

EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday 27th May 1pm—3pm £5

(£4 for Friends)

Watercolour painting in the garden. Help and advice given with composition, drawing, colour and basic watercolour technique. All materials provided. Bring your own chair and drink, maybe a sun hat too!

Saturday 11th June £10

(£8 for Friends)

Open Air Production in the Garden of *'Under Milk Wood'* by Dylan Thomas.

Performed by *Theatr Silures*.

For tickets please ring 01600 715507

Sunday 24th July £3.50p

(£2.50p for Friends)

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

Refreshments will be available.

Friday 19th August £10

(£8 for friends)

Our Annual Garden Party 6.30pm—dusk.

All ticket prices are provisional



One happy girl at the Easter egg hunt 2016

SEASONAL SENSATIONS

Sight, scent and sound—

Birdsong, Robins, Blackbirds.

Freshly mown grass and the delicate scent of Daffodils, Tulips, Lentern Roses, Crocus and Aconites in the grass.

All the trees with their bright green buds bursting and leaves unfurling.

FROM THE GARDENERS

Friday 1st April saw our first gardening session with all hands on deck for the occasion. The high winds and rain have given us a few problems: a few slates off the pavilion roof, the collapse of the compost bin fronts and lots of moss on the path up to the pavilion. New and stronger wood has been ordered for the compost bins and work on the pavilion roof has been arranged already by Grahame. Joan and Steve worked all day on the sloping bed trimming and pruning the apple tree and other shrubs. More of our lovely compost was put around the base of key plants. Penny and Janice worked on the other beds weeding and tidying closely watched by the robin of course!

CONTACT FOR GARDENERS

Susan 01291 637407 or Penny 01600 715507

THE NELSON GARDEN MONMOUTH



NEWSLETTER

NO.6 SPRING 2016

Dear Friends,

We hope you have enjoyed your first year as a Friend of the Nelson Garden.

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

'Painting the Modern Garden'
Monet to Matisse
At Royal Academy of Arts, London
Until 20 April 2016



Photograph of Monet in his garden at Giverny

This major exhibition at the Royal Academy shows how plants and gardens became a defining theme for many Impressionist painters. The show focuses on Monet and the paintings he did of his own magnificent gardens at Giverny including one whole room of his famous waterlily paintings. Alongside are the works of other artists working between 1870 and 1930 including Caillebotte, John Singer Sargent, Tissot and Sorolla who shared Monet's fascination with gardens. Many were inspired by the great nineteenth-century horticultural movement which gave shape to gardening as a modern pursuit that we enjoy today.

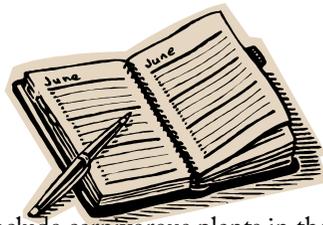
If you have the chance to go to London this exhibition really is a visual feast for the horticulturally inclined.



Joaquin Sorolla *Louis Comfort Tiffany, 1911.*

Helena Gerrish *Vice Chairman*

**BOOK
 REVIEW**



We do not tend to include carnivorous plants in the Nelson Garden but for many new gardeners the weird world of parasitic and carnivorous plants or cacti is what sparks their initial interest. So this book by **Nigel Hewitt-Cooper**, the first on the subject by an Englishman for 30 years is fascinating. Which parent has not succumbed to buying a Venus fly-trap and had the sorrow of it dying for want of rainwater?

This book is beautifully illustrated and full of confidence building tips about the care of these beautiful beasts! (Timber Press £18)
Susan Amos *Editor*

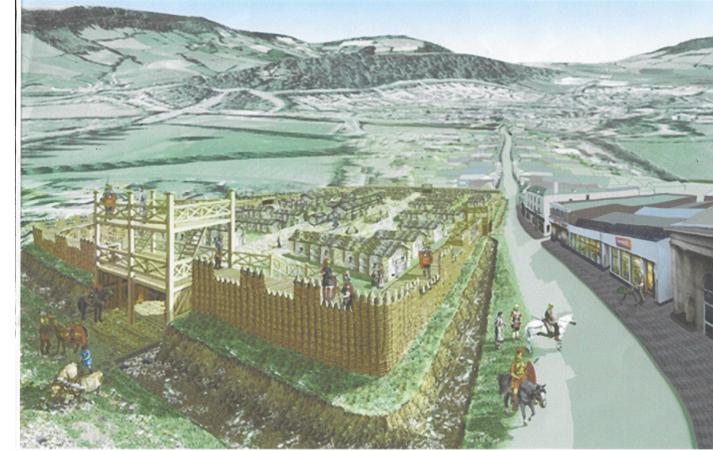


In 1994 Mrs Sheila Thorneycroft, with the Nelson Society, began restoration with the practical assistance of Mr Allen Watkins MBE of Catbrook. In 1996 the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust became involved and in 1997 set up a special restoration Committee to care for the garden. In 2001 the Committee negotiated a 10 year sub-lease from Lloyds Bank, funded conservation work on the entrance tunnel and installed a decorative iron screen to separate the garden from the rest of the Bank property.

A couple of months ago John Thorneycroft was presented with a plaque to his mother which had been in the care of Charles Smart for some years. Given the important contribution made by Sheila Thorneycroft to the saving and restoration of the garden the committee gave its full approval to the plaque being fixed as a memorial and mark of respect. Grahame Thomas has now affixed the plaque to the bench near the pear tree.

Photo (above) by G. Thomas.

ARCHEOLOGY



Monmouth's Pre-Flavian Roman Fort
 Artists' impression by Peter Bere

THE NELSON GARDEN

The archaeology of the Nelson Garden begins some 3m below the ground with the pebble bed of the post-glacial lake which filled the bowl of Monmouth up to Roman times and attracted Middle Stone Age hunter-gatherers and New Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements around its shores. The lake survived into the later Iron Age and there is evidence that it may have been drained by the Romans.

The garden lies over the 3m deep front ditches of a Pre-Flavian Roman Fort of the middle 50s AD – probably the earliest in Wales. This was followed by remains of the 3rd Century Roman industrial town called *Blestium*.

Between the Nelson Garden and Monnow Street there was a pre-Norman (Dark Age) building associated with a 5th/6th century Anglo-Saxon sword stud and early Norman pottery and metalwork.

A 4m deep defensive ditch, presumed to be Norman, runs from Monmouth Castle under Monnow Street and the front of the Nelson Garden to the River Wye. Later remains in the garden include assemblages of Medieval to Victorian pottery and glass and a post-medieval brick clamp kiln. Landscaping in the 19th century provided views across the medieval open field of Chippenham and of the Monmouth Races.

Received from Steve Clarke (of the Monmouth Archaeological Society) M.B.F., in 2015.