

**Notes on Box Blight - *Cylindrocladium buxicola* (syn. *Ca-lonectria pseudonaviculata*)**

It should first be noted that there are many cultivars of Box of which all parts of the plant are poisonous. Box blight poses a serious threat to the UK's horticultural heritage, as box plants provide the structure of many historic formal English gardens. The main symptoms of Box Blight are brown leaves, bare patches and die-back of hedges, which are caused by a Fungus. This can occur any time of the year, particularly in rainy seasons. Visually there are characteristic black streaks on the leaves and prior to defoliation; white spores develop on the undersides of leaves in wet conditions.

It is important that problems are diagnosed correctly as Box Blight can also be affected by a second disease Volutella Blight (*Pseudonectria buxi*). This disease has similar symptoms to the more serious Box Blight, although the characteristic black streaks of Box Blight do not form and defoliation is not common. The spores developing on undersides of the leaves are pink.

There are proprietary leaf fertilizers that strengthen your Box Trees and leave them looking vibrant and healthy throughout the season. It works against Box Blight burning the fungus spores leaving the leaves shiny, to be applied Mid May through to Mid November.

Box can also suffer from the following problems:

Excessive sunlight - *Discoloration and sun-scald to leaves.*

General bronzing - *An orange coloration of the foliage due to environmental stress usually following hot, dry spells in summer, although a contributing factor may be root damage due to winter water logging*

Yellowing of foliage - *Symptomatic of water logging, especially on heavy clay soils.*

Over winter - *Leaf tips and margins commonly yellow due to low temperatures.*

Leaf Discolouration - *Common in exposed sites. Young growth in spring can also get caught by frost, turning them pale brown and often papery-looking*

Box Sucker - *Although the damage caused is not usually serious, Box sucker is a sap-sucking insect, also known as box psyllid, which feeds at the shoot tips of box plants in spring.*

Box Tree Caterpillar - *Box Tree Caterpillars feed within webbing and can completely defoliate box plants. Box Tree Caterpillars are the larvae of a moth that feeds on box plants.*

Plant Establishment Problems.

Red Spider Mite.

Scale Insects.

Pruning and Maintenance

Clippings should always be collected from within the hedge and weeds removed from around the base of plants. This is to ensure that air can circulate to help keep plants healthy.

Young hedges should be cut by up to one-third in May to encourage bushy growth. Further trimming can be carried out between May and August, as required.

Mature hedges should be cut in August. It may be worth noting that although box hedging and topiary can be pruned towards the end of May, pruning at this time may leave the new flush of soft growth vulnerable to weather damage such as leaf scorch, the result of late frosts, drying winds or unseasonably hot sun and, additionally, diseases such as Box-Blight. Pruning later, during August when the new growth has hardened off and slowed down should help minimise leaf damage due to weather conditions or disease and the hedge should remain neat through the winter months.

Old, neglected plants usually respond well to hard-pruning in late spring (May) and can be cut back to within 15-30cm (6in-1ft) of the ground.

**Steve Glenton** *Volunteer Gardener*



**CONTACT FOR GARDENERS**  
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THE NELSON GARDEN  
MONMOUTH



NEWSLETTER  
NO.12 AUTUMN 2017

Dear Friends,

Autumn is here and work is beginning on carrying out our project plans with the help of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Our volunteer gardeners have been busy digging up and re-potting the plants in the area in front of the hypocaust wall to allow access for work to be carried out on its restoration. There has been a massive clearance operation! Further work has been done demolishing the ruins of the old gardener's w.c and the bricks have been salvaged to help with work on the wall restoration. The following months will see many changes for the better in the garden.

We have two interesting events in October, our Annual Lecture in Shire Hall on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and a practical session in the Nelson Garden at 2pm on October 20<sup>th</sup> on Planting Spring Bulbs. You will find further details in this newsletter

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to remind you of our AGM which will take place at 2.30pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at Monmouth Rowing Club. We hope you will be able to join us. Nominations by 12th October please.

With Best Wishes **Val Conniff** *Chairman*

*The Nelson Garden Preservation Trust*

## EVENTS CALENDAR AUTUMN



### THE NELSON GARDEN ANNUAL LECTURE Fitzroy, Darwin & the Beagle— more than a question of Evolution



An illustrated talk  
by  
Christopher Flower



Friday 6th October 2017  
The Shire Hall, Monmouth  
7pm

Tickets: £10—Includes a glass of wine and nibbles  
£8 for Friends of the Nelson Garden £5 for Students (NUS cards)  
all tickets available from Nelson Museum 01600 710630

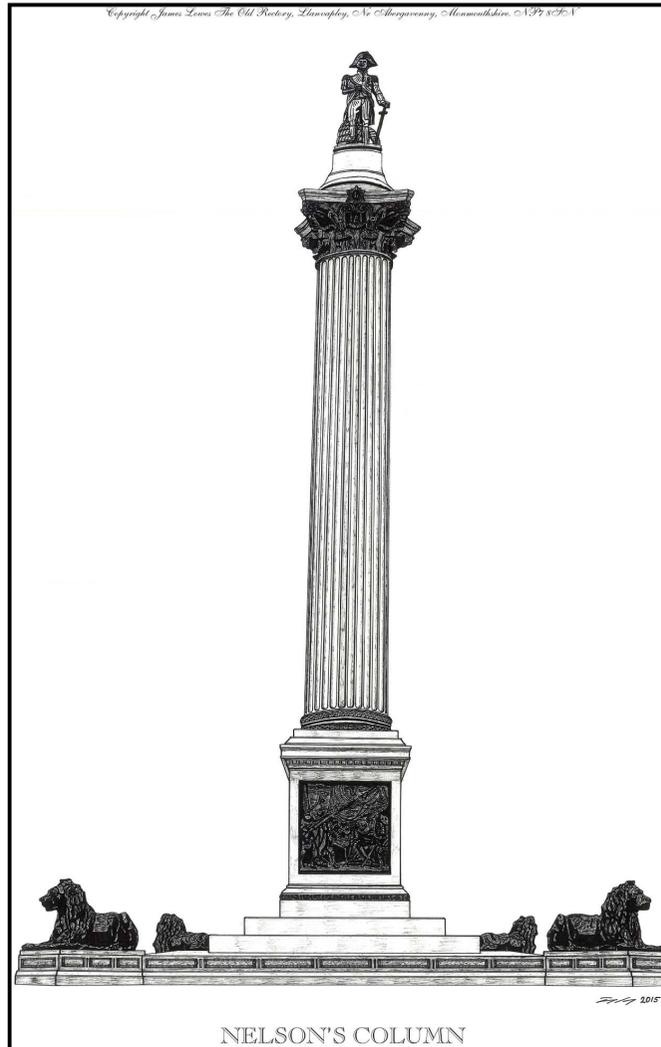


## PLANTING BULBS FOR SPRING COLOUR

A practical Session in the Nelson Garden  
Helena Gerrish  
2pm  
Friday 20th October 2017

AGM Thursday 23rd November 2pm

Details to follow next week. All Friends invited.



### Print available in aid of Nelson Garden

We are very pleased to offer this striking print of Nelson's Column from an original drawing by young Monmouthshire artist James Lowes. James has a quite unique "pen and ink" drawing style and has completed numerous commissions over the years, mostly of period buildings, including the Houses of Parliament, The Tower of London

poppy display, St Paul's Cathedral, Tower Bridge, and many others.

He fits his art into a busy self-employed schedule of gardening, car washing and gutter cleaning. In his spare time James is a keen fisherman and golfer.



The Limited edition Print of Nelson's Column by artist James Lowes is available for £50.

It comes through the post in a protective sleeve and tube. 25% of the cost goes towards the Nelson Garden Fund.

Please contact us via the e-mail

[ngpt1802@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ngpt1802@yahoo.co.uk) if you would like to order a copy of the print.

### SUMMER EVENTS

The garden party on 19th August went very well, with a record number of guests generating a fine amount of money to put in our funds. The live music and the lovely food, not to mention a dry warm evening helped the party go with a swing.

The National Garden Scheme was a different matter; heavy rain all afternoon meant few visitors but those who came were generous in their support and raised over £90 for medical charities and over £40 for the garden. Thankfully the gardeners (who mostly bought the cakes) are hard at work in the beds digging and working off the calories!

I have had three separate days in the Nelson Museum talking to visitors about the 'Back from Trafalgar' exhibition and the Garden in Monmouth, which has been enormous fun. Thanks to all.

Susan Amos *Editor*

