

EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday 24th July 3pm

An afternoon in the garden with a performance by the U3A Recorder group.

Forget the school band this is an entirely different style of recorder playing. Come along to be amazed at just what this humble instrument can deliver!

Refreshments (tea, coffee, sandwiches & cakes) will be on sale during the afternoon. A Free Event but with an opportunity to make a donation to the garden.

Friday 19th August £12

(£10 for friends)

Our Annual Garden Party 6.30pm—dusk.

An evening of entertainment with drinks and canapés in the glorious setting of the Nelson Garden.

Come and enjoy it just as Lord Nelson, Sir William Hamilton and Emma, Lady Hamilton experienced it on this very night in 1802.

MUSIC—READINGS—SINGING

OPEN DOORS WEEKEND 2016

Garden Open 2pm—5pm
10th & 11th September

SEASONAL SENSATIONS

Roses, Geranium, Lavender, Sweet Pea, Lady's Mantle, Pinks, Globe thistle and lots of fresh greenery with variation of form and texture.

FROM THE GARDENERS

LAWN: Several of the dips and holes have now been filled and reseeded. More to do. Wild section coming into seed. Edges are being regularly trimmed or strimmed and the grass mown. Overall, it is looking good. Pots around pond, now planted with white pelargonium and lobelia.

ROSES: 'Emma Hamilton' flowering well but rather infested with bindweed. We regularly unwind and pull it up to weaken it but one idea which was suggested this week was to fold the whole stem down at ground level in a plastic food bag sprayed inside with weed killer.

Of the 'Generous Gardener' roses- one is only just surviving. One of the established ones needs urgent black spot treatment. We will remove the affected leaves for burning.

PATHS: Pretty weed free. We may be able to borrow equipment to tackle old tree stumps which are in the beds.

BOTHY: Tidied up and all the tools being kept clean and sharp by wiping clean and putting in a bucket of oiled sand.

PLANTED: Helianthus 'Lemon Queen' in sloping bed.

CONTACT FOR GARDENERS
Susan 01291 637407 or Penny 01600 715507
Or use our E-Mail to leave a message
ngpt61802@yahoo.co.uk

THE NELSON GARDEN MONMOUTH



NEWSLETTER NO.7 SUMMER 2016

Dear Friends,

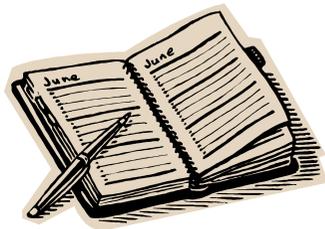
Our 2016 Programme of Events, which began in January goes from strength to strength with events taking place right through the summer. It continues with a concert and a garden party. As a Friend you benefit from reduced admission to all these events and will continue to receive regular updates and the Quarterly Newsletter.

Please continue with your valued support by renewing your subscription to stay a Friend of the Nelson Garden.

Please send **£5 cheque** (cheque to: Nelson Garden Preservation Trust) to the Treasurer: Barbara Atkins, 11 Toynbee Close, Osbaston, Monmouth NP25 4NU
Helen Bosanquet Chairman

The Nelson Garden Preservation Trust

PLAY REVIEW



Theatr Silures performed *Under Milk Wood* by Dylan Thomas in the garden on 11th June. It was a lovely evening; dry and warm despite heavy rain earlier in the day. The lawn had soaked up the rain so well that the audience were able to sit on rugs to enjoy this intimate performance.

Here's what the audience thought:

"I laughed and nearly cried. It was beautifully comic, dark and—Welsh!"

"Great energy, beautiful setting, wonderful words, brilliantly presented."

"Amazing voice and character changes with a mere change of a headscarf for a cap or a top button undone—Brilliant!"

We look forward to another production next year. Congratulations to Theatr Silures and a big thank you to the Nelson Garden supporters who came along.

Susan Amos (Editor)



Photo: Charles Smart

Kitty Matcham—Nelson's Favourite Sister

Catherine Nelson was born at Burnham Thorpe Norfolk on 19 March 1767. Her mother, after whom she was named, died at the age of only forty two, probably from pneumonia and from being worn out having borne eleven children. Catherine or Kate or Kitty as she was known was therefore the baby of the family and only nine months old when her mother died on Boxing Day 1767.

When they were in their teens Kate and her sister Susannah were sent to Bath to work as milliners in Messrs Walters of Milsom Street. The eldest sister Ann was already indentured as a milliner at the Capital Lace warehouse on Ludgate Hill. In 1778 their Uncle Maurice Suckling died and left each of the three girls £1000 each enabling them to give up their rather lowly occupations. Ann later died on 15th November 1783 while lodging in New King Street. She is buried in Bathford Churchyard alongside Kitty's son William and her mother-in-law, Elizabeth Matcham.

Kitty had already had four 'seasons' at Bath when she met and married George Matcham. George was fourteen years older than Kitty and had a senior post with the East India Company. He had travelled widely keeping journals of his travels overland from Aleppo to Baghdad and Pera in Turkey. The Matcham's made many moves around the country while bringing up their family but in 1799 they lived at 19 Kensington Place and at 2 Portland Place in Bath 1804 -5.

The Matchams had a large family but one is hard pressed to find any sources which agree with each other as to their dates and names. They probably

had sixteen children in all, seven boys (four died) and nine girls (five married and had children). The family moved to Ashfold Lodge, West Sussex in 1807 and at that time they had four boys and five girls. It was to Ashfold Lodge that fourteen year old Horatia, Nelson's daughter, was brought after the death of Emma in 1815. Kitty called Horatia "...our dear girl" and "while we have a loaf for them (her own children) she shall share it and with it our best affections". *Susan Amos (Editor)*



a. PORTRAITS OF MR. & MRS. GEORGE MATCHAM, Horatia's Uncle and Aunt

From the Eyre Matcham family in Winifred Gerin's 'Horatia Nelson' 1970

Heritage Lottery Fund

We have applied for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant for £85,000 to repair the rare 18th-century hot wall and plant espalier trees together with an interpretation panel, provide a disabled loo with all services, to repair the Grade II* Nelson Memorial pavilion, and repair the historic fabric of the garden i.e. metalwork, railings, stone surround to the pool and replace the degraded entrance doorway from Chippenham. We hope to hear whether our application has been successful by the end of July.

Helena Gerrish HLF sub-committee and vice Chairman