



Guiljelmus Turner

WELLS OLD DEANERY GARDEN PROJECT

The Old Deanery, Wells, Somerset BA5 2UG

newsletter

ISSUE TWENTY ONE AUTUMN / WINTER 2012

Our Strawberry Tree

Our very odd and difficult summer produced some unexpected results – very few apples, and sadly no prospect of medlar jelly this year – but the flowers on the pomegranates have been spectacular, and for the first time there are fruits on the Strawberry Tree that grows in its box on top of the west rampart.

Turner writes, “I haue not sene this tree in Englande; but it may be called in englishe, strawbery tree, because ye tree bryngeth furth a fruite wonderes lyke unto a straweberye”. This is one of Dr Marie Addyman’s examples of Turner improvising his own English name for a plant. Unfortunately, he does not say where he did see it, in Italy or in Germany. He then comments that “the fruite of ye arbut tree that I saw was very lyke unto a strawbery: but it was a great dele bygger” – but Turner of course is comparing it to a wild strawberry, not to the modern cultivated strawberries we are accustomed to!

It is one of the few plants he includes in *A New Herball* for its curiosity value rather than its medicinal use: “Good properties, that I knowe of, this fruyte hath none ... for it is evell for the stomache, and ingendreth the heade ake”. Turner’s dismissive comment is reflected in the Latin name for the Strawberry Tree, a rare piece of botanical humour – *Arbutus unedo* is Arbutus ‘eat once’ – nobody in their senses

❄️ ❄️ ❄️
*The OTHER Secret
Gardens of Somerset &
the Southwest*



A talk by Annie Maw

Saturday 24th November

2012

10.30am - 12pm

The Bradfield Room,

The Old Deanery

RSVP by 16th November

to Sylvia Hanks

9 Hawkers Lane, Wells, BA5 3JH



would come back for a second bite. It is not poisonous, just unpleasant. So our own Strawberry Tree fruit continue to hang on the tree, gradually turning pink. If its fruiting ever coincides with an open day, we can amuse our visitors with the Latin and warn them at the same time! *FN.*

ODG Friends Winter Event

Annie Maw, High Sheriff of Somerset 2008/9, is a long term friend of the Old Deanery Garden, who pioneered the driveability of our main gravel paths with her wheelchair. She was the first winner of the Sunday Telegraph/Conservation Foundation ‘Gardening Against the Odds’ award, set up in 2010, for her own vegetable garden which she designed and called The Poppy Garden after her granddaughter. She is the current

Chairman of the steering committee of the National Gardening Show held at the Bath & West Showground at the end of August and beginning of September each year. She has devised and developed her own stand at the Show, on ‘*The Secret Gardens of Somerset and the South West*’. Annie will tell us about the research she has undertaken, and the discoveries she has made, in the course of putting together this particular display over the past two years.

Our Old Deanery Garden is one of the secret gardens she has featured – come and hear about some of the others! *FN.*



The Strawberry Tree, 2011

An Invitation to all Friends of the Old Deanery Garden

To the Friends of ODG,

Thank you for your continued support. Your donations have given heart to the workers and enabled us to maintain the upkeep of the garden and introduce improvements.

The spirit of Dean William Turner's garden lives on with the planting and tending of 16th century specimens.

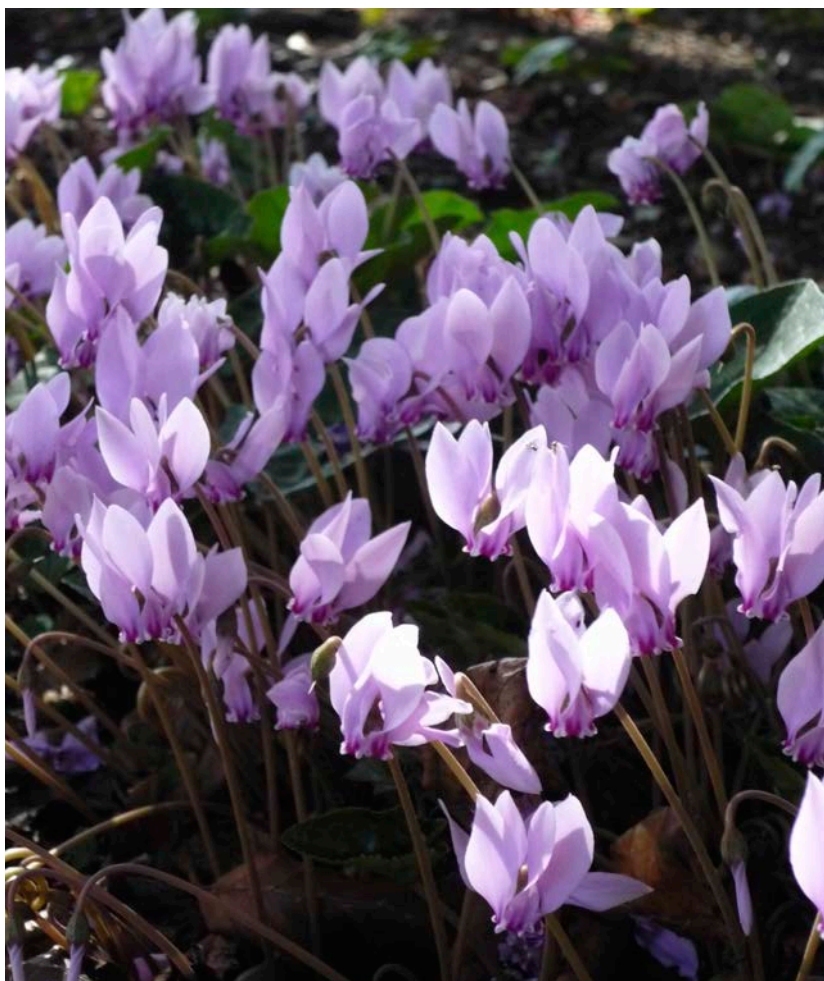
The new Italianate Garden is beginning to take shape, as is the reconfiguration of the all-important "working area/business area" of the garden.

In recognition of your invaluable generosity, we hope you will accept the invitation with our compliments to attend a Talk by Annie Maw on *'The Other Secret Gardens of Somerset and the Southwest'* November 24th 10.30am – 12noon in The Bradfield Room at The Old Deanery; mince pies and coffee will be served. *M.A.*

English Heritage Open Day, 8th September

For once this summer the sun shone all day and the many visitors seemed to be delighted with the garden. We seemed to take a reasonable amount of donations too. Such a shame the rest of the summer was not like this!

Thank you to all our helpers, both stewards and gardeners over the whole season.



The beautiful cyclamen under the beech tree

Contact Details

Newsletter: Lucy Newman 01749 676860 lucy.newman@mac.com



Events & Diary Dates 2012

Monday, 5th November, 9.45-11am

General Meeting

Carey Room

Saturday, 24th November,

10.30am - 12pm

Friends Winter Event

Annie Maw: 'The **Other** Secret

Gardens of Somerset & the

Southwest'

Monday, 5th December

St Margaret's Hospice Christmas Fair

Town Hall, Wells

Don't forget...

Saturday, 8th June 2013

ODG Tudor event to mark our 10th anniversary



We need news for the Newsletter!

Any articles for the newsletter are gratefully received. They can be e-mailed to me as Word Documents or posted to me handwritten, I usually try to get as much in each newsletter as possible. Anything that you feel has a relevance to our project - whether it is about a Tudor garden you have visited, a book you have read or your experiences of helping on the project, are all suitable areas.

Deadline for the next newsletter is **Friday, 8th February**

2013