at least, there is much good news to report both here in the playground and at the Club. Happiness is planting a new shrub border, buds bursting, leaves forming, much pricking out, the greenhouses filling up with plants and the whole kit and kaboodle getting underway again!

**** Return to Live Meetings ****

After many months liaising with St Monica's as well as exploring other possible venues, we finally have some good news! The Hall capacity has been increased to a total of 160 with 120 permitted in the main body, 20 on the dais at the back and 20 in the gallery upstairs. This represents about 90 per cent of our previous highest attendance. Last week we carried out a test session where some of us were live in the Hall and some joined by zoom from home and this worked. Given that our April speaker hails from some distance, would need accommodation and had already been set up to zoom, we have decided to resume live meetings in May.

We know that some members are very keen to return to live meetings, whereas there are others who will be more cautious both for themselves and their vulnerable relatives, and some who prefer the zoom talks. We would like to get an idea of how many members are likely to attend in person in May and how many will wish to zoom. The May pre-meeting e-mail will request this information.

We will not be offering refreshments for the time being partly due to the numbers limitation in the Atrium and partly due to the St Monica's hot water system being changed. The cost of use of the hall has risen since we were last there, but the entrance fee on registration will remain at £1. The raffle will take place after speaker's questions and members may wish to stay on for a little after that to socialise. For the first meeting there won't be a sales table as the Club's plant sale for members' donations will be taking place a couple of weeks later. This will give us all the opportunity to get a feel for the numbers and mobility in the Hall. The pedestrian gate onto Westbury Road will be available for use. Please contact me for the code. For those who choose to zoom, it will be very similar to the previous zoom sessions where the speaker will share his screen showing his slideshow which will simultaneously be projected in the Hall. Zoomers will not be able to ask questions of the speaker in person but we anticipate will still be able to use the chat box as now.

Although the legal requirement to wear a mask has been lifted generally, it is a condition of St Monica's that masks should be worn in the communal areas so that means when entering the main building leading into the hall and when using the corridor to access the toilets or the rear exit. We would expect that all attendees will have received the maximum vaccinations available. Government guidance at present is that masks should be considered in crowded indoor spaces.

We look forward to seeing many of you soon!

Chris Radford

**The Henleaze Society
Open Gardens
Sunday 3 July**

After a 4 year interregnum it will be exciting to see what gardeners have been up to during lockdown and to enjoy some new gardens. If you live within walking distance of Henleaze and would like to open your garden or you know a friend or neighbour who might, please get in touch with me. Having taken part previously Pat and Brian Dury and I are happy to chat about what is involved. It does not matter whether your garden is small, medium sized or large and it does not have to be perfect – just loved and cared for by an enthusiastic gardener, who would like to share it with others! Taking part is great fun and gives an opportunity to raise money for your favourite charity.

**Club Plant Sale
Save the Date
Sat 21 May**

The sale for members' plant donations will take place in the afternoon on the above date at 18 Grange Park, Henleaze. Full details of how and when to bring your donations will follow nearer the time. In the meantime, please keep on growing!

Reflections on Zoom

Since September 2020 we have held 16 talks by zoom and the expectation is that the 17th, Gardening on Clay by Geoff Hodge in April will be our last zoom only meeting. You will know from previous communications the positive feedback we have received from those members who have participated. Here is a benefit analysis:

Benefits for the Club	Mentioned by Members
Keeping the Club going for 2 years rather than hibernating	No need to brave the dark, cold or rain or miss the talk
Hosting speakers from a distance who would not otherwise travel to Bristol	Easier to take notes
Hosting speakers from a distance in the winter months without risk of cancellation	Take screenshots
No speaker's travel or accommodation charges	Listen after work while getting the supper
Zoom fees generally less than live appearances making some speakers more affordable	Felt as though the speaker was near me chatting away
A means of staying in touch with the membership	Wear ones dressing gown or pyjamas!!
	Escape to the pub instead of being required to help wife transport the refreshment boxes!

Chairman's Highlight: ADAM FROST!

Not only because of his incredible talk, but because of the unprecedented response from the membership

Thank you for supporting the Club

DAY VISITS 2022

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew - Cost £32

Wednesday 15 June 2022

Coach Departs Corner of Grange Park and Eastfield 8.30 am Returns 6.30 pm

<https://www.kew.org/kew-gardens/visit-kew-gardens>

The first time we visited Kew, we spent 7 hours identifying trees! It is such an amazing place. Come to see for yourself. There are: The Great Broadwalk borders, Palm House, Rose Garden, Rock Garden, Davies Alpine House, Princess of Wales Conservatory, Temperate House, Japanese Garden and more.



Part of the Great Broadwalk Borders May 2017

For art lovers there are the Marianne North Gallery and the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art. There's Kew Palace for the historians and for the more sprightly the Treetop Walkway! My favourite? - the student vegetable plots!!

There are several self-service restaurants and cafes, but if the weather forecast is promising, a picnic would be lovely.

The gardens are largely flat with tarmac paths in most places. If it is running, the Kew Explorer land train will take you around the main areas on a 40 minute journey – price £6.50. For members with any mobility issues, please see the link above regarding accessibility. The coach will drop off and collect at the Elizabeth Gate on Kew Green

Chris Radford

Usk Open Gardens- Cost £17

Saturday 25 June 2022

Coach Departs Corner of Grange Park and Eastfield 9.30 am Returns 5 pm

Well under an hour's drive from Bristol, Usk in Monmouthshire is known as the town of flowers. There are numerous gardens open to the public and the whole town gets involved with flower displays outside pubs and cafes and in public areas and provides a colourful and friendly atmosphere throughout. There are plenty of cafes and pubs for refreshments.



There is a wide variety of gardens – allotments, cottage gardens, formal gardens and a Japanese garden with hundreds of Bonsai. Usk Castle private gardens are also open. Most gardens provide seating for a few people to rest their weary legs. Some gardens provide plants for sale.

Exact numbers open in 2022 are around 20 to 25, but to be confirmed shortly.

Christeen Davis and Sue Haslingden

American Museum, Bath (gardens only) & The Courts, Holt, Bradford on Avon – Cost £29/21*

Thursday 7 July 2022

Coach Departs Corner of Grange Park and Eastfield 9.30 am Returns 6 pm

American Museum 1030-1400, The Courts 1430 to 1700. *NT Members with card. Located in an area of outstanding natural beauty, the hilltop site of the AM's home, Claverton Manor, takes full advantage of the spectacular views over the Limpley Stoke Valley and River Avon. Since the Museum opened in 1961, the 30 acres surrounding the house have been developed to

include a replica of George Washington's garden at Mount Vernon, a Lewis and Clark trail and an Arboretum. Closer to the house, the latest development is the New American Garden designed by Washington based landscape architects Oehme, van Sweden (OvS), using their famous free-form style. In contrast, remnants of the 1820s Italianate style manorial pleasure ground can be seen, including period features such as the grotto, the balustrade and ornamental stone work.

The Garden Café provides hot drinks, lunches, hot dogs and sweet treats which can be consumed in the café or on the terrace with views over the gardens and valley. There are also many suitable picnic spots in the gardens.



American Museum Garden



Summer at the Courts

The Courts is a charming garden which shows the English country style at its best. It is full of differently styled garden rooms, each with their own surprise, testament to gardeners past and present who have all brought something new. Peaceful water gardens and herbaceous borders, with organically shaped topiary, demonstrate an imaginative use of colour and planting, creating unexpected vistas. Stroll through the arboretum

with its wonderful species of trees and naturally planted spring bulbs. Pre-pandemic, refreshments were available at the Rose Garden Tea Room. Last summer a refreshment van provided hot drinks and cake. There is no current information about what will be available this summer.

Brian Dury

SOME LOCAL GARDENS OPEN UNDER THE NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

Please check NGS website for up to date details: <https://ngs.org.uk/>

Sunday 10 April	Greystones, Hollybush Lane, BS9 1JB
Sunday 8 May and Sunday 29 May	Somerset Street Display Gardens, BS2 8LZ
Sunday 15 May	Lucombe House, Stoke Bishop, BS9 1DD
Sunday 15 May and Sunday 19 June	4 Haytor Park, BS9 2LR
Sunday 29 May	81 Coombe Lane, BS9 2AT
Saturday 18 June and Sunday 19 June	Hillside, Westbury on Trym, BS9 3AG
Sunday 19 June	Crete Hill House, Durdham Down, BS9 3UW

..... coming up soon

6 April

Zoom meeting

“GARDENING ON CLAY”

GEOFF HODGE

Quite a few of us struggle with this type of soil – rich in nutrients, but cold and claggy one day and rock solid the next. Geoff Hodge, writer, broadcaster and consultant will advise us on how we can deal with these conditions to get the best from our gardens.

4 May

Live meeting

(+ zoom)

“CLIMATE CHANGE GARDENING”

SALLY MORGAN

We are already seeing changes to our climate – the earliest spring, the mildest winter, the wettest year, while new pests and diseases are reported each year. Sally, who is a botanist by training, avid gardener and co-author of *The Climate Change Garden* will give down to earth advice on how we can work towards a climate change resilient garden.

1 June

Live meeting

(+ zoom)

PHILIP AUBERY

GARDEN PONDS AND WATER FEATURES

A welcome return for this former director of Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Whether for environmental reasons or simply decoration, ponds and water features are increasingly popular and so we need a bit of know-how and Philip will be here to provide it.

Looks like it will be a very busy summer!