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June 2024



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Presidents Message

This month we had our show stand at the beautiful Arboretum de la Sédelle. Plant fairs are our window to the public, where we can meet old friends and encourage new people to become involved in what we do.

Thank you to those who stopped by to say hello; and to the new people who signed to receive our newsletter or have offered to help us in a variety of ways. If you would like to experience the calming atmosphere of this wonderful setting for yourself, why not join us for our Afternoon Tea Event on Sunday 21st July between 14h00 and 18h00. Please book your place for this event. Email booking to suelambert.opengardens@gmail.com We are looking for new plant shows to be part of this Autumn. Do let me know if there are any interesting ones near you.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people working behind the scenes of our association such as our dedicated coordinators, who freely give of their time to find, encourage and support our garden openers. We welcome our newest coordinator Julie Evans, from North Dordogne. Thank you also to people like Mike Hammond who helps us solve technical problems on our website, John Pullen who has been putting new gardens on the website for us, Abigail Wells-Davies our Social Media/Marketing person who posts for us on Facebook, Tamara Kuech who has been helping us with design and Lesley and Michel Perrin who do all our translating for us. We have several “Friends” of the association including Martin Hills, Sylvia Emerson, Sandra Johnson, Chris Buckley, Sue Leaper and Karin Maassen and the kind people around the country that I don't know personally, but who help our garden openers on their Open Days by serving refreshments, donating plant cuttings for sale or maybe welcoming people at the garden gate. Our current takings for this year are already over 4,300 euros, raised by Open Days, donations from Gala Dinners and Swap Shops. We could not do any of this without their support.

Thank you to all of you who help our cause in so many ways.



Sue Lambert

President.
president@opengardens.eu

Open Gardens Needs You

There was a good response from the last newsletter from people wanting to join us but we still need more volunteers, more skills and more innovation to join the association. After a very challenging period in our ten year history of being an association we're proud to have survived the COVID lock downs and changes in conseil members but remain as energetic and forward facing as ever.

Join us in giving whatever skills and time that you can spare.

We are actively seeking someone with IT skills and and someone with website design experience (WordPress) who could manage the website with support.

"There are no happier folks than plant lovers and none more generous than those who garden".

Ernest 'Chinese' Wilson 1876-1930 an avid plant collector and gardener responsible for over 2000 species of Asian plants being brought to the west, sixty of which bear his name.

A Gala Event in the Dordogne

Friends Cilla Pickett, Gill Winnett and Hilary Gault have made it a regular commitment to hold a Gala or themed dinner in order to raise money for charitable causes. Cilla is the ex-President and Gill the current Vice-President of the Interesting Gardening Club in the Dordogne, which has been a supporter of Open Gardens for many years.

This year, we were delighted to find out that their donation would be given to Open Gardens/ Jardins Ouverts!

Having spent many hours on organisation, on April 26th, the three ladies set about preparing a most delicious 8 course dinner, which was to be attended by 53 guests.

During cocktails and canapes, coordinator for Open Gardens in the N.E. Dordogne and current President of the Interesting Gardening Club, Ian Warden, gave a brief address to the guests, describing the history of Open Gardens and its record of donations to charitable causes for young people.

The evening was a resounding success and the amount raised was given a huge boost by a wonderful raffle. The prizes, which were donated by guests, ranged from bottles of wine and spirits to gift sets and unusual plants.

An astounding 1660€ was raised and donated to Open Gardens.



Choosing Charities to Donate to

Right from the onset the association decided that any moneys collected from opening gardens would benefit sick children in France.

Historically all money was donated to à Chacun son Everest but, as the association grew, it was felt that other charities could benefit hugely from receiving donations.

Conseil members were asked to research charities meeting the criteria and present their findings for consideration and discussion.

The final decision was to be unanimous and the process to be repeated every year when making the donations.

We are always open to suggestions from our members.

Shining a Light on our Beneficiaries

Introducing "à Chacun son Everest"

Continuing to shine a spotlight on some of the incredible organizations we support, this month we present some fascinating facts about "à Chacun son Everest!" and their significant support work :

- Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts has made significant contributions, totaling 73,850 € since 2013 supporting the invaluable work of "A Chacun Son Everest"
- This French association, founded by Christine Janin, provides support to children diagnosed with cancer or other serious illnesses.



- Christine Janine was the first Frenchwoman to climb to the summit of Everest and the first woman to reach the North Pole without mechanical means or sled dogs.

- **Importantly**, through mountain expeditions and therapeutic workshops, they empower children to overcome physical and emotional challenges, fostering personal growth and healing.

- There is a rose named à Chacun son Everest

Date and Walnut Loaf

If you're looking for a wonderfully flavoursome cake to serve to friends and family or perhaps on your garden opening days, try this cake. It keeps well and freezes well too.

Ingredients

250 gram pitted glucosed dates
220ml boiling water
90 gram melted butter
165g caster sugar
2 eggs, lightly beaten
225g self-raising flour
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
1 teaspoon mixed spice (see below)
1 pinch salt
60g chopped walnuts, plus extra to scatter on top before cooking



Method

Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan-assisted).

Grease and line a 21cm x 11cm loaf pan.

Place dates in a saucepan with the water. Bring to boil. Turn off heat. Stand 5 minutes, until dates soften.

Add butter and sugar until well combined.

When cooled stir in the eggs.

Sift together flour, bicarbonate of soda, mixed spice and a little salt. Fold into date mixture.

Fold through walnuts. Spoon mixture into prepared pan and scatter over extra walnuts.

Bake 45 minutes, until a skewer inserted comes out clean.

Cool in pan for 2 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack. Slice and serve buttered once cooled

Mixed Spice

1 tablespoon quality ground cinnamon

2 teaspoons ground allspice

2 teaspoons ground nutmeg

1 teaspoon ground cloves

1 teaspoon ground ginger

1 teaspoons ground coriander

3/4 teaspoon ground mace

Combine all spices in an airtight glass jar and keep store in a dark cool place.

Here are some dates for your diary.

03 Allier:

03310 Durdat Larequille - 2nd June - (New for 2024)

03310 Les Triers, Neris-les-Bains - 8th September

03310 Hérisson - 3rd November

12 Aveyron:

12200 La Bastide l'Eveque - 26th May

12270 Najac - 26th May

16 Charente

16210 Saint-Romain - 16th June - (new for 2024)

16390 Bonnes - 16th June (new for 2024)

16190 Montmoreau-Saint-Cybard - Sat 22nd June

16210 Yviers 7th July.

16390 Montignac-le-Coq - *Special for Annual Membership Card holders* : 22nd May, 19th June, 17th July, 21st August, 18th September

19 Corrèze

19500 Branceilles 16th June

23 La Creuse:

23600 Montmoulard – Boussac Bourg - 2nd June

23350 La Cellette - 9th June, 2 Gardens opening together (Both new for 2024)

23350 La Cellette - 16th June

23150 *Special Event - 9th June* in and around Ahun, Moutier d'Ahun and Montcouyoux. *Group opening of four gardens. (One new for 2024).*

23150 Valaize, Saint-Pardoux-les-Cards - 23rd June Village opening of 3 gardens.

23160 *Special Event* 21st July - Afternoon Tea at L'Arboretum de la Sedelle. **Please book in advance.**

23260 Lacore, Saint Pardoux d'Arnet, *Jardin Remarquable* - 28th July.

29 Finistère

29450 Sizun - 1st and 2nd June

33 La Gironde:

33580 Taillecevat - 16th June - (New for 2024)

34 Herault:

34230 Popian - Wednesday afternoons, by appointment only. Check garden page on website for exact months of opening.

37 Indre-et-Loire:

37290 Yzeures-sur-Creuse - 28th, 29th and 30th June

53 Mayenne:

53340 Epineaux-le-Seguain - 12th, 19th and 26th May

53110 Niort-la-Fontaine, Lassay-les-Châteaux - 26th May 2 gardens opening together

53110 16th June – Niort-La-Fontaine

53110 14th July – Lassay-les-Châteaux (new for 2024)

60 Oise

60300 *Special Event* 26th May - Group opening of 6 gardens together; 4 in Fontaine-Chaalis, 2 in Montlognon.

86 Vienne

86250 Peussicot, Genouille - 26th May

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

87 Haute-Vienne:

87430 Fonts de Greignac, Vernuil-sur-Vienne - 2nd June.

87250 Fromental 1st and 2nd June

87600 Videix - 15th September (new for 2024)

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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