

FRIENDS OF THE NELSON GARDEN

It is that time of year when the Friends of the Nelson Garden annual subscriptions are due. The last year has been an 'annus horribilis' for all, with us having to stay at home and far apart from our families and friends. The Nelson Garden had to close during the tightest lockdown periods but our garden volunteers were able to keep the garden safe and well maintained during that time.

Group visits and garden events were, unfortunately forbidden during much of 2020 but let us now look on the bright side of things and look forward to some easing in Summer 2021.

As you can imagine, without events and visitors our income has been dramatically reduced. Without your annual subscriptions and support our finances would be dire. The last fund-raising event we held was the annual lecture in October 2019.

Although fundraising since 2019 has been curtailed, our costs do not disappear. Annual maintenance and repairs, like the lawn mower, security camera, paint and varnish to protect the listed structures all eat into funds. The indemnity insurance still has to be paid too.

The Committee truly appreciates your support. We therefore hope you continue to be a Friend and renew your subscription in 2021. Renewal forms will be sent to you. I look forward to welcoming you again as a Friend of the Nelson Garden. Let's hope 2021/22 will be our 'annus mirabilis'!

Barbara Atkins *Treasurer*

HONEY POWER

Along with the birds, bees, frogs and occasional duck a regular visitor to the garden is the local charity *Bees for Development*. Each year this organisation has held a fair in the garden which attracts many locals as well as visiting supporters.

Founded in 1993, their aim is to encourage people to harness the power of bees in order to build a sustainable future and encourage biodiversity. They also provide practical, high quality, independent and professional training and advice to government, the United Nations and aid agencies.

At present there are major projects taking place in Uganda, Ethiopia and Ghana. They have also worked extensively in the Middle East.

Last year the Duchess of Cornwall, an enthusiastic bee-keeper herself, accepted the rôle of President of Bees. Other famous supporters include the singer songwriter Sting and the food writer Yotam Ottolenghi.

We do not yet know whether we can welcome Bees for Development back for the annual fair later this year but if you want to find out more go to www.beesfordevelopment.org or call into their shop in Monmouth near the King's Head pub. Many bee products are for sale including wax candles and of course honey, which is delicious!

Carol Pirie *Friend of the Nelson Garden*

THE NELSON GARDEN MONMOUTH



FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER NO.25 WINTER/SPRING 2021

Dear Friends,

Spring is surely on its way. As I write the clouds gather, the wind buffets the branches of the barely budding fruit trees and we have had a hail shower only hours ago. The clocks go forward an hour on 27th March. So spring is on its way and with that comes the hope for better times.

Hardly any of us will have escaped worry, anxiety and the loss of friends and family since March 2020. The life of a garden reminds us of the cycle of seasons; fallow times followed by exuberant creative times. We do not know when our lives will get back to something resembling normality but in the garden everything is in hand and running its course. The snowdrops shivered, daffodils danced. tulips will break out soon and roses will bloom whether we are there to see them or not. I hope, like me, you can find comfort and encouragement in that.

Susan Amos *Chairman*

The Nelson Garden Preservation Trust
Charity No. 1177651

IN THE GARDEN



Photos: Carol Pirie & Susan Amos late January 2021

ON-LINE LECTURES

The **Georgian Group** begins a series of lectures which cost £5 each to non-members but free to members of the Georgian Group.

Bettina Harden will give a lecture on
Welsh Gardens and the Grand Tour

Tuesday 30 March at 6.30pm.

See website to book a place.

georgiangroup.org.uk

Nelson Garden Committee Member **Brian Hall** Obituary

An enthusiastic supporter of the Nelson Garden, Brian was pleased to help out on the committee when he could, and with his wife Julie, attended as many fund-raising events as possible. Brian also served on the committee of The Nelson Society and publicised the activities of the Garden to its members. He became ill towards the end of 2020 and died at home on 6th February 2021 after a short but brutal battle with cancer at the age of 69. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Our sympathy goes to Julie and the family.



OPEN ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS

The Nelson Garden plans to be open for visitors on Sunday afternoons from 4 April (Easter Sunday) until the end of October

2pm—4pm

There will be a one-way system on paths

Notices reminding visitors of
physical distancing will be in place.

Please see the website or call the telephone numbers given in Contact Details for the most up to date opening times due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

We will open Friday, Saturday and Sunday as soon as possible. Access may be possible at other times if volunteer gardeners are on site.

CONTACT DETAILS:

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www.nelsongarden.org.uk