

FRIENDS OF THE NELSON GARDEN CALENDAR

APRIL—OCTOBER

The Garden reopens
FRIDAY & SATURDAY

10am—4pm

SUNDAY

11am—4pm

MAY

National Garden Scheme
SATURDAY & SUNDAY

28th & 29th May

Partnership opening with North Parade
(See 2022 brochure for details)

JUNE

Tree Planting Ceremony

FRIDAY

3rd June 2022

11am

PLANT A TREE FOR THE JUBILEE

There will be a tree planting ceremony in the garden to mark the occasion of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on **Friday 3rd June 2022**. This will take place at 11am and will be confirmed in the next Newsletter.

We would like the involvement of you, the Friends of the Nelson Garden. The committee have discussed the site and decided on the area near the Mulberry tree, behind the 1802 bed. This is currently a herb bed. A suitable tree for our historic site might be a plum, almond, cherry, crab-apple or rowan. Amongst the committee there was a strong liking for a Mountain Ash (Rowan) as this has spring blossom, fiery autumn foliage and berries which are attractive and liked by birds. The suitability of a Rowan was checked with our historic garden advisor, Elisabeth Whittle, who thought it a suitable choice.

PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK. Call me 01291 637407 or email ngpt1802@yahoo.co.uk (before 14 Feb). *Ed.*

Registered Charity No. 1177651

THE NELSON GARDEN MONMOUTH



FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER NO.28 WINTER 2022

Dear Friends,

We held our 9th Annual General Meeting in November 2021 at The Bridges Centre. There were only fourteen attendees but I am pleased to report that we managed to raise a committee of six to take us forward into the next year. The committee said goodbye to long standing member Helen Bosanquet, but said welcome to two new members, Andrew Bailey and Louis Roeder. I remain as Chairman, Barbara Atkins as Treasurer and Mike Yardley as Garden Volunteer coordinator. Victoria Jenkins and Sue Miles serve as general members along with Andrew and Louis. We have an exciting year ahead of us as things ease and re-open. We also have some lovely spring and early summer events to look forward to. Please join us soon.

Susan Amos Chairman

A GENTLEMAN'S 1802 GARDEN

In the summer of 1802, Lord Nelson, Sir William Hamilton and his wife Emma visited Monmouth twice. When they left Monmouth the first time, towards the end of July, they were heading for Milford Haven. On the return journey the party came back to Monmouth and it was on this occasion (18th & 19th August) that they visited the garden. They left Monmouth to head north to visit Hereford, Ludlow, Worcester and Birmingham. Here they visited Soho House, the home of the great industrialist and manufacturer Matthew Boulton. The garden of Soho House had been recently laid out. Boulton was meticulous at keeping accounts of his purchases, and these show much had been ordered from the catalogue of the Birmingham nursery firm *Brunton & Forbes*. The company provided planting instructions with the bills giving directions as to their best situation, front middle or back of border. There are some interesting and perhaps surprising choices which Boulton made: In 1788 200 evergreen and flowering

shrubs had cost him £2/10s/0d. He also spent 7s/6d for just one expensive novelty, *Rhododendron ponticum*, a plant which we would now consider an invasive weed!

Clematis, honeysuckle, stag's horn sumach, red maple, jasmine, golden rod, Jerusalem sage, mourning widow cranesbill and lungwort are all there, along with lilacs, broom, foxgloves and Solomon's seal.

In 1795 Boulton wanted to '*plant some of the most handsome single trees*' in the principal entrance to the garden (he mostly insisted people came in the back door to avoid disturbing his gravel drive). Here an Indian bean tree (*Catalpa bignonioides*) and a mountain ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*) were planted.

It is merely speculation, but Nelson may have taken ideas for his own garden-in-the-making at Merton when he visited Soho House in August 1802. Matthew Boulton himself was unwell but Nelson sat at his bedside. Boulton died in 1809, having had some involvement in Nelson's funeral in 1806.



FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

As a valued Friend of the Nelson Garden we hope that you will renew your subscription at the end of March. The Treasurer will send out reminders. Subscription remains the same £10 individual member and £18 for two.

ADVANTAGES FOR MEMBERS

Invitation to events

Discount rate on private hire of the garden
Quarterly Newsletter to your email or by post
if required

Great satisfaction at knowing you are helping
to preserve part of Monmouth's heritage



CONTACT DETAILS:

01291 637407

www.nelsongarden.org.uk