



Friends of Morrab Gardens

Newsletter Autumn/Winter 2018

Up-coming events

This Saturday, 8 December, is a busy day in our calendar!

Christmas plant sale

A Christmas plant sale – exclusively for Friends of Morrab Gardens and members of Morrab Library – will be held in the morning, from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon. Do come along to the large greenhouse to enjoy a glass of mulled wine, and choose Christmas greenery to decorate your home. There will also be cards and gifts for sale.



Party

In the evening, Jane Scott will host a Christmas party for Friends in her home at 11 Regent Terrace, Penzance TR18 4DW, from 7 p.m. We do hope you will be able to come to this – if you can, please let Jane Royle know by 7 December (janeroyle2332@hotmail.co.uk, tel. 01736 361497). Please bring a bottle, and a plate of food to share.

Autumn round-up

Planting in Morrab Gardens

If you go to the middle pond and look north to the left of the Boer war memorial, you will see two walnuts planted one behind the other. At this time of year, they have shed their leaves so look bare!

We put out a plea for donations of mature plants ... and hey presto! This splendid camellia had outgrown its previously allotted space and was causing its owner difficulty in getting in and out of his door. He donated it to Morrab Gardens, who were delighted to accept it. It is now in a prominent position with room to grow even larger for many years to come.

So if you have a plant or shrub that has grown too large, please talk to Head Gardener Joe, to see it can be allocated a new home in Morrab Gardens.





Committee appointed

The Friends of Morrab Gardens AGM was held on 3 October at Lizzie and Dave Puddifoot's home, Alverton Cottage. Officers were appointed to the committee as follows:

- Chair (Joint): Rosie Hughes and Alan Jones
- Vice Chair: Paul Brett
- Secretary: Alison Hodge
- Treasurer: Angela Tresidder
- Membership Secretary: Jane Royle
- Fundraising: Jane Scott
- Elected members: Tony Hughes (who has since retired), and Jackie Mace.

Social media

Paul Brett continues to ensure the lively presence of Morrab Gardens on social media – Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Lots of people visit these sites, and post very positive reviews. On TripAdvisor, there is still a steady rating of 4.5 out of a score of 5, showing how much the Gardens are loved and enjoyed by so many people. Morrab Gardens are currently listed third of Gardens in Penzance, and fifth of 49 Things to Do in Penzance. Recent reviews on the site confirm what we all know, that the Gardens are a 'wonderful oasis', and a 'hidden gem'.

South West in Bloom

In mid-August, Morrab Gardens was judged by South West in Bloom judge Michael Foy for the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' awards. We are delighted that, once again, the judging resulted in an 'Outstanding' award ... and we feel sure that you would like to read Michael Foy's assessment in full:

Areas of Achievement

The proactive group of friends are such a wonderful supportive community group. There are many aspects where the friends undertake a wide diversity of activities.

The Sunday morning group is assigned to weeding: during the viewing it was clear a real impact had been made.

In meeting Jackie Mace, secretary of the Friends of Morrab garden group, who was busy potting up, she indicated an extensive group of different species of plants surrounding the perimeter of the greenhouse and nursery boundary.

Money has been raised to erect a sales greenhouse and a greenhouse for growing of tomatoes which are sold.

Linda St Clare, a volunteer, had steadfastly built up the collection of succulents in the Victorian greenhouse lean to (immaculate).

Plant sales go on throughout the year.

An annual fete is held during the summer in the garden with a sales plant table and a stall for annual subscriptions from the public – currently a [sic] 130 members.

There is also a Brick [sic] A Brac table at the fete and also outside Jane's house, a member of the friends group.

The friends group purchase selective trees, shrubs and plants – many are semi sub tropical species – a recent purchase was 2 olive trees 4m in height.

The creation of the children's garden and wild life area and hedgehog homes, logs etc for bugs and crawlies. The hedgehogs are taken frequently to the vet to remove parasites – procedure free of charge by the local vet.

Other projects include oiling park benches and general clean up jobs.

A quarterly newsletter is published (face book, twitter, web site).

Areas for Development

Currently there is an HLF application pending to convert and develop the old stables into an educational centre, office, public toilets and a rest room for the volunteers. The application has been made by a partnership between Hypatia Trust, Cornwall Council, Friends Group and Penzance Town Council.

Plant sales

The shop in the new greenhouse continued to open two days a week until the end of October, selling a range of plants, cards, pots, etc. The honey was a best-seller, and indeed sold out!

Gardeners' House auction

On 1 November, David Lay officiated at an Art & Taste Charity Auction at the Union Hotel, Penzance, in aid of the Gardeners' House Project in Morrab Gardens. An amazing selection of paintings, drawings, ceramics, jewellery and restaurants meals was on offer, and together with a raffle the sale raised well over £7,500 – a remarkable result!

Wind and rain

Unfortunately, Storm Callum closed the Gardens on 11 and 12 October, and the plant propagation workshop, which was to have been held in the old greenhouse with Head Gardener Joe and Volunteer Nursery Manager Linda, had to be cancelled. The Gardens were closed again on 28 and 29 November due to high winds.

Running repairs

The gate into the greenhouse area has been renovated, and the adjacent granite wall has recently been repaired by Cormac.



Of related interest

Restless Temple, designed by Penny Saunders, and built by Cornish craftspeople at Tremeneheere Sculpture Gardens, was included among '10 of the best outdoor art installations worldwide', chosen by the *Guardian* newspaper (30.08.18).

Keeping in touch

Keep up with the news from Morrab Gardens by subscribing to our website at <http://www.morrabgardens.org>, or by following Morrab Gardens (@morrabgardens) on Facebook.

We hope you enjoy our newsletters, and welcome feedback. If you would like to see something we are not including, let us know.

Joint Chairs: Rosie Hughes (tel. 01736 351960; email rosie.hughes@gmail.com) and Alan Jones (tel. 07879 424 161; email alan@cogentanswersllp.co.uk)

Secretary: Alison Hodge (tel. 01736 368093; email alison@blue-vista.co.uk)

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