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Newsletter

End of Season - Autumn 2023



Join us on Facebook



Sue Lambert

Dear friends and Supporters

As our opening season draws to a close, I am delighted to tell you that we are able to donate the wonderful sum of 19 000 euros to our chosen charities as indicated below:

À Chacun son Everest - 3 500 €
Quelques Choses en Plus - 3 500 €

À Bras Ouverts - 2 500
Reseau Bulle - 2 500 €
Le Rire Médecin - 2 500 €
Sourire à la Vie - 2 500 €
Actions Autisme Asperger - 2 000 €

This now brings the total given to charities since our inception to an amazing sum of 154 550 euros. None of this would be possible without our generous garden openers, fundraisers, donators, sponsors, members, garden visitors and conseil; and we thank you all for your continued support in so many different ways.

2023 has been a time of change for the association, as is reflected in many walks of life throughout the world. Richard and Ronnie Ogier have retired and therefore stood down from the many roles they have held within Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts. The association would like to thank them most sincerely for their many years of hard work on our behalf. They have indicated they will remain members, so I have no doubt you may bump into them from time to time!

I, Sue Lambert, am delighted to have been co-opted as the new Interim President of the association and to be able to introduce to you two new members of the conseil. Sandra Johnson joins us as Minutes Secretary and Social Media contact; and Ony Bright, one of our coordinators based in Charente-Maritime, has offered to compile our newsletters.

We also welcome John Pullen, who joins us in helping Ian Cole with the running of the website.

Since the introduction of Zoom to our conseil meetings we have been able to welcome new people from further afield. If you have particular skills you feel may be of help to us, please get in touch.



Front row left to right: Sheila Cole, Sandra Johnson, Ony Bright, Sue Lambert.
Back row, left to right: Nick Sutton, Ian Cole, Mick Lambert

In order to remain fresh as an association, we are constantly seeking new people willing to open on our behalf. We are better able to support new openers if they have a local coordinator. If you have good organisational skills, enjoy seeking out new gardens and feel you can offer support to a small group of garden openers, please contact me as below. Not all of our coordinators have a garden they open themselves, so don't let that hold you back in volunteering your help.

I am also pleased to be able to inform you that our current

sponsors/partners Leggetts International Immobilier, Blevins Franks Wealth Management and the journal Connexion, have all indicated their continued support to us in the coming year.

Mick Moat, the founder of our association, first opened his garden with some friends in the summer of 2013 and due to their success, Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts was officially registered in 2014. This means that in 2024, we are celebrating our official 10th birthday. We encourage you to join in the fun!

As garden openers, we are very much aware of the physical and mental health benefits to be gained from gardening and we try to share this message with others. In these particularly difficult times for many people across the world, we encourage more use of our gardens as a means of relaxing, maybe by getting together with old friends; and potentially forming new acquaintances.

For those of you that have opened in the past but haven't been able to recently, I would be delighted if you could consider hosting an open day for us next year.

May I ask anyone registered with us to check their garden page text and photos and consider updating information if required. Please remember the sooner your chosen open date is put on the website, the earlier we can use our media contacts to advertise your opening. Most written publications have a lead-in time of 3 months in advance. This will help us to help you generate more visitors and allow visitors to plan trips to see your garden, if they live further afield.

For those of you who are unable to help us with a conventional open day, maybe you and your friends could consider joining in the celebrations by holding a coffee morning, a seed swap, a gardening technique demonstration, a yoga or pilates session, a walk or bike ride followed by a simple lunch in your garden, or even carols around a Christmas tree followed by mince pies and hot chocolate! Once you get thinking, I am sure you will have your own ideas. If you could consider asking people for a donation for their refreshments to be donated to Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts, you will all have had fun in your garden and the disabled and seriously ill children and young people we support across France, will have benefited from your visitors' generosity.

For my part, I will open my garden, but I will also be planting a tree in honour of our birthday year.

I hope to be around to show you a photo of what it looks like in another 10 years time! Maybe you could consider something similar?

Please share with us any ideas of your own; and don't forget to ask us if you would like some of our trifold leaflets to explain the work of the association to your visitors and maybe encourage them to help us in the future too. Keep up to date with what's happening throughout the year by checking the website and following us on Facebook.

Let's see if between us, we can make 2024 a bumper year!

Sue Lambert

Interim President.

email: president@opengardens.eu

or email: gardendevlopment@opengardens.eu.

*Address for all correspondence of the association should be sent to;
16 Valaize, 23150, Saint-Pardoux-les-Cards.*

Some Autumn Colour



From the Open Gardens webmaster.

In my pursuit of keeping the content of our website up to date, I am searching for photos of people visiting Open Gardens' gardens.

I would also like some views and opinions to put on the website from garden openers, people who help at openings/events or from people who visit Open Gardens' gardens. I envisage these would include what

it is like to be contributing to the aid of seriously ill children as well as

the hands on experience.

Please send your photos etc to webmaster@opengardens.eu

Something to put in your diary

Discover the Magic of Snowdrops : Be part of something special! Join us for a Unique Charity Garden Opening at the Glorious Galanthus Gala supporting seriously ill and disabled young people. Experience the extraordinary! An event like no other in France!

Research has led us to believe that we are the only garden exhibiting snowdrops to the public.

If you can't come to us thus perhaps we can come to your gardening group to give a presentation on snowdrops. Contact

ian.cole@snowdrops87.com

Glorious Galanthus Gala

7 La Poste, Arnac la Poste,
87160



Blooming Hope for Sick and Disabled
Children and Young People



Entrance: 5€ Donation
Rare Snowdrops on sale
Refreshments available



For more information visit snowdrop87.com
or email ian.cole@snowdrops87.com

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Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts

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