

## News from the Garden

The triangle bed close to the Cascade Bridge has been replanted and fenced off with a new style black fence. Special thanks to Sarah Till for her design and to the Friends of the Swiss Garden (FOSG) for their help with the funding.

The last of the tree works required by the 2024 tree survey and subsequent reinstatement works have now been completed.

The Iski ride on mower has been serviced and the worn out transmission component has been replaced with a spare part made in-house by the engineers. Powered hand tools have been inspected and tested ready for the coming season. Lawns have been deep spiked where possible with the new turf groomer - another purchase by the FOSG.

Pruning and shaping of shrubs is always taking place and dead heading of the daffodils has started. Spring in the Swiss Garden is always a season to look forward to. Weed control is under way to the shrub beds and paths as is the propagation of plants for the Dolphin Tazza and garden planters.

Grass cutting will start soon but dry conditions are delaying the start of the 2025 season. Plans are in hand to build some cold frames for hardening off young plants and propagation of semi and hard wood cuttings.

Following the internal space within the Aviary being reduced back to its original level and covered with shingle, the brick work around the Aviary wall is going to be repointed with minor replacement of frost damaged bricks. Photos are being taken at every stage of the work.

**Tony Young**  
**Head Gardener**

## Conservation

The structures in the Garden have done well through the winter with no new challenges.

The broken glass pane in the Swiss Cottage has been replaced and the glass panes in the Grotto have been cleaned which has improved the light level there.

The Chapel has suffered from moisture in the walls which left them wet to the touch and caused paint to flake. The level of moisture has now improved.

The Summerhouse has become a major project. Whilst work was undertaken some time ago to replace the roof damage has now been found in other areas of the structure which means a major restoration is needed.



Three quotations were obtained and Tim Atkins and Justin Casburn have been chosen for the restoration work. They are each sole traders but frequently work together on big projects. The Summerhouse structure will be dismantled and taken off site for the necessary work to be done.

The cost will be around £35,000. Whilst the Shuttleworth Trust, SVAS and the FOSG are being approached for contributions it is thought that a further funding option could be crowdfunding. To this end the following link has been set up:

[www.crowdfunder.co.uk/conservationofstructures](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/conservationofstructures)

Please be assured that there is no obligation to give a donation.

## Benonia Okang Conservation Steward

### Revised Weekend Opening Times

With effect from **Saturday 5 April 2025** the whole of the Shuttleworth site, including the Runway Cafe, is opening an hour earlier at weekends (09.00 to 17.00) until the end of the Summer. This will be a long running trial to see if the earlier opening time will have any impact on visitor numbers.

### New Peacocks

Following the arrival of two new peacocks last year one of them decided it preferred another location and left us with just one white peacock.



We couldn't leave him on his own so two more peacocks have been purchased.



They are currently all together in an enclosure by the Gardener's Cottage, away from the general visitor areas, to get them acclimatised to each other and to the Garden. It is hoped to release them into the Garden at the end of April but nature will take its own course and so the timing cannot be certain.

### Membership arrangements

Vic and Thelma Green, who have been dealing with membership subscriptions and queries for 8.5 years have decided that they wish to retire. We will be sad to lose them and their good nature and willingness to go over and above what was expected of them to make sure that FOSG membership applications were dealt with speedily and efficiently. Thank you Vic and Thelma for your hard work and dedication. It is appreciated that you are prepared to remain available for support and queries for as long as is necessary.

Therefore, with effect from **7 April 2025**, the SVAS will take over running the day to day membership arrangements for the Friends. Members will be able to renew by telephone and pay by credit card.

There will be a new e mail address for FOSG membership enquiries and this will be:

[fosgmembership@shuttleworth.org](mailto:fosgmembership@shuttleworth.org)

### General communication

Enquiries relating to matters other than membership should continue to be sent to the usual e mail address of:

[friendsoftheswissgarden@outlook.com](mailto:friendsoftheswissgarden@outlook.com)

and don't forget our website:

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

## Annual General Meeting of the FOSG

The FOSG Annual General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 18 June** at 5pm in the Garden Room. Anyone planning to attend should inform the Committee by email please:

[friendsoftheswissgarden@outlook.com](mailto:friendsoftheswissgarden@outlook.com)

Light refreshments will be served. Parking will be in Ormonde car park, Hill Lane.

## Access for FOSG members

There are times when access to the Shuttleworth site will only be available to those who have tickets for the specific event taking place.

To make sure that FOSG members don't end up making an unsuccessful journey this restriction will apply on the following dates :

- All Air Show days
- 12/13 July - Summer Fete Open Weekend
- 31 July/1 August - DH60 Centenary Fly In
- 17 August - Family Concert 2025
- 12/14 September - Bedfordshire Steam and Country Fayre

Detailed information on these events is available on the Shuttleworth website.

It is planned to open the Swiss Cottage during the Summer Fete Open Weekend so that visitors can see inside and learn something of its history..

## RHS Partner Garden of the Year Competition

This competition runs annually, this year with the theme of joy, and gives garden lovers the chance to celebrate and share their joyful and uplifting experiences of visiting their favourite RHS Partner Gardens.

Chose the RHS Partner Garden that fills you with the most joy.

Anyone can show their support for their favourite RHS Partner Garden by casting their vote using the button on the RHS website between **10am on Thursday 17 April and 12noon on Monday 29 September 2025.**

There will also be QR codes displayed at RHS Partner Gardens which link directly to the website. Everyone who votes will be entered into a prize draw for a chance to win a £100 RHS garden gift voucher.



The new triangle flower bed



The Aviary



The turf groomer



## Archive Information

Recently early copies of FOSG Newsletters and editions of Clippings have been discovered. A look into the past is always interesting and so a copy of Newsletter no 2 Winter 1992 will be the initial document in a potential new series of archive information.

This particular document has been chosen because it records the first meeting of the Friends of the Swiss Garden on 14 October 1992.

Unfortunately it is not possible to attach the Newsletter to the e mail sending out this edition of Clippings. A link will therefore be set up to it from this edition of Clippings in the Clippings section of the FOSG website.

Your thoughts on whether further archive information would be of interest would be welcome via our e mail address.



Can you spot the intrepid volunteer pruning the roses on the Broadwalk Arch?

