



# Potting Shed News

The fortnightly newsletter of Cliveden Gardens



## Farewell to Andrew

On Friday 20th July, we say goodbye to our Head Gardener Andrew Mudge. After over 12 years at Cliveden and forty years with the National Trust, he and his wife Lyn are heading off for retirement in East Devon where he will no doubt spend many more hours looking after his own garden as well as heading out to sea on his fishing boat.



Many of the team here weren't even born when Andrew started his career with the National Trust! Starting out as Gardener in Charge at Castle Drogo he then went on to become Head Gardener at Killerton in Devon. He then finally arrived at Cliveden in 2005. During his time here, Andrew has been involved in the planning and instigation of several major projects in the gardens. These include the reinstatement of the maze (*see top left—Andrew with Alan Titchmarsh at the opening in 2011*), the restoration of the Walled Garden, the return of seasonal bedding to the Parterre and the Long Garden, the recreation of the Rose Garden and most recently the renovation of the Duke's Garden (including re-instating the carpet bedding—*see top right*) and the Lower Terrace garden.

In April 2013, Andrew was awarded the prestigious Associate of Honour. This RHS award, established in 1930, is presented to individuals who have given distinguished service to horticulture throughout the course of their working life.



The number of Associates of Honour never exceeds one hundred at any one time. Here he is pictured (*see above*) receiving his award from Elizabeth Banks who was president of the RHS at the time. During his time at Cliveden, he has worked with many gardening staff and volunteers and has helped and supported countless trainees through the National Trust careership programme as well as the Historic and Botanic Gardens Training Programme.

On a sunny 4th July, over 100 staff and volunteers, former staff as well as colleagues from the industry joined together to say farewell to Andrew on the lower terrace. We took the opportunity to take a gardens team photo which we thought we would share with you (*from left-right, Emma, Claire, James, Andrew, Liam, Mark, Chantal, Helen, Jen, Ian, Ruth, Theodore and Matthew.*) Among other things, we ate a rather delicious homemade cake made by Commercial Manager Gemma (*see above left*).



We wish Andrew a long and happy retirement and thank him for his enormous contribution to Cliveden.



## All fired up

The hot side of the Forecourt borders (adjacent to the Orangery) is looking really colourful right now. Highlights include *Cosmos* 'Cosmic Orange' (see far left) which is an annual that grows to 30cm—so a useful gap filler and great for the front of a border. Next up is *Tithonia rotundifolia* (see 2nd from left). Commonly known as the Mexican sunflower, it grows to over 6ft in its native Mexico. They were sown from seed earlier this year and are treated as an annual. Next up is *Crocosmia* 'Lucifer' (see 2nd from right). A member of the Iris family and formerly known as Monbretia, this vibrant bulbous perennial is perfect for a mixed border in a sunny, sheltered site. Finally, we've picked out *Helianthus* 'Wesergold' (see far right). In the *Asteraceae* family, Heleniums are commonly known as sneezeweed because parts of the plant were used to make snuff.

## Farewell to Jen

We've been getting through the Kleenex pretty quickly over the past few weeks with lots of goodbyes at Cliveden. Today is Jen Tait's last day in the gardens team. For over five years, she has looked after the forecourt borders and since its restoration in 2014, has also been responsible for making sure that the Rose Garden looks immaculate. She has led countless guided tours, worked with and supported our various trainees and more recently has been the team's social media champion, regularly posting colourful photos on Twitter.

Jen will however be staying with the National Trust and is heading to Wales to take up a one year Senior Gardener post at Dyffryn. Here she will be working for Head Gardener Chris Flynn who some of you may remember was Assistant Head Gardener here until 2015. Jen has spent the last few weeks mastering the welsh for National Trust: 'Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol' so we would like to wish her 'Pob lwc' or good luck for the future and thank her for her contribution to Cliveden.



## Free Tuesday guided tours are on

Don't forget, every Tuesday in July we are running guided tours around the garden. No need to book—just meet outside the Information Centre at 2pm on July 17th, 24th and 31st.



## Hello to our New Head Gardener

We are very pleased to welcome our new Head Gardener, Anthony Mason, who joined us at the end of June. He has spent the past 12 years working for Gavin Jones, a prestigious landscape management company, as a Senior Contracts Manager. Here he managed clients including the Royal Household, Chiswick House and Imperial College. Prior to this, he was Head Gardener at Kew Riverside. Anthony emigrated from Australia in 2005. After meeting his future wife at his brother's wedding, he followed her back to the UK and has been here ever since.

In his spare time, Anthony is a keen allotment holder, currently enjoying home-grown sweetcorn, tomatoes and plenty of Saskatoon fruit. He makes yearly batches of beetroot and horseradish chutney as well as pickled gherkins.

We look forward to working with him and wish him well in taking over from Andrew.

Compiled by Chantal Lawrence, Assistant Head Gardener

