

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2016

We've been busy here in the House over the Winter months! We have re-vamped our "Tack Room" where information about all things Belmont can be found, along with the honesty box for admission to the gardens. It looks much brighter and more welcoming but do please give us your feedback as we are constantly trying to improve the visitor experience.

The Housekeeping staff have been busy getting the house ready for the Season and we're putting the finishing touches to the rooms. A highlight for me will be having our newly cleaned and conserved Cazabon oil painting, "View of Port of Spain from the East" back on display.

The replacement of mathematical tiles will start again once the weather improves – we're on the last stage now with the courtyard elevation due to be done. Next year we should be scaffold-free for the first time in 6 years! The courtyard toilets have also been given a face-lift.

We all look forward to welcoming you to Belmont in 2016.

*Andrea Davies - Curator/Estate Administrator*



### *Belmont Gardens through the Spring*

It's a joy to see the garden wake up after winter, nature stirs into growth as the weather improves and the soil warms. Drifts of bright yellow Daffodils show signs that spring is really here.

Spring is an exciting time in the Belmont Gardens, Graeme and his team are busy staking all the perennial plants. Perennials in borders will often have good growth that makes them vulnerable, especially after strong winds or heavy rain. Staking them in the spring time will help avoid disasters before the plants have made too much growth. Graeme uses willow to stake all the plants here. Eventually the plants will grow through the support and hide it from view.

The gardeners have also been sowing the vegetables. As soon as the soil conditions are suitable, sowing of beetroot, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, lettuce and parsley can begin.

#### GRAEME'S TOP TIPS

- Plant summer-flowering bulbs
- Protect new spring shoots from slugs
- Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes
- Cut back winter scrubs
- If not already done lift and divide congested bunches of snowdrops
- Plant hardy herbs e.g. Mint, Sage, Thyme
- Mow the lawn on dry days
- Open the greenhouse doors and vents on warm days

Don't forget, we have Meet the Head Gardener tours which take place every fourth Wednesday of the Month, April through to September, 13:30 – 15:30. Be sure not to miss it, Graeme can give you some great advice about how to get your garden looking beautiful this Summer.

### *Hazelnut Tuiles*

Makes approx. 16 large or 30 small tuiles

#### INGREDIENTS

2 eggs whites  
25g (1 oz) caster sugar  
125g (4 1/2 oz) plain flour  
125g (4 1/2 oz) ground hazelnuts  
1 1/2 tablespoons hazelnuts oil

1. Pre-heat the oven to 180 °C / 350 °F / Gas Mark 4.
2. Lightly whisk the egg whites and caster sugar to froth.
3. Add all of the remaining ingredients and mix to a paste.
4. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
5. Scoop rounded teaspoons of the tuile batter onto the sheets, spacing them 4 inches apart. Using an offset spatula, spread the batter into very thin 3-inch rounds.
6. Bake the tuiles for 5 – 8 minutes, or until browned around the edges. While still hot, use a metal spatula to lift the tuiles from the parchment paper and gently drape them over a rolling pin to give them a nice shape.





## *NADFAS Heritage Volunteers – Textiles Group*

*“NADFAS Heritage Volunteers are teams of committed non-specialist volunteers who work under the guidance of curators and other professionals to help conserve our heritage”*

The group continues to make progress cleaning and conserving garments, including uniforms, clothing, boots, shoes, sundries and accessories. The padded coat and trouser hangers take a great deal of time to complete (6-7 hours each) to a conservation level. The group has made approximately 200 to date. Tyvek bags of all sizes have been made for garment storage. Everything has been duly labelled and its condition noted in the catalogue.

The group had a training day in November with Alex Seth-Smith, including instruction on hat blocks, storage and also help with the conservation and treatment of the boots and shoes. Handmade boot supports are in progress, much to the amusement of the team!

Now that the new ‘storage room’ upstairs has been kitted out with rails, the conserved textiles can be hung properly. There is still lots to do, but we’re enthusiastic and carrying on regardless!

*Kindly written by Angela Piece, Belmont Volunteer & Guide.*

1 Quote from the NADFAS Website



## *Easter Holiday Fun*

This Easter Holiday let your child come and have fun making a mess in our kitchen at beautiful Belmont. They will learn how to make delicious Hot Cross Buns on this workshop, with a morning of mixing, kneading, baking and eating.

**Tuesday 5th April, 10.00am - 1.00pm**

**Thursday 7th April, 10.00am - 1.00pm**

Refreshments, ingredients, apron & equipment will be provided. Suitable for children aged 8 – 13 yrs. £12.50 per child. There is a limit of just 6 places for each class so be sure to book your place early! To make a booking please call 01795 890 202 or email [events@belmont-house.org](mailto:events@belmont-house.org)

## *Artichoke Demonstration*

**Monday 9th May, 10.30am - 1.00pm**

Learn how to grow, prepare, cook and make some amazing dishes with fresh artichokes from our own Kitchen Garden.

£15.00 per person, including demonstration and a delicious light lunch.

For more information or to make a booking please call 01795 890 202

## *WoodFest & Country Fair*



**Sat 10th & Sun 11th September 2016**

This year we are combining our two biggest events for the first time, to give our visitors the very best of both worlds!

## *Wednesday Lunches are back!*

Hilde’s Wednesday lunches in the tearoom are back and taste better than ever! We offer a selection of homemade cakes, light lunches & refreshments using seasonal produce from our kitchen garden here at Belmont. Open from 12.00pm till 4.00pm every Wednesday from 30th March - 29th September.

## *Holiday Cottages on the Belmont Estate*

Spend a relaxing week or two on the Belmont Estate in one of our delightful holiday properties, Walnut Tree Cottage and Crow Cottage. Tucked away in the heart of the Kent countryside, they offer a truly remarkable location for a holiday.

Please go to [www.mulberrycottages.com](http://www.mulberrycottages.com) to make a booking.

## *Dates for your diary!*

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday 27th March

SPRING FORAGE

Thursday 21st April

SPRING FAIR

Monday 2nd May

OPEN FARM SUNDAY

Sunday 5th June

FAMILY BUSHCRAFT DAY

Saturday 25th June

NGS OPEN GARDEN WEEKEND

Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd July

## *Bread Making Workshops*

A series of bread making workshops are coming in early Autumn. For more information, please call Hilde on 01795 890 202.



Like us on Facebook  
Belmont House and Gardens



Follow us on Twitter  
@BelmontHseGdns