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April 2025



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Many hands make light work!

Dear supporters,

Along with many associations in France, Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts is run from top to bottom by volunteers. As we have now been in existence for 11 years, with several of our garden openers, coordinators or conseil members having been with us from the beginning, we are actively encouraging new people to step forward to take on some of our key positions. Currently we are seeking a new Website manager; and within the next 18 months we will be looking for a new Membership manager, then Treasurer. Coordinators, who help by looking for new garden openers and then supporting them once they have joined us, are always welcomed with open arms because a garden opener with the right support is more liable to open again the following year. Our coordinator for Ahun in the Creuse has recently retired and we are looking for a fluent French speaker to support his lovely group. Conseil members not only lead the day to day running of the association, but will often be found working at Plant Shows, running Special Events, opening their garden; or even baking delicious cakes! If you want to know more about any of these roles, please don't hesitate to contact me and I will explain what is involved. In the meantime, our first gardens will be open from 11th May. Please support all of us by visiting them and enjoying a wonderful day out, whilst knowing you are helping towards making 2025 another successful year.



Sue Lambert

President.

president@opengardens.eu

Exciting News from Open Gardens / Jardins Ouverts!

We're thrilled to unveil our **brand-new leaflets and posters!** Bursting with color and now fully bilingual, they make Open Gardens more inviting than ever. But that's not all! We've also **redesigned our paperwork** for garden openers, making it clearer, simpler, and more user-friendly. Our **annual membership** has been refreshed too, ensuring a smoother experience for all our valued members. Plus, these updates have been carefully designed to **reduce printing costs**, helping us direct more funds toward the wonderful charities we support. This fresh new look and improved organization are all about making participation easier, more enjoyable, and more rewarding.



Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts & Leggett Immobilier: A Partnership That's Blooming Beautifully

For over a decade, Leggett Immobilier has proudly supported Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts, and have been delighted to help raise over €176,000 so far. Last year, the Leggett Family went a step further by opening their gardens to help raise funds for our charity. Their personal involvement reflects a shared passion for community, the outdoors, and giving back. Joanna Leggett, a

dedicated gardener with a wealth of plant knowledge and a creative flair for design, brought something truly special to the day.'

The Leggett Family welcomed over 160 guests to their gardens in the Charente – and what a day it was! With sunshine, laughter, guided tours, homemade treats, and a variety of local artisan stalls, it became a heartwarming celebration of generosity, community spirit, and the joy of being in nature.

Visitors wandered through not just one but two spectacular gardens, taking in the colourful planting schemes, peaceful lakes, and even hopping on buggy rides to explore the full expanse of the grounds. Trevor Leggett led tours through his beautifully maintained landscape, while Joanna shared her extensive plant knowledge and tips for gardening in the warm, dry climate of south-west France – offering plenty of inspiration to fellow garden enthusiasts.

There was something for everyone: from honey and homemade soaps to recycled art, potted plants, and even a mini beach! And most importantly, an excellent amount was raised for Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts - making it a wonderful contribution to our charity.

The Leggett Family will be opening their gardens again this year on separate dates, Saturday 14th June and Sunday 29th June and they hope to inspire others to join in too. "I was a bit nervous on the day, wondering if anybody would turn up," Joanna says, "and the next minute it was the end of the day and I'd shown so many lovely people around the garden, chatting about my favourite subject – plants!" It's a day that brought together like-minded people, plenty of laughter, and a shared love for nature. Joanna describes it as one of the highlights of her summer and warmly encourages anyone with a passion for gardening to consider getting involved – no matter the size or style of their space.

Don't worry if your garden isn't the next Versailles – it just needs to be welcoming, colourful, and interesting. And if opening your garden feels like too much, you can still support the cause with a visit: a day pass costs just €5, or €20 for an annual pass giving access to dozens of gardens across the country.

So, are you proud of your garden? Why not join the Leggett Family and our growing community of Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts supporters and help raise money for a truly meaningful cause. Because every bloom, every visit, and every slice of cake makes a difference.

Take a peek into Joanna's magical garden on YouTube [here](#)



Membership is now available on-line

Buy now

Here are some dates for your diary:

03 Allier

03310 Durdar Larequille - 1st June, - *one of two gardens opening together in this area.*

03310 Les Triers, Neris-les-Bains - 1st June, - *one of two gardens opening together in this area today. Please check website for further information as their opening times vary.*

09 Ariège

09500 Mirepoix - 31st May and 1st June.

12 Aveyron

12200 Le Bas Segala - 25th May.

12270 Villevayre, Najac - 1st June.

16 Charente

16320 Fontmorte, Rougnac – 14th June – **please note:** *this is a Saturday opening.*

16190 Courgeac - 6 July. ***New for 2025.***

16390 Labreuille, Montignac-le-Coq – **Something for Membership Card holders** - 22 June, 27 July, and 24th August.

23 La Creuse.

23600 Montmoulard, Boussac-Bourg - 15th June.

23150 Valaize, Saint-Pardoux-les-Cards - 6th July, *three gardens opening together in this hamlet.*

23160 Villejoint, Crozant. - 20th July. **Special Event**, Afternoon Tea at one of our Partner gardens, the Arboretum de la Sedelle – **Please note:** *pre-booking required, please email suelambert.opengardens@gmail.com*

23240 Besseresse, Saint-Priest-la-Plaine. 7th September.

23260 La Core, Saint-Pardoux-les-Arnet 28th September. **Please note:** *This is one of our Partner Gardens and there will also be a Photo exhibition “Panorama of the Creuse” of work by J L Allègre. (30 photos of 2.50m x 1m).*

24 Dordogne

24350 Subrenat, Douchapt. 1st June. **New for 2025.** *One of two gardens opening together.*

24350 Le Bollot, Douchapt. 1st June. **New for 2025.** *One of two gardens opening together.*

24320 Champagne-et-Fontaine - 29th June.

29 Finistère

29450 Sizun, 24th May, 25th April.

37 Indre-et-Loire.

37290 Yzeures-sur-Creuse - 28th and 29th June.

45 Loiret.

45190 Beaugency - 29th June. **New for 2025.**

47 Lot-et-Garonne

47600 Badie, Moncrabeau - 18th May **New for 2025**

47800 Montignac de Lauzun - **Saturday** 13th September. **New for 2025**

53 Mayenne

53110 Niort la Fontaine, Lassay-les-Châteaux - 25th May. *Two gardens opening together today. Please check website for further information as their opening times vary.*

53190 La Dorée - 28th and 29th June.

53110 Lassay-les-Châteaux - 15th June and 14th September

53340 Epineux-le-Seguin - 25th May, 22th June, 20th July

65 Hautes-Pyrénées

65330 Montastruc - 6th July

86 Vienne

86250 Peussicot, Genouille - 11th and 18th May.

87 Haute-Vienne

87600 Saint-Gervais, Videix x 2 - 11th May - *New for 2025, two neighbours opening together.*

87430 Verneuil-sur-Vienne 8th June

11 Aude

Private opening in support of our association – 13 gardens opening together in 11250 Montclar on Sunday 11th May 10h00 to 17h00 will donate their entrance fee to Open Garden/Jardins Ouverts.

Please note: these gardens are not visible on our website.

People continue to add dates as the season progresses, so keep checking the website for up to date information

Come and Meet us At -

Journée des Plantes

Arboretum de la Sédelle

2 Villejoint, 23160 Crozant

10th and 11th May 10h00 - 18h00



Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts

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