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opengardens.eu/bibliotheque-de-bulletins/



February 2025



Presidents Message

Dear friends,

After a very wet winter, February has suddenly crept up and taken me by surprise.

This year in my garden, flowers seem a little behind their normal flowering times, but I am delighted some of my dahlias seem to have survived the hungry voles. After a successful opening season last year when we were able to donate 22,000 euros to 11 charities, we hope our garden openers will join us again in welcoming new visitors in 2025. Our beneficiaries were all delighted with their donation and have written to thank us. Rest assured in all cases your money will definitely be put to good use.

As garden openers gradually add their opening dates to the website, don't forget to check from time to time to see what is happening near you. We will add opening dates to our newsletters and all opening dates are advertised on Facebook and Instagram 14 days before they open, so if you use social media, don't forget to "Like" and "Follow" us. Please help us by sharing our posts with your own friends, acquaintances and any gardening groups you may follow. We will also feature any events we are holding or plant shows we are attending on our 'Events Page' on the website, so don't forget to add dates to your diary. Our Membership card can either be purchased at the first garden you visit, or direct from our website.

I look forward to seeing some of you at an event, plant show or garden opening soon.

Sue Lambert
President
president@opengardens.eu



Membership is now available on-line

Buy now

A reminder for our Members

You should all have received an e-mail notifying you of our AGM on 21st February.

If you are able to come please let me know, you will be most welcome. Should this not be possible, you can appoint another attending member (including me) to represent you and place your votes. I encourage you to do this, so that as many of our members as possible are included in the process.

Just complete and return the 'Power of Representation' form that was included in the above email, to reach me by 16th February.

If you purchased a membership on 16th June last year whilst visiting a garden at 16120 St.Romain please email me, as I have not been able to contact you.

Mick Lambert - Treasurer
finance@opengardens.eu

New Supported Charities

At the close of Open Gardens 10th Season, it was decided to increase the number of charities supported to 10 to reflect and celebrate the number of years that we have existed as an association.

One of those charities is ***Association Française des Syndromes de Costello et Cardio-Facio-Cutané*** (AFS Costello & CFC).

We have supported this association previously and after a gap of several years have decided to support them again.

Established in 2000, AFS Costello & CFC is dedicated to assisting individuals affected by the rare Costello and the Cardio-Facio-Cutané (CFC) syndromes, along with their families.

The association's objectives include:

- Providing support to affected individuals and their families.
- Promoting and supporting ongoing research through information dissemination and networking.
- Informing parents, medical and educational professionals, institutional partners, local authorities and the public about these syndromes.
- Facilitating meetings among parents to share experiences and support.

Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts contributed €2,000 to this worthy cause in 2024

A Passion for Tomatoes

Gardening isn't just about flowers and shrubs, vegetables can be just as captivating. For me, it's all about tomatoes. Their incredible taste is only part of the appeal; they also come in a stunning array of colours beyond the usual supermarket reds—white, yellow, green, purple, even striped and speckled varieties!

My obsession began with a packet of 'Apricot Brandywine' seeds, producing large, apricot-colored tomatoes with an unforgettable burst of flavor.

Once my wife and I settled in France, she pursued her love of snowdrops while I indulged in tomatoes, growing up to 50 varieties in a season.

I even hosted a tomato-tasting event for Mick Moat, Open Gardens' founder, pairing different varieties with unexpected foods—try it yourself, you'll be surprised!

Flavors vary dramatically depending on where they're grown—what the French might call 'terroir'—and growing conditions matter. While tomatoes love warmth, too much heat can stress them, and though watering is essential, in parts of Italy, it's avoided to concentrate flavor. They're real 'Goldilocks' plants—needing conditions just right.

So next time you think of tomatoes, imagine more than just red. There's a whole world of flavors and colors waiting to be discovered!

Ian Cole



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.*

23 La Creuse.

23600 Montmoulard, Boussac-Bourg - 15th June

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

23160 Villejoint, Crozant. - 20th July. **Special Event**, Afternoon Tea at the Arboretum de la Sedelle - pre-booking required.

37 Indre-et-Loire.

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

53 Mayenne

53190 La Dorée - 28th and 29th June

86 Vienne

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

87 Haute-Vienne

87600 Saint-Gervais - 11th May - **New for 2025.**

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

Come and meet us

Fête des plantes de Couzeix

13th April 2025 9hr - 18hr

87270 Couzeix

Journées de Plantes- Arboretum de la Sédelle

10th and 11th May 2025 10hr - 18hr

2 Villejoint, 23160 Crozant



Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts

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