

# The Walled Garden

Newsletter of the Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden



## In this Issue

- Welcome
- Garden Design News
- Grange University Hospital build update
- Festive fun day for volunteers and members
- Halloween fund raiser winners
- Supporting us – become an Associate Member
- Spring raffle
- Charity funding news
- Happy Birthday Mary
- Contact us



## Counting down to 2021

Gardens can look a bit sparse at this time of year, but at Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden we have been busy planting up the beds in the northwest quadrant. This is part of our implementation of the garden design. There is much to do to clear and mark out the other quadrants by this spring so that we can start laying out their designs too. If you are interested in helping out, as a volunteer gardener or in an associated capacity, please read on for more details. Our contact details can be found on the back page.

We have also reached a new milestone as a registered charity. At the end of January we formally submitted our first set of annual accounts to The Charity Commission.

## Winter Diary

Trustees Meeting

20 January 2020

Events Planning Team

20 February 2020

## Garden Design News

*It is an exciting time as we start to implement our garden design plan in each quadrant. At long last, we have also begun planting up the flowerbeds in the Reflective quadrant.*

### Northwest Reflective Quadrant A



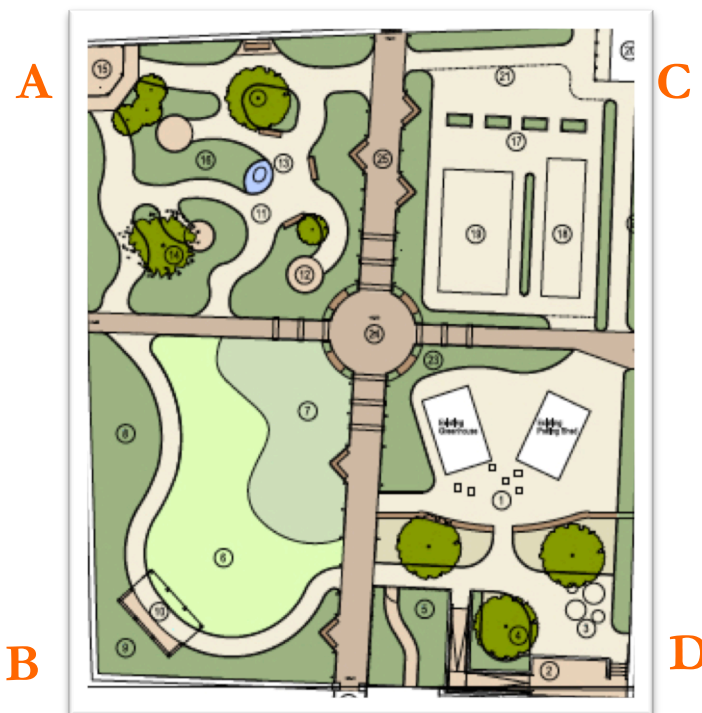
*First lavender hedge planted by volunteers.*

This area is designed to be a sensory garden so we have a soft pastel colour palette of blues, whites and pinks with scented shrubs and flowers. Wires have been installed against the west wall and a wisteria planted there along with some cistus and a lavender hedge. Lavender has also been used to edge the north wall and some of the interior beds. In the other beds we have planted a number of ornamental trees and perennials such as lavatera, viburnum, cornus, hydrangeas and camellias.

Keeping the beds neat and tidy is a small band of willing volunteers assigned to individual beds.



The paths in this quadrant have all been laid except for the final top dressing, which will go down after the paths have been allowed to settle. The short paths end in attractive brick paver areas to accommodate some seating.



*The landscape design overview (top = north wall)*

### Southwest Community Quadrant B

This quadrant is in the process of being completely cleared and leveled so that we can start to lay down the central lawn area and mark out paths and beds before the spring. We have had to make some small modifications to the design in order to maintain the proportions; as we keep finding out, the Walled Garden is not a perfect rectangle!





## Garden Design News

*The Productive and Social quadrants are taking shape including the Victorian cottage garden.*

### Northeast Productive Quadrant

There is more clearing and leveling activity going on in this quadrant. Many of the donated plants and cuttings are stored in this area but now we need to reclaim the space as we start to lay it out into a permanent growing site for fruit and vegetables.

In consultation with our regular gardening and landscape design volunteers, we propose positioning a new greenhouse against one of the walls instead of in the central area. This will give us a bigger growing area for produce. We also plan to try out the 'no dig' methodology advocated by Charles Dowding. For more information on this see: [charlesdowding.co.uk/no-dig-approach/](http://charlesdowding.co.uk/no-dig-approach/)

The future of the polytunnel is also being reviewed. It has proved invaluable for bringing on the plants we need for the design plan but we do not envisage needing to keep it for the long term and it is a little ugly!

### Southeast Social Quadrant **D**

Our volunteers have marked out, leveled and fenced the area that will become our little Victorian Cottage Garden. It will be filled with old-fashioned plants providing a colourful display in the corner of the Social Quadrant.

A false door, rescued from one of the old greenhouses, will disguise the power cables emerging through the wall and a red climbing rose, Danse de Feu, will adorn a trellis to its left. We were pleased that Terry Mills' family visited the day the rose was planted, as it was a great favourite of his.

Work continues on the rest of the quadrant to level areas for seating and to provide more flowerbeds and borders, a toddlers' play area, and somewhere to site our BBQ and maybe even a Pizza Oven!



Part of Charles Dowding's no dig garden in Somerset during June.

### Inspired to Join Us?

If this has inspired you to want to get involved, we are planning to organise Saturday working parties once a month right through spring and summer to help us realise our plans.

Please contact us at [info.lgh.garden@gmail.com](mailto:info.lgh.garden@gmail.com) for more information.



## Grange University Hospital Build

**Construction work on the Grange University Hospital remains on schedule to open in spring 2021.  
Here's the latest news from the Health Board's Clinical Futures Project Team.**

Construction on The Grange University Hospital is on schedule, the building is watertight and the internal fit-out will continue over the winter months.

Work on the external 'envelope' of the building – the cladding, canopies etc - has almost been completed; the external grounds have been formed and planting has commenced.



Exterior of GUH December 2019



Surgical Assessment Unit and one of the staff bays



Cardiology Treatment Unit and Ward A, Level 0

In addition the former Llanfrechfa Grange Hospital canteen/dining room (which was adjacent to the Walled Garden) has now been demolished to make way for the new HSDU – Hospital Sterilisation and Decontamination unit.

The site currently looks like this...



But will eventually look like this...





## Festive Fun Day for Volunteers and Members

*All enjoyed a thank you celebration event in December for our members and volunteers where we discovered some hidden talents.*

About thirty members and volunteers attended a special festive social gathering in December to say thank you for all their support but everyone contributed to make it come together. It was a heart-warming example of how the community spirit has bloomed in the garden alongside the flowers!

In the morning we had a Christmas wreath-making workshop using plant material from back gardens and hedgerows and facilitated by several of our volunteers. Our partners at Growing Space joined in with making festive table decorations. New skills were learnt and everyone managed to produce something beautiful and unique.



Lunch was made using produce from the garden and was accompanied by delicious home-baked bread and cakes also brought in by volunteers.



A picture quiz followed lunch with first prize inevitably being won by our younger members!

Well done all and thank you.

## Halloween Fund Raiser Winners

Due to the most atrocious weather, our planned Halloween Spooktacular activities at All Creatures Great and Small sadly had to be abandoned. We were very grateful therefore when Aneurin Bevan University Health Board came to the rescue by allowing us to set up a pop up stall in the foyer of their headquarters for one day.

Staff and visitors gamely took part in 'Guess the weight of the pumpkin' and 'How many spiders eggs (chocolate) are in the jar'? Claire Lipetz who guessed 10.2Kg won the pumpkin. The actual weight was 9.3 Kg. David Hanks, Head of Service Planning, who correctly guessed 46, won the sweets. We also sold a large quantity of jams and chutneys made by our volunteers with local produce. Thank you to everyone who supported us.



## Supporting Us - Become an Associate Member

Many people cannot support us by volunteering, due to time commitments, physical limitations or for other reasons, but if you have a little cash to spare, why not consider becoming an Associate Member? For the small sum of £4 annually, you will:

- Stay up to date with progress on the garden's development through receiving our quarterly newsletters straight to your in-box
- Have access to a Members only section of the website
- Receive personal invitations to special events, such as Open Days and social gatherings.
- Share benefits of Walled Garden affiliations such as Social Farms and Gardens.
- Be eligible to stand for election as a Trustee if you would like to get more involved.

As a charity, having members helps us by providing a small but regular income and also helps demonstrate what support we have when applying for grants.

If you are interested, please go to <https://llanfrechfawalledgarden.wordpress.com/supporting-us/> to download our membership application form.



If you are already a member, thank you and we would value your continued support in 2020. Please contact the Membership Secretary on [info.lgh.garden@gmail.com](mailto:info.lgh.garden@gmail.com) or see one of the Trustees in the Garden.

Diolch yn Fawr/Thank You

## Spring Raffle

Once again we will be participating in this year's Uskmouth Rotary Club Raffle. The Rotary Club organises the prizes (first prize last year was £500!), tickets and the gambling license and invites local charities to sell tickets at £1 each, with the total proceeds from the sale of tickets going to the Charity.

This will be the third year we have participated and last year we raised over £200 for the Garden! This year we are hoping to sell 150 tickets, on sale from February 6th until the end of April.

If you can help with selling a few tickets to family, friends and colleagues, please contact Membership Secretary Bobinca Wilson at [info.lgh.garden@gmail.com](mailto:info.lgh.garden@gmail.com). Thank you in anticipation!





## Charity Funding News

***This year (2020) will be our most expensive to date as we aim to complete most of the hard landscaping and permanent planting. We are really pleased to have received several grants and donations in the last few months.***



### Grants received

Croesyceliog and Llanyrafon Community Council and Ponthir Community Council have both supported us again this year with grants from their annual awards programme. Their monies will help fund a water feature in the Reflective Quadrant and a lawn in the Community Quadrant.

### Goods in Kind

We are grateful for the support of the building contractors for the Health Board's new HSDU that will be adjacent to the Walled Garden. They allowed us to gather useful items from the building before it was demolished. This included lovely stone slabs from the old patio, which we can use in our paths and seating areas. A dressed-stone wall was also taken down carefully by the contractors and will be put to good use somewhere in the garden; all a boost to our principle of using salvaged materials wherever possible.

### Donations

Mary Berrington, a long-standing member, has made a donation towards the refurbishment of several benches.

The Gwent Federation of Women's Institutes have donated £250 to mark their centenary in 2021. This will be used to fund fruit trees for the north and east walls. The Caerleon WI also chose the garden as their charity this year.

A substantial gift in memory of Terry Mills, one of our regular volunteers who passed away in 2018, has been received from his partner and family.

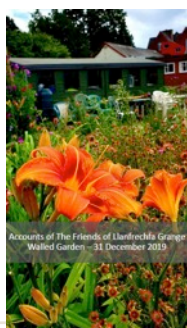
We would like to thank all these organisations and individuals for their support and generosity.



*Family and friends of the late Terry Mills on their recent visit to the garden.*

### Annual Accounts

As a registered charity, we have just submitted our first set of Annual Accounts to The Charity Commission for England & Wales, which we published and launched at our AGM in July. These include the accounts for the financial period ended on 31/03/2019, the Annual Return and the Trustees' Annual Report.



## Happy Birthday Mary

Mary Berrington, our oldest member and Grandmother to our Treasurer Christopher, will be 92 in February. Mary and her family have supported the garden for many years and she enjoys visiting from time to time to check on progress and to take part in events. An accomplished weaver and spinner, Mary is looking forward to the introduction of dye plants in the Community Quadrant that she can harvest and use to create more interesting coloured fibre to work with.

Thank you for your continued support Mary. We wish you a very Happy Birthday indeed!



## Contact Us



Friends of Llanfrechfa Grange Walled Garden,  
Llanfrechfa Grange,  
Cwmbran,  
Torfaen,  
NP44 8YN

Email: [info.lgh.garden@gmail.com](mailto:info.lgh.garden@gmail.com)

Website: <https://llanfrechfawalledgarden.wordpress.com/>



Find us on Facebook at: llanfrechfa grange walled garden