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November 2024



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President's message

As our 10th Anniversary season comes to a close, I am delighted to be able to tell you that Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts is now in a position to donate the amazing sum of 22 000 euros to our beneficiaries this year.

Whatever part you played in this whether as a garden opener, a garden visitor, a coordinator, a conseil member, a sponsor, a volunteer, a cake maker, a plant grower or a journalist, we could not have done this without you. Thank you all so much for helping our children and young adults again this year

As France hosted and celebrated both the Olympics and Paralympics this year, the conseil felt it would be good to join in with the celebrations too, by donating to a children's charity that specifically helps children with special needs get involved in sporting activities.

We had also asked you to let us know if you knew of any specific children's charities that met our criteria, that you felt worthy of support. You will see below that we have given continued support to some of our longer standing charities, but have been in the fortunate position of being able to give to some new ones too. Do take a look at their websites to see what they do; and don't forget to request a charity for consideration next year if you know of a just cause.

- *A Chacun son Everest*.....3 500€
- *Sourire à la Vie* 3 000€
- *Quelque chose en plus*2 500€
- *Le Rire Médecin*2 500€
- *Réseau Bulle 23*2 500€
- *A Bras Ouverts*2 500€
- *AFS Costello et CFC*2 000€
- *Actions pour l'Autisme Asperger ...*1 000€
- *Les Enfants du Jardin*1 000€
- *Association Violet*1 000€
- *Les Enfants de la Balle*500€



Sue Lambert

President.

president@opengardens.eu

Give us a try

A little over eleven years ago I met Mick Moat, who shared his dream of taking Open Gardens/ Jardins Ouverts to the level of success to that of the National Garden Scheme in the UK. A few months later I was invited to join the conseil.

At the first meeting I remember clearly that I had doubts about having the necessary skills.



Now as OG/JO draws to the close of its 10th anniversary of being an association, I can say with certainty that I still don't have the skills needed for a designated role within the conseil but I am considered a valuable member.

Why? For continuing to serve with enthusiasm, offering support for others, suggesting clear opinions and options and respecting the points of view of others. I also assist by helping where I can.

The conseil meets 9.30 to 12 every second Friday of the month at the Mairie at St Maurice la Souterraine, 23300. There are zoom facilities if you live too far away. English is spoken. How much you offer is, as Mick said to me all those years ago, is entirely up to you. Come and surprise yourself at how much you do have to offer, in any capacity.

We're inviting people to try out our small friendly team to maintain our goals of giving pleasure to our visitors, our garden openers and most importantly to the

children of the charities that we donate to.

Curious? Intrigued? Interested? In the first instance please contact Sue

Lambert president@opengardens.eu

Sheila Cole

Try our simple gardening Quiz

Can you answer this simple question?

What is the purpose of deadheading flowers?

- a) To encourage more blooms
- b) To protect the plant from pests
- c) To improve soil quality

Like to try some more questions. Press the button to go to our very easy gardening quiz. Sorry no prizes or glory!

[Go to Quiz](#)

Spotlight on Quelque chose en Plus

Quelque chose en Plus, is a charity dedicated to improving the lives of children and young adults with special needs. Their programs focus on providing tailored activities, therapy, and support for families, including residential facilities for 15 young people with polyhandicap aged from 5 to 20 years.

Thanks to the generosity of our garden visitors and supporters,

Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts has contributed **€17,500** to date. This amount will continue to grow with this year's donations, helping Quelquechose en Plus to expand their services and support even more families in need.



Price rise for season 2025

We have decided to raise the price of our Membership from €15 to €20, starting from the season commencing March 2025. This adjustment reflects the rising costs of organizing our events and allows us to continue supporting our wonderful children's charities effectively. Many of you choose Membership not only for unlimited access to our garden openings but also as a way to show your ongoing commitment to these causes.

The Day Pass will remain at €5 for the foreseeable future.

Please note that Special Events may have different entry criteria, which will always be indicated on individual garden pages and in our promotional

Birthday celebrations – other events.

Some of you may recall me mentioning we were dedicating the weekend of the 21st and 22nd September to encouraging people to use their garden in different ways to help raise a little extra money for our charities. I changed my mind completely and held a Plant Swap! Many of our regular visitors had fun coming to our garden and me not selling plants for a change, but swapping them! Thank you to all who contributed their plants for free. Most people went away clutching something new! We served refreshments as usual (which we did charge for), but nobody minded and all knew it was for a good cause.

Dominique and Marie-Odile Birault, long time supporters of our association, weren't available that weekend, but kindly opened their garden in Yzeures sur Creuse for the second time this year on Friday October 4th to members of SHOT (Société d'horticulture de Touraine) and also a group of walkers from their local town. They were apparently all delighted and are looking forward to visiting them again in 2025. Two couples are even considering opening themselves next year too. How exciting! Thank you to all of you who have held other events this year over and above our normal garden openings. Your help has been invaluable.



New Partner Garden 2024 – Jardin Lacore

In 2018 I received an email from someone asking if I would come and view his garden at La Core, 23260 to see if I thought it suitable for opening, but would I come when he had finished cutting his hedges. Alain Gribet showed Mick and I his garden (which was beautiful and fascinating within its own right); but imagine our surprise to see “his hedges” were actually a labyrinth with a stone viewing tower. Dotted around the garden were also displayed Alain's other passion, works of art that he had created in mosaic glass enamel. Alain had been a veterinaire and had spent the previous 35 years working on this amazing garden in his “free time!” Now retired, work continues, and new sculptures are added, but his garden has now been awarded the status of Jardin Remarquable.

Jardin Lacore is now open to the public by appointment to small groups of visitors between May and November; but Alain told me he would not forget us and our charities and will continue to open once a year solely on our behalf. We are delighted to welcome this garden as one of our Partner Gardens.



Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts

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