

News from the Garden

Work is ongoing with pruning the evergreen shrubs and the chipper/shredder is being well used.

The "Melancholy Walk" is becoming much more cheerful as time goes by.

Grass cutting is continuous and the new Flymo has proven its worth.

Work in the propagation area continues apace to provide plants for planting out in the garden and for sale. The area has now been gravelled which has improved the working environment.

There are plans to provide a couple of lower work benches within the propagation area so that plant activities can form part of Shuttleworth's educational programme for children.

Staff from GSK came to the Garden on 17 September as part of their company community engagement programme. Their very enthusiastic group of over 20 volunteers undertook shrub pruning by the Screen Gate and cleaned some of the urns to gain conservation experience.

It is now time to change the planting in the Tazza bed and the large pots situated around the garden to reflect the fact that Autumn is here.

Tony Young, Head Gardener

Conservation

The team has continued to work every two weeks cleaning and maintaining structures. In addition these "Eagle Eyes" spot weakness and growing damage in structures.

The Summer House requires our attention and we are working on obtaining an official condition report, which will contain options for consideration by the Estate Committee.

The photos demonstrate that on this day, we applied a very safe biocide. There's a choice of protection:

You can make for yourself an improvised protective clothing ↓



or as relaxed as



Conservation (contd)

The result of our biocide work



Either way the work is done as a team or individually if one so prefers.

We have had "accidental" damage to one of our vases and people climbing over the half-door into the Privy. The Head Gardener dealt quickly with the vase and we will find a solution to the Privy.

More "Eagle Eyes" are needed to join the team and a volunteer form can be found on the Shuttleworth website.

Benonia Okang Conservation Steward



Celebrating 200 years of the Swiss Garden 1824-2024

Details are also available on the FOSG website

Teddy Bears Picnic

The Teddy Bears picnic on Friday 26 July saw a lot of families enjoying various games such as croquet, rolling hoops down the Swiss Cottage bank, rolling themselves down the bank, jenga and a small ball pool.

Professor Heath Robinson did a superb job loading up a menagerie of animals (not just bears) to zip line down the cottage bank.

Riding at their own risk, and with the RSPBB (Royal Society for Protection of Brave Bears) on speed dial just in case, the animals' owners had to register for the zipline and answer questions about their animals. Cadbury the bear's favourite food was of course chocolate, Florence the Meerkat enjoys carrots and Della the tiger liked eating everything.

An amusing running commentary during the zip line event enabled the audience to be aware of Busy Bee's hobby of travelling the world and that Victoria the giraffe was keen on acrobatics. Several of the more experienced zipliners managed to stop half way down to pose for photos. Some of them even brought their own photographers along.

The photo shows zipline training practice earlier in the week with Head Gardener Tony Young seriously concerned about the bears safety.



Teddy Bears Picnic (contd)

Later on large bubbles were enthusiastically burst by an energetic crowd of children. The weather was very warm with a large tree providing a lot of much needed shade.



In the Garden Room one of our Trustees Marion Maule produced a stunning display of fans depicting the changes through the decades of Dorothy Shuttleworth's life which Marion was very happy to talk about. In addition Marion had craft materials on hand so some very pretty fans could be made.



Festival of Flight

Supporting the Festival of Flight event the Friends of the Swiss Garden (FOSG) organised entertainment in the Garden on Saturday & Sunday 29 and 30 June.

Whilst we didn't get that many visitors those that came along enjoyed playing croquet, hoops, giant connect 4 and various other games. We had organ music and a very popular face painter on the Saturday and several Punch and Judy performances on the Sunday. Saturday was very hot and the afternoon saw every bit of shade utilised by families who had worn themselves out watching the superb Red Arrows display earlier.



The top of the Swiss Garden cottage was open with 2 very knowledgeable volunteers on hand to explain how the cottage was used for family meals with the cooking done in the bottom of the cottage. A planned one hour of opening turned into about 3 hours as the area was so popular with people saying they had been coming to the Garden for years but had never been in the top part of the cottage which is usually only opened for weddings. Thanks to Benonia and Enid for researching some interesting facts about the cottage and its history.

The Punch and Judy show on the Sunday was popular with the audience occasionally being sprayed with water. There was also a small theatre set up with spare puppets so people could have a go on their own. That's the way to do it!



Garden Party

70 people enjoyed a balmy evening on 14 August with Pimms, soft drinks and an exuberant selection of cakes served in our marquee at a garden party in the Swiss Garden to celebrate 200 years of the Garden.



We even had a low flying hot air balloon come along to see what we were doing.



Marion Maule, one of our Trustees, succeeded in getting a cheer for Dorothy Shuttleworth who started the original Trust and Marion got a cheer for the Garden as well.

The evening was very relaxed and convivial with the raffle proving popular. Themed music played in the background such as Tchaikovsky's Waltz of the Flowers and Strauss' Roses of the South.

Committee members and Marion Maule gave the bar their support and toasted the success of the occasion.



Thank you to everyone who attended and to those who gave donations.

Annual Art Exhibition

The Exhibition ran from 16 to 27 September with the main theme being British Landscapes, Garden and Wildlife. Especially for this year there was an additional category called "200 years of the Swiss Garden". More details and photographs of prize winners are available on the FOSG website and will be in a later edition of Clippings

However the Friends are delighted to announce that Colin Powley, a garden volunteer, won first prize in our People's Choice voting held over the 2 weeks of the exhibition. Colin's painting of the Swiss Garden was also awarded first place in the "200 years of the Swiss Garden" category as judged by our external judges who said of Colin's work:

"This really caught the image of what most would think of the Garden. It is technically very accomplished and the layering of the composition guiding the viewer through captures the very essence of the Garden's charms on a perfect summer's day. The perfect garden on a perfect day."



Halloween Haunt Saturday 26 October 5pm to 9pm

Details are also available on the FOSG and Shuttleworth websites

There will be pre-booked tours of up to 20 people starting from 5pm onwards with a garden tour guide in charge of each group. Timings are shown on the FOSG and Shuttleworth websites.

Four storytellers will be located around the garden each telling part of a new unique story. Find out about Lilac and her magical blooms and what is trapped in the garden.

Weather permitting enjoy a ghostly vintage bus ride.

The Runway Cafe will be open until 7pm for hot drinks and snacks.

Free children's activities will be available in the Discovery Hub until 8pm.

Prices are £10 for adults, £2.50 for children (3 to 16), Under 3 free. Glow stick bracelets are included with your ticket.

Feel free to dress up in your Halloween best.



Closing Ceremony for the 200 year celebrations Sunday 3 November 2pm to 4pm

It is hoped to combine this ceremony with the "unveiling" of a statue of Diana of Gabes which has been purchased by the Friends to replace a statue that was known to have been in the Garden in the early 20th century. The Friends Committee felt that the statue would be a suitable permanent commemoration of the Garden's 200 year anniversary. It is intended to place the statue on its original plinth on the "Diana Island" which is accessed by a wooden bridge and is opposite the punt harbour. A dignitary is currently being sought for the "unveiling" of the statue. Light refreshments will be served.

Further details regarding this event will be found on the FOSG website as they become available.



Statue of Diana of Gabes, Photographic postcard c1900-1910

Photographs for the FOSG website

On the Friends website you will find a page entitled "Friends' Swiss Garden Photographs Slide Show". We would like to update this regularly with new photographs which need to be in jpeg/jpg format. The only criterion for inclusion is that the photograph must have been taken in the Swiss Garden or around the lake. Please visit the slideshow to see the diverse range of subjects already on line and details on uploading new additions. We look forward to seeing new views and vistas.

Shuttleworth House - Open House and Tours 27-30 October

Details available on the Shuttleworth website

Shuttleworth House will be open free of charge from 11.00 to 15.00 on the above dates. No ticket is required but donations are welcome.

However there will be guided tours available for online booking at £10 per adult. Each tour will last approximately 1 hour, but there is limited availability so pre-booking is essential.

Parking is separate from the main visitor attraction and will be located on the Parkland by Shuttleworth House.

Shuttleworth in Lights 2024 15 November-15 December

Details available on the Shuttleworth website

For over 6 years Shuttleworth has been running the lights events during November and December and these are produced entirely in-house.

The Garden and hangars are illuminated in a display of bold colours.



Ticket prices and tour times are shown on the Shuttleworth website.

The Runway Cafe and Coffee Pod will be serving hot and cold drinks, festive treats and snacks.

Warm waterproof clothing and footwear is recommended and please bring a torch.

Shuttleworth House - Christmas Market 7 and 8 December

Details available on the Shuttleworth website

The market will be free of charge and will be held around the grand rooms of Shuttleworth House. It will be open to visitors from 10.00 to 16.00 with the last admission at 15.30. Some areas are only accessible via steps.

There will be a variety of food, craft and gift stalls.

The Coffee and Cake Lounge will be in the Garden Suite where hot drinks and mulled wine will be served.

On the food front local caterers Boss Hogs will be providing their delicious Hog Roast and the Churro Boyz will be serving churros.

Parking is separate from the main visitor attraction and will be located on the Parkland by Shuttleworth House.