



An Update from the Walled Garden April 2023

Forthcoming Events for Spring and Summer 2023

22nd April, 1st July &

9th September- Open Days for people interested in volunteering.

24th June -- Capture Nature on your Camera or 'phone, booking essential for fun professional tuition.

22nd July – National Garden Scheme Open Day

17th August–The Buzz about Bees, come and see and hear how they live.

9th & 10th September Heritage Open Day. Free admission

23rd September – Art in the Garden exclusive. Bring your paints and pencils.

See below for Event Information and booking details. Also see website for latest information.

www.guyscliffewalledgarden.org.uk

EVENT and BOOKING INFORMATION FOR 2023

Capture Nature on your Camera Saturday 24th June, exclusive access to the Garden to listen to tips and try out photographing nature on your camera or 'phone, led by an industry professional booking is essential. Entry is £10 which will be donated to the Garden.



National Garden Scheme Open Day Saturday 22nd July -- Entry Fee £3.50 adults children under 16 free -- Proceeds to charity

The Buzz about Bees Thursday 17th August, come and hear from the experts on how we depend upon our busy friends. From 2.00pm

Art in the Garden Saturday 23rd September, an opportunity for beginners and experienced Artists to have exclusive access to the Garden to paint, sketch and draw under the guidance of our Artist in Residence. Booking essential, entry £10

Heritage Open Weekend 9th and 10th September. Free entry

History Tours -- tours of the garden, see website for latest dates throughout the year.

Volunteer News from the Garden

It's been a busy winter with the usual challenges of the weather, getting the beds ready for extending our vegetable crop production so we can increase donations of fresh fruit and vegetables to the local Food Bank and Night Shelter.

As Spring is finally beginning to show itself and as the soil warms, we will be planting out our vegetables or potting on in the greenhouse.

Rosemary has taken on the role of lead volunteer on planning and planting the vegetable beds so that we can increase the variety of vegetables and yields.

Volunteers have also been busy this winter building more compost bins so that we become self-sufficient and move towards a "No Dig" garden. This means that rather than dig the beds over releasing carbon into the atmosphere, we add more organic material, with a bit of help from the local farmer's animals! Bless 'em!

The first section of the Peach House now has a roof on it thanks to Paul and his team putting hundreds of hours into its restoration. It's been a long job, but we were very fortunate to receive a donation late last year from Warwick Glass of polycarbonate panels to make it weatherproof. The Peach House is one of the historic buildings on site which sits alongside the Melon House. There is still further

restoration to do to bring these structures back into use. It's amazing what lengths those Georgian and Victorian and probably Edwardian owners did to produce exotic fruit for the table. Young boys would stoke the fires of the boilers throughout the night in winter to keep those fruit houses warm. That's one thing we will not be bringing back!

Garden News Update

Very soon, new raised beds will be constructed, following a grant from a local trust. This will enable young children and those with mobility problems to access the growing area more easily. They will be able to learn about growing fruit, vegetables and flowers as part of a developing educational programme for local schools which we hope will encourage more children to get engaged with the natural world.



Planning a Club Visit?

Private tours of the Garden can be arranged for your club or group, for details please email.

trustees@guyscliffewalledgarden.org.uk

Volunteering Roles

There are several volunteering roles within the garden to suit all abilities. There are the planters and weeders, pruners and those that water. We also have DIY building and restoration volunteers working on the historic buildings.

However, we are seeking volunteers who would be interested to **Meet and Greet** visitors when the Garden is open, currently Wednesdays, Fridays and Sunday (10.30am till 3.30pm) and Saturdays afternoon (1pm till 3.30 pm), we will be open from the 1st April.

There is also a curriculum based **Educational Programme** being developed which we hope will engage children from local Primary schools. This programme will require volunteers who are interested in education and the school curriculum to help show children the wonders of nature in the Garden with the benefits of being outdoors.

Additionally, there are also roles to help with **Marketing & PR, Fundraising** and generally helping at the **Event and Open Days**.



If you would be interested to find out more about these roles, please email trustees@guyscliffewalledgarden.org.uk or come along to our **Volunteer Open Days on Saturday 22nd April and 1st July**.



The Walled Garden before restoration began in 2014.

A Report from the Frontline by one of our Volunteers

I first heard about the gardens when I read a leaflet in the Rock Coffee Shop looking for volunteers to help restore the walled garden at Hinton's Nursery. On my first available Wednesday I got on my bike and rode down to the nursery. There I met a chap called Barry who introduced me to the other volunteers. He explained what he wanted us to do, which was to start clearing the brambles, nettles, and ivy from the plot. It was really good fun so much so that I came back again that afternoon after work. Slowly with the aid of a JCB we cleared the site and made it look like a garden again. In September 2014 we held our first public opening. My job was to welcome visitors as they arrived. It went very well, with 300 people visiting.

As with all gardening, there is always plenty to do, more so now the garden is established. I must say I enjoy doing it, it is very rewarding to see a clean patch of soil ready to plant. We work in all types of weather, frost, snow, rain, wind, cold and sun still we carry on because we love the garden.



What I really like about volunteering here is the variety of work I do. One day I could be weeding, digging, and planting, the next laying pipes. There is a good crowd of volunteers, and we all get on well, having a lot of laughs. Of course, over the years things change and people leave, and others join but we all work to make the garden a success. We want to introduce and encourage school

children to come and visit and help people with disabilities.

When I look back over the years seeing what a mess it was, with brambles, old glasshouses, and piles of brick and glass I can hardly believe what we have managed to achieve. We proved that it could be done. The garden looks brilliant.

I love it down the gardens and the people who I have met over the years. I am still here 9 years later and I hope it can continue and improve in the future. I am thankful to everyone for making it so enjoyable. There have been ups and downs but, in the end, we have a beautiful garden and good friends.

Rachel

Weekly Garden Open Days
Wednesdays/Fridays/Sunday
10.30am till 3.30pm and Saturday
afternoon 1pm till 3.30 pm.

How to Book Events:

trustees@guyscliffewalledgarden.org.uk

Please state which event you are interested in subject heading.

Vegetable Top Tips:

Time to put your chitting seed potatoes in. Try using a bucket with holes in, about 3 to 4 per container. Also, time for onion sets and Broad beans too. Keep growing!!