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## April 2024



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### President's Spring Message

Spring is upon us and now the opening season is well underway.

I am delighted to tell you that thanks to some early garden openers and some sales at plant fairs, we have already raised 2,300 euros. Please join us to keep up the momentum as the year goes on.

Thank you to the members that took part in our Extraordinary General Meeting and our Annual General Meeting

Your support was and remains invaluable.

The results are as follows:

**Extraordinary General Meeting:**

Our Registered Office is now: The Mairie, 1, Place de la Mairie, 23300, Saint-Maurice-La-Souterraine.

Our address for post remains at: 16 Valaize, 23150, Saint-Pardoux-les-Cards.

**Annual General Meeting:**

1. *Re-elected to the committee for a term of three years: Sheila Cole, Ian Cole.*
2. *Elected President: Susan Lambert*
3. *Elected Vice-President: Ian Cole*
4. *Appointed to the committee: Ony Bright (subsequently stood down) and Wendy Aldhouse - Minutes Secretary*
5. *Mick Lambert - Treasurer - continues as a committee member.*
6. *Nick Sutton - Post person - continues as a committee member.*
7. *Appointment of Auditor for 2024: Lindsey Queriaud.*

During the Easter weekend, we attended a 3 day event at the Château de la Bourdaisière Plant and Spring Festival in Montlouis-sur-Loire. Our sincere thanks to Martin and Denise Looker and Dominique and Marie-Odile Birault, who relieved Mick and I on Easter Sunday, to give us a day off. They braved a storm during the afternoon, which saw the photoboards blow over, but they lived to tell the tale!



Sue Lambert

President.

[president@opengardens.eu](mailto:president@opengardens.eu)

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## **Recruiting Now**

We are looking for a passionate team of people that can make a difference! Whether you're a people person who loves working events or a tech-savvy individual eager to lend your IT skills, we welcome volunteers of all backgrounds, passions and talents. There's a rewarding role for everyone. Please get involved today and be part of something meaningful! Contact Sue Lambert, President of Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts

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## **Why does Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts have a tulip as it's logo?**

When the association of Open Gardens/Jardins Ouvert was being formed in 2014 it was deemed important to have a logo. Logo is a word of Greek origin and was used in philosophy by Aristotle to describe structure and content of language. Later logo became to stand for 'definition and meaning' so a modern description would be for organisations to have a symbol to represent their products.

So how does a charitable fund-raising association symbolise their 'product'?

The founding president chose a simple hand holding four daisy type flowers. This was to symbolise Gardening and Giving in Partnership.

This simple logo met with the pixel requirements of the webmaster at that time.



However, as time progressed, the developing Conseil felt it to be naïve, so at a meeting a Rose was suggested. However, a brief on-line research during the meeting found that the tulip was a symbol of giving and generosity. Since then, there are very many more sites on the web that may argue with that but that was what was voted for by the conseil members.

This, like many charities, demonstrates our need for nature and beauty when there are difficult times in our lives. For Marie Curie it is the daffodil, whilst the Bluet de France (cornflower) and the Poppy symbolise the remembrance of French and English soldiers and in the UK it is the Forget-Me-Not for Alzheimer's charity.

*The next edition of the newsletter will have an explanation of how the Conseil chooses the beneficiaries of our fund raising.*

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### **Shining a Spotlight on Our Beneficiaries: Introducing "Le Rire Médecin"**

In our newsletters, we're thrilled to shine a spotlight on some of the incredible organizations we support, starting with "Le Rire Médecin." Here are some fascinating facts about their impactful work:

- Founded 33 years ago, "Le Rire Médecin" is dedicated to supporting children facing health difficulties in hospitals
- Their team of professional clowns brings joy and laughter to hospitalized children through entertaining visits.
- Each visit of two clowns costs just 30€, making a profound difference in the lives of young patients and their families.
- Over the past three years, Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts has proudly donated 7,500 euros to support "Le Rire Médecin."



We firmly believe that every euro contributes to bringing smiles to the faces of these resilient children.

Join us in celebrating the remarkable impact of "Le Rire Médecin" and stay tuned for more inspiring stories of the organizations we're privileged to support!

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### **SPECIAL EVENT - PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED PLEASE.**

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July, the Arboretum de la Sedelle is again allowing us to



host an Afternoon Tea on behalf of our association in their magnificent setting. Entrance to the Arboretum will be 8 euros (donation to the association), to include a tour in either French or English, should you wish. A wide assortment of sandwiches, cakes and refreshments will be on sale. Check their garden page by using the calendar on our website for further details.

Please book your Tea and/or Tour with me at:

[suelambert.opengardens@gmail.com](mailto:suelambert.opengardens@gmail.com)

## Here are some dates for your diary:

### **03 Allier:**

03310 Durdats Larequille - 2<sup>nd</sup> June - (New for 2024)

03310 Les Trier, Neris-les-Bains - 2<sup>nd</sup> June

03190 - Hérisson 3<sup>rd</sup> November

### **12 Aveyron:**

12270 Villevayre, Najac - 26<sup>th</sup> May

12200 – La Bastide l'Eveque - 26<sup>th</sup> May

### **23 La Creuse:**

23600 1 ferme de Montmoulard, Boussac-Bourg - 2<sup>nd</sup> June

*To include a little brocante, information stands about wild bee-keeping and food forests, art by a local artist, live music twice during the day.*

23350 1 La Forge, La Cellette - 9<sup>th</sup> June (New for 2024)

23350 1 Lavis, La Cellette - 9<sup>th</sup> June (New for 2024)

**Special Event:** *Entrance 7 euros for the 4 gardens below, as we hope there will be live demonstrations of metal work, artists work on sale, poetry reading sessions, opportunities to picnic etc. To be advised on the individual garden pages nearer the time, once finalised.*

23150 Le Bon Saint-Jean, Ahun - 9<sup>th</sup> June

23150 10 Montcouyoux, Ahun - 9<sup>th</sup> June

23150 Moutier-d'Ahun, - 9<sup>th</sup> June

23150 11 Chantemille, Ahun - 9<sup>th</sup> June

23150 16 Valaize, Saint-Pardoux-les-Cards - 23<sup>rd</sup> June

23150 20 Valaize, St. Pardoux les Cards - 23<sup>rd</sup> June

23150 5 Valaize, St. Pardoux-les-Cards - 23<sup>rd</sup> June

23260 2 La Core, Saint Pardoux d'Arnet - 28<sup>th</sup> July

### **33 La Gironde:**

33580 Taillecavat - 16<sup>th</sup> June - (New for 2024)

### **34 Hérault:**

34230 Popian - Sundays in April; and Wednesdays and Sundays in May

### **37 Indre-et-Loire:**

37290 Yzeures-sur-Creuse - 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June

### **53 Mayenne:**

53190 La Doree - 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April

53340 Epineaux-le-Seguin - 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May

53110 Niort-la-Fontaine - 26<sup>th</sup> May

### **86 Vienne:**

86250 11 Peussicot Genouillé - 19<sup>th</sup> May & 26<sup>th</sup> May

*Includes Talk and Walk - "Adjusting my garden to Climate Change."*

### **87 Haute-Vienne:**

87430 Fonts de Greignac, Vernuil-sur-Vienne- 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

***People continue to add dates as the season progresses, so keep checking the website for up to date information***



## **Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts**

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