

## EVENTS CALENDAR

Saturday 20 February 2016 10am—12noon

### COFFEE -CAKES -CHUTNEYS- WILLOW



Coffee morning and craft session making decorative plant stakes at **Monmouth Priory.**

Instruction and materials will be provided. Participants will be able to make a plant support for the Nelson Garden and/or one to take

home- (take-home cost £7.50 for Friends of the Nelson Garden- £8 for others)

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN SECATEURS & GARDENING GLOVES!

Sunday 13 March 2016 2.30pm - 4.30pm

### CAPTAIN JAMES COOK

#### MASTER MARINER & EXPLORER

An illustrated talk by Christopher Flower at **Monmouth Priory** followed by Afternoon Tea. £7.50 (including afternoon tea).



Telephone to book tickets **01600 716202**

## SEASONAL SENSATIONS ...

As in most gardens this season snowdrops, hellebores, aconites, primroses and the first daffodils are all showing their faces at once!

### FROM THE GARDENERS

The Christmas meal at The King's Head, Monmouth at 12.30pm on Thursday 12th December was a great success. The gardeners enjoyed a very convivial afternoon in a private room and all agreed the food was both reasonably priced and tasty. There was some jollity at the sight of grilled salmon served with batter puddings and sprouts but we took it in our stride! Many thanks to Penny Thomas for providing a big dish of stuffing to accompany the Turkey dinner as there was a national shortage in supply...or so we were told.

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We are delighted to announce that a brass plaque celebrating the work of Sheila Thorneycroft has now been fitted to one of the garden bench seats.

The plaque had been for some time in the care of Charles Smart and had been given to John Thorneycroft to bring before the Nelson Garden Trust Committee meeting in January. All those present agreed to the installation of this mark of respect and thanks. Grahame Thomas kindly offered to choose the best of the wooden benches and fix the plaque. *Article in next issue Spring 2016*

### CONTACT FOR GARDENERS

Susan 01291 637407 or Penny 01600 715507

## THE NELSON GARDEN MONMOUTH



### NEWSLETTER NO.5 WINTER 2016

Dear Friends,

It's so cheering to see the succession of flowers coming out after this particularly dreary, wet winter - aconites, snowdrops, crocuses and even primroses and daffodils; there will certainly be plenty of the latter in flower for St David's day on March 1st.

The Nelson Garden committee has been busy organising a full programme of events to look forward to in the spring, details of which are in the newsletter. And some have been improving the shining hour by making produce, such as marmalade, to sell at the forthcoming coffee morning. It's always very much appreciated however you choose to support the Nelson Garden, and I think it's true to say that there's a real feeling of it going from strength to strength at the moment.

**Helen Bosanquet** *Chairman NGPT*

*'Friends' renewal forms will be sent out in March*

*The Nelson Garden Preservation Trust*

## Nelson at Plough House



On 8<sup>th</sup> January 2016 Friends of the Nelson Garden were invited to Plough House in Chepstow, the home of Susan and Andrew Amos to mark Nelson's State Funeral on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1806. We were

treated royally to warming toddy in front of the fire of Nelson's Blood from Burnham Thorpe (his birth-place). We then viewed a fascinating exhibition of collages of Nelson's life with paintings, verse, statues and landscape made over two years by Susan Amos for an

exhibition which toured Kent in 2005. These were so spectacular we felt they deserved a further showing at the Nelson Museum in Monmouth. After tea of prawn boats, sail sandwiches, chocolate profiterole cannonballs, and Lady Hamilton's fancies, we were

entertained to a slide show of unique coloured magic lantern slides of the two day progress of Nelson's funeral from the

painted hall in Greenwich along the Thames by barge, and then by carriage to St. Paul's Cathedral. The whole afternoon was an extremely interesting and enjoyable occasion.

**Helena Gerrish** *Vice Chairman*



## BOOK REVIEW



### Homes for Welsh Workers from Robert Owen to "The Garden City Movement"

with a Gazetteer of planned communities in Wales 1800 to 1939.

by **Stephen Kay** with a foreword by Jan Morris. 325Press Abergavenny 2014. £10.00p

A marvellous little book for anyone interested in architecture, the built landscape, social history, gardens and local history. Monmouthshire is well represented with chapters on The "Garden City Movement" in Wales and short biographies of the key people involved.

Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow, Portskewett, Sudbrook and Trewen are all included. Interesting little snippets are scattered throughout the text—like the fact that Chepstow's Hardwick Village begun in 1915 for shipyard workers was designed by Curtis Green who later gave us London's Dorchester hotel.

Henry Avray Tipping, an editor of *Country Life* and who (as we all know) came to settle in Monmouthshire is given a short biographical entry. He served for some time as a director of the Welsh Town Planning and Housing Trust - giving "aesthetic advice" to the Wyndham Park and Bulwark, Chepstow housing projects.

**Susan Amos** *Editor*

## NAVAL MEDALLION BIOGRAPHIES



**Samuel Hood (1724—1816)**

Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, Viscount Hood GCB was born on 12th December 1724 at Butleigh, Somerset. The Hoods form one of the major naval dynasties of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries but tend to be very confusing as a family as there are many Samuels and Alexanders who were all naval officers. Eventually their title Bridport passed to a cousin who married Nelson's niece, Charlotte.

This particular Hood died on 27th January 1816 while staying at Bath. He died aged ninety-one and was still serving as Governor of Greenwich Hospital, a post he had held since 1796. He is buried at Greenwich but has a monument at Butleigh, Somerset.

Viscount Hood served through four wars between 1741 and 1795. In 1793 at the outbreak of the French Revolutionary Wars he was C-in-C Mediterranean fleet with Nelson as one of his captains. According to Nelson he was "...the greatest sea-officer I ever knew." He is remembered for the evacuation of Toulon when the defences were overrun. His lack of success here did not prevent him being given a viscountcy and made GCB in 1815. **Susan Amos** *Editor*