



## News from the Garden

The Shuttleworth Trust has recently made a number of financial decisions which have impacted directly on the garden.

In February Corinne Price, the Garden Heritage and Audience Development Manager was made redundant. During her 9 years working at the Swiss Garden she helped to deliver the project and activity plan linked to the successful bid for Lottery Heritage Funding of £3.6 million in 2012-2014 and was instrumental in obtaining the award of RHS Partner Garden in 2020. Her liaison work with a long list of external contacts has been invaluable in raising the profile of the garden for which we give many thanks. This left a small team of permanent garden staff - Sissel Dahl, Head Gardener and Steve Morris, gardener being managed by Jean Munn, Head Engineer and supported by volunteers. In May Sissel resigned. After working for 6 years at the Swiss Garden her hard work in taking forward all horticultural aspects on the 9 acre site is very much appreciated. This means that currently Steve is the only permanent member of garden staff. He too has been made redundant but has agreed to stay on, at the moment until July, in order to provide a formal handover to the new Head Gardener when they are appointed. Interviews are currently taking place. In the meantime Steve will continue with the ongoing work required to maintain the garden and is supervising the volunteers.

2023 is already proving to be a challenging year for the garden and the new Head Gardener will need time to settle into their new surroundings. It will be interesting to see how the year progresses.



## Conservation

The Swiss Garden currently has a Conservation Steward who works one day a month with three conservation volunteers.

The conservation team has been repairing areas of cobbled path that have eroded over many years, including a large section on the path down to the Punt Harbour and an area on the Swiss Cottage's lower terrace. We believe these cobbles to be original to the Ongley phase of the garden and they have lasted well for almost 200 years, but it only takes one or two cobbles to become loose or dislodged and it can quickly lead to more extensive erosion. Any loose cobbles were kept by the garden team in a safe place and the conservation team used traditional methods to reinstate and secure them into place, once again making paths safer and restoring the original look and feel of these areas.

Other ongoing tasks include the monitoring of insects and humidity levels in the Grade II\* Swiss Cottage to protect the wood that makes up so much of its design, including the interior's decorative panelling.



Before



After



Swiss Cottage

Despite her taking up employment elsewhere Corinne Price is still involved with the Committee to provide ongoing support with conservation matters and the new guidebook (see later article).

[Corinne Price](#)

## Friends of the Swiss Garden Diary dates

The Winter edition of Clippings provided a preliminary 2023 forward look calendar. With recent events impacting on diary dates the Spring Festival Art Competition and the Wheelbarrow Competition have not been able to proceed.

An E mail has been sent out by the Committee Secretary, John Ayres, to remind members about the AGM which will be taking place on 7 June at 18.00 in the Garden Room. Anyone planning to attend should inform the Committee by email - [friendsoftheswissgarden@outlook.com](mailto:friendsoftheswissgarden@outlook.com). Light refreshments will be provided. Unfortunately the proposed "Ask the Gardeners" question time can no longer go ahead. Parking will be in Ormonde car park, Hill Lane.

A reminder of potential future events:

11-22 September	Art and Photography Exhibition and Competition
14 September	Heritage Open Day
28 October	Halloween
31 October - 5 November	Online Pumpkin Competition
Autumn date (not finalised)	Tree planting ceremony for King Charles III Coronation

You will see that a new event for Halloween has been included. Arrangements are currently under consideration and further information will be provided later in the year.

## Art and Photography Exhibition and Competition

The fourth Art and Photography Exhibition and Competition will be taking place from 11 to 22 September, with the private viewing, judging and awards taking place at 18.00 on 22 September in the Garden Room. Refreshments will be provided.

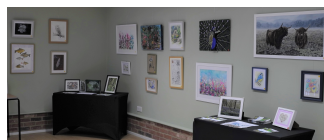
The Art competition is open to any amateur artist (ie those who do not earn a substantial part of their living by selling their art). Entrants do not need to be a member of the Friends of the Swiss Garden so please persuade friends and relations to enter the exhibition and competition.

The theme for this year's exhibition and competition is British landscapes, gardens and wildlife. This may be interpreted in as literal or general sense as you wish. Entries are invited in the following four categories and entrants can submit more than one artwork/photograph either within the same competition category or in different categories:

- Under 16's artwork - this may be in any medium
- Adult painting or drawing
- Adult photograph
- Adult sculpture or mixed media

Further information will be available on the Friends' website later in June:

[www.friendsoftheswissgarden.org](http://www.friendsoftheswissgarden.org)



## New Guidebook to the Swiss Garden

Twigs Way, who recently produced a Conservation Management Plan for the garden, has been working on a new guidebook. It will be an illustrated booklet of around 60 pages providing not only a tour of the garden but also details of the history of the Ongley and Shuttleworth families, the Old Warden Estate and Old Warden village.

The Friends of the Swiss Garden have paid for the work done so far by Twigs and it is anticipated that the Trust will pay for the printing costs. Hopefully the guidebook will be available for purchase in the shop in July. The price has yet to be determined since quotes are still being received for the printing work which will be a major consideration in establishing the cost per booklet.

## Additional benefit for Friends of the Swiss Garden

Friends of the Swiss Garden already receive a 15% discount on food and beverages in the Runway Cafe and a 20% discount in the shop for purchases over £5.

The Chairman of the Committee, Keith Hichisson, has been able to arrange for Friends to obtain the same discount (usually 10%) for air show events as members of the Shuttleworth Veteran Aeroplane Society (SVAS). This is not shown on the booking website yet. In order to obtain the discount use the SVAS member box when booking online. On arrival at the event present your ticket, together with your Friends of the Swiss Garden membership card, and you should gain entry.

If you encounter an access problem please notify the Committee by email - [friendsoftheswissgarden@outlook.com](mailto:friendsoftheswissgarden@outlook.com).