

News from the Garden

This winter has really given us a chilly feel with all the frost and snow. We are very excited about the recent tree work undertaken by the Rock Garden and Aviary. The garden team and volunteers have been busy clearing up moving wood chip, logs and sawdust.

We will soon start planting in two areas. Firstly, by the Eagle and Rock Garden, on a sloping bank towards the fence where we will add plants to screen and enclose the garden. We are currently preparing the ground there. Secondly, by the Aviary, we will plant yet more trees and a shrubbery to screen the view to the hangars that has been opened up as a result of the tree work.

We still have a few more shrubberies that need a winter prune and the garden team and the volunteers will be starting work on this. The new supplies of woodchip will provide a useful mulch to be spread under the shrubs.

With leaves gone from most deciduous trees the structure of the garden has opened up showing off some of our lovely long views.

Although we have had a lot of frost most of the plants have survived and are budding up again. Snowdrops and hellebores are already in flower along with some scented winter honeysuckle and daffodil bulbs are pushing up through the ground.



Sissel Dahl, Head Gardener

Conservation

The finished copy of the garden's newly revised Conservation Management Plan was received in November and Twigs Way presented her document on 1 December. She has spent the best part of 2022 working on details of the Swiss Garden's history and consolidating previous reports and surveys to give us a brilliant working tool to help with the development of the garden over the next 10 years. She has also looked at ways to address climate change challenges and has provided lots of ideas for projects and audience engagement opportunities going forward which we hope will encourage visitors to return to the garden more regularly.

Aldis & May, specialists in historic stonework, have now completed the remedial work to the sandstone walls which means we should be able to open the Underpass to the public in 2023, at least when the weather is fine. They will return to consolidate the ruined foundations of the Aviary during 2023.

A humidistat has been added to the Swiss Cottage to control humidity and preserve the lovely panelling in the upper storey. The conservation volunteers have been busy installing, setting and checking it, according to Crick Smith, the conservators who were responsible for the restoration of panelling and other rustic details in the cottage during the lottery funded project a few years ago. The device, attached to an oil-filled radiator, measures humidity and makes sure the heater is only switched on when it needs to be to ensure the best balance of warmth is achieved in order to preserve the historic detail in the Swiss Cottage. The conservation volunteers also monitor and record insect activity monthly in the Swiss Cottage to pick up on early warning signs of any worrying infestations.

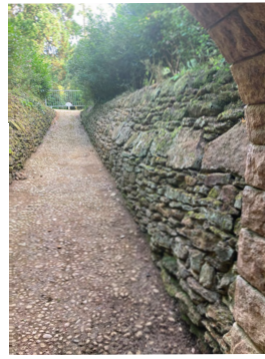
Corinne Price, Garden Heritage and Audience Development Manager

Clippings, Winter 2022

RHS The Garden magazine

The December 2022 edition of the magazine includes an article from Sissel in the Experts' Pick section on Christmas flowers. She describes 3 plants - *Prunus x subhirtella* 'Autumnalis Rosea', *Iris unguicularis* (Algerian iris) and *Daphne bholua* 'Darjeeling' - and there are accompanying photos.

The January 2023 edition of the magazine contains a short entry on the Swiss Garden in the Partner Garden section.



Underpass repair



Short Review of 2022

Highlights of the year include the Gardeners Question Time recording at the Swiss Garden, completing the Rock Garden restoration and welcoming our first official corporate volunteering groups to the garden. We enjoyed running the wheelbarrow and scarecrow competitions for schools which are always great fun and attract lots of new visitors to the garden.

We partnered with the Higgins Museum on a pruning workshop in September and our wreath and willow weaving workshops sold out quickly again this year and produced some beautiful creations and very happy customers.

Thanks to the Friends of the Swiss Garden we have carried out various projects this year to help with the ongoing conservation of the garden. As well as funding 75% of the Conservation Management Plan they have also helped consolidate some of the garden's biggest and most vulnerable retaining sandstone walls and funded the replacement of the Summerhouse roof. Their support is critical to the garden's heritage assets and also supports smaller projects such as the recent tree work.



The Summerhouse



Results of the Aviary tree work

Fond farewell

We recently said a fond farewell to two of our part-time gardeners, Martin Creevy and Paul Edmonds. Between them they have worked in the garden for 24 years - a huge contribution to its ongoing development- and they will be very much missed.

Friends of the Swiss Garden Diary dates

The Committee of the Friends of the Swiss Garden is very much aware that notification of events has not been as timely as it could be via the seasonal editions of the Clippings magazine. To try and resolve this a preliminary 2023 forward look calendar for events with Friends' involvement has been created to enable members to put potential dates in their diaries. Further information will be provided closer to each event to act as a reminder.

20 March - 6 April Spring Festival Art Competition

7 June Annual General Meeting and
"Ask the Gardener" question time

27 May - 4 June Wheelbarrow Competition

11 - 22 September Art Exhibition and presentation

[14 September Heritage Open Day]

31 October - 5 November Online Pumpkin Competition

Autumn date (not finalised) Tree planting ceremony for
King Charles III Coronation

Tour of Shuttleworth House

Monday 20 February

Explore the stunning ground floor of Shuttleworth House which was built in 1875 for Joseph Shuttleworth.

Arrive at 10.15 . Light refreshments will follow and the tour will start at 10.30 and finish at 11.45.

Parking is separate from the main visitor attraction and will be located on the forecourt of Shuttleworth House and nearby.

Tickets are required and can be booked via the Shuttleworth website.

National Garden Scheme (NGS) Open Day

Thursday 2 March

Shuttleworth Collection and Swiss Garden will be opening again this year for the National Garden Scheme.

Visitors on the day will be able to access not only the beautiful Swiss Garden but also the Trust's extensive collection of vintage aircraft and motor vehicles housed in the adjacent hangars.

Early Spring highlights in the Swiss Garden include snowdrops, hellebores, scented shrubs and some Rock Garden delights such as *Iris reticulata*.

Admission for Friends, RHS members and children will be free and at the discounted rate of £10 per adult (tickets available for 2 March only). For more information and to book your ticket visit findagarden.ngs.org.uk/12881/the-swiss-garden.

Shuttleworth House Mother's Day Market

Sunday 19 March

Trade stalls will be positioned around the House for visitors to enjoy the stunning interiors as they shop from a variety of food, craft and gift stalls.

Admission is free and the market will be open from 10.00 to 16.00, last entry 15.30.

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

Please note if you want to visit the Collection or the Swiss Garden you must purchase a valid daily admission ticket.

Swiss Garden Talk - Restoration of a Heritage Gem

Wednesday 22 March

Corinne Price's presentation will cover the 200 year history of the unique Swiss Garden from its creation by Lord Ongley, through its various changes and restorations by the Shuttleworth family and others to the present day.

Learn about the garden's design, its collection of fascinating follies and artefacts and how the garden is managed today as part of the Shuttleworth Collection.

Arrive at the Discovery Hub at 10.30. Light refreshments will follow and the talk will commence at 11.00.

Tickets are available via the Shuttleworth website and these will give full access to the rest of the site for the day.



Spring Walk and Lunch with the Head Gardener

Friday 24 March

Join Head Gardener Sissel Dahl for a seasonal highlights tour of the Swiss Garden. Learn more about our Regency garden's intriguing story and how it is skilfully maintained today.

In Spring the garden is full of colour and scent and the large banks of rhododendrons are in full flower- a wonderful time to visit.

Enjoy lunch with Sissel and other senior members of the garden team who will answer your questions about what you have seen on the tour and developments in the garden.

The tour will start at 11.00 and lunch will be served at 12.30. The tour event will finish at 14.00.

After lunch you are welcome to enjoy the Shuttleworth Collection at your leisure.

Tickets are required and can be booked via the Shuttleworth website.

