



Garden Gossip

Week ending 14th August 2010

<p>Wednesday 11th August</p> <p>Volunteers: Ian H., Paul, Mary K., Mary B., Maggie, Pierre, Carol, Angela & Jayne</p> <p>Weather: Mainly sunny. Light, moderate north west wind. Maximum temperature 20°C.</p>	<p>Saturday, 14th August</p> <p>Volunteers: Mike, Ian, Tony and Linda, Michael, Mary K., Mary B., Maggie, Angela, Di, Suzie, Claire, Pierre, Paul, Ivan, (2 guys C.S.)</p> <p>Weather: Overcast with steady rain all morning! Light northerly wind. Maximum temperature 15° C.</p>
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Dear Volunteer Gardeners,

At the recent GBT trustees meeting everyone commented on the new look Garden Gossip and said what a great improvement in design and content. They also liked the contributions from the various VG's. Well done Mary, Ian, Pierre, Maggie and Mike.

The trustees also commented on how good the garden is looking (this is recorded in the minutes).

Thank you and, congratulations on your outstanding achievements.

Raymond Evison



News from around the garden

BUILDINGS



Lemon house - The gable of the greenhouse is now complete, ready for glazing.

Paths - Stones have been gathered to enable more paths to be completed. Please note, stones can only be collected from our shores by permit issued by Environment Services, States of Guernsey Environment Department

Head Gardener's Office - Work has started on plastering a box fillet around the doors and windows using a traditional lime mix. The work is being done by a professional plasterer on Community Service.

GENERAL

Wednesday - Mike & Roger showed VIPs around, then later Raymond showed distinguished businessmen around. Frances and Terry, joined later by Gill, Ray (our 'mainland' volunteer gardeners,) and Gill's dad, came again to enjoy the garden in the afternoon sunshine. Frances continued to trim the runner beans. Thanks to Frances and Gill for helping in the garden during their holiday here.

Saturday - Frances and Terry visited in the rain to say goodbye. It's always good to see our friends from over the water and we look forward to see them all next year.

At 12:30 p.m. a purple hairstreak butterfly was spotted, through binoculars, in the deciduous oak that stands between the south wall of our garden and the Rose Garden. It was seen from the old tennis court area. This small butterfly is under-recorded in Guernsey –as it spends its life in the tree canopy and only rarely ventures down to our level. I would say this particular Purple Hairstreak was a female.

Ian Hall

BRASSICAS



Planted out the last of the 'Unrivalled' lettuce seedlings on Wednesday and did more tidying of the patch removing dead leaves and most of the Kohl Rabi, as they are beginning to rot. Apart from harvesting a few cauliflowers for the shop, there was no action on the patch on Saturday because of the very wet weather.

Mary Knight

ROOTS

Wednesday - Hoed down weeds.

Friday - Continued to harvest carrots. Able to select a few parsnips from rows 2 & 3 (Lisbonais) for sale on Saturday. One of the roots from row 2 had rotted; remainder look sound.



Saturday - rained off.

Pierre Le Floch

SHOP



Despite the dismal weather and a lot fewer customers we made a total of £51.80.

As usual jams were the most popular item and thanks to a steady supply from various volunteers, we should have plenty for future weeks.

We had our first picking of runner beans this week, and they sold very quickly with orders for more. With all this rain and some warm sunshine we should be in for a bumper crop to sell.

Thanks to all who help to make the shop a success'. 'Jam makers and **jam pots urgently required**'

Linda Priaux

RECIPES

I have copied 37 Victorian preserve recipes for distribution. Anyone that wants a copy, printed or electronic please ask. (mdcarteret@gmail.com)

Mike de Carteret

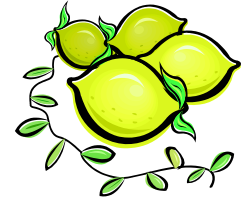
EVENTS

Lemon Aid – 25 September

12:00 Official Opening of Lemon House – Invited guests only.

14:00 : The garden opens to Lemon Aid. Proposed stalls:-

- ✦ Lemon Cookbook - recipes donated by island chefs and cooks
- ✦ Lemonade – fresh lemonade prepared by Salvatore
- ✦ Lemon and citrus chocolate provided by a local Chocolatier
- ✦ Produce – emphasis on lemon preserves.
- ✦ Books – gardening and cookery books
- ✦ Sale of citrus plants at a bargain price.



There will also be children's activities courtesy of Wendy Hockey.

14:15: Guides presenting GBT with 3 Versailles planters of lemon trees.



INTERESTING FACTS

Clematis

CLIMBING shrubs, when properly used, are great helps in a mixed garden, and I often wonder that they are not more used, but they really are very seldom seen, except when trained to walls. But, in speaking of climbing plants, I do not mean such as are trained and nailed to walls, but such as are allowed to climb more or less by their own unassisted powers over arches, poles, or some other support; and I mean to speak of hardy perennial climbers only, and so exclude annual and tender plants, though there are many such that are very beautiful and useful.

First and chief among such climbers comes the clematis. The name originally meant merely a branch of a vine, but afterwards was extended as a name for almost all climbing plants. Pliny included several such under the name; Gerard says that clematis is 'a certain generic name to all woody winding plants, having certain affinitie because of the spreading branching and semblance of the vine'; and Parkinson has a chapter headed, 'Clematis, Clamberers or Creepers,' and the chapter begins with the periwinkle and ends with the passion-flower. Of the true clematis we have one beautiful representative in the traveller's joy (*C. vitalba*), 'decking and adorning waies and hedges, where people travel, and thereupon I have named it traveller's joy,' says Gerard; and his name has clung to it, though it has not supplanted the older name of 'ladies' bower,' or 'virgin's bower,' the last name having been given to it in honour of Queen Elizabeth, though it has been claimed as one of the flowers dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and so the flower of August 15, the festival of the Assumption:

'When Mary left us here below, The Virgin's bower begins to blow'

In the late autumn it changes its name to 'old man's beard,' from the beautiful silky heads of seed which often cover the banks and hedges for many yards in length with wonderful grace and beauty, and which, if picked in good time, will keep in beauty all the winter. This lovely climber is found in almost all parts of Europe, from Holland to the south, and its popularity is shown by its having no less than two hundred different names in different European languages. In Great Britain it is found in almost every part of the south, and, though it seems to like the chalk best, it will grow anywhere, but it is not found truly wild in Scotland or Ireland. I must not, however, dwell longer on it, for it is a wild plant, and I have to speak of garden plants. I know of no family more useful in the garden of hardy plants than the climbing, shrubby forms of the clematis, for there are some herbaceous species of which I cannot speak now.

But of the climbing sorts there can be had plants of all colours—pure white, deep blue, pale yellow, purple, and so up to the brilliant scarlet of the *C. coccinea* from Texas. And they can be had at all seasons, for I have often gathered the trusses of the lovely white *C. Montana* from the Himalayas in March, while the South European *C. cirrhosa* will give its pale buff flowers in midwinter if the season is not severe. And in all of them the beauty is not confined to the flowers; the foliage of many is most delicate, and the seeds almost as beautiful as those of our own wild traveller's joy.

Canon Ellacombe "In a Gloucestershire Garden", 1895

Mike de Carteret



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18th & 19th August	West Show (please help Claire on her stand)
25th & 26th August	North Show (please help Claire on her stand)
24th September	Setting up tent for Lemon Aid
25th September	"Lemon Aid" (see above)

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