

Park House Sensory Garden - April-May

This summer will be the 30th Anniversary of the opening of Park House Sensory Garden. The Friends are celebrating the anniversary of this beautiful, peaceful garden which has given sensory pleasure to so many over the years and particularly during the pandemic.



Yellow Tulips (Photo Mark Baldwin)

We have been consulting with the community to help us prioritise our projects in the garden and how to spend the very generous grant of £5000 from RSA. One piece of feedback we hear again and again is 'Wouldn't it be lovely to know the names of the plants in the garden.' So, with the help of Mark Baldwin, the gardener who has been restoring the central beds for the last couple of years, we are launching a monthly 'What to Look Out for in the Garden' newsletter. We won't be able to feature all the plants, but we hope it will help you enjoy the garden's delights. If you can't get to the garden, we hope this will bring a little of the garden to you. Here is what to look out for in April-May...timing of the best blooms will be determined by the weather! The Tulips are at their best now.

This year, in addition to the yellow and red Tulips, there are also Tulip 'China Pink' and Tulip 'Holland Chic',



Photo Ian Nicol



Tulip 'China Pink' and Tulip 'Holland Chic' Photo Mark Baldwin

In the central bed nearest the water feature, the blue Grape Hyacinths (*Muscari armeniacum*) are in bloom amongst the red Tulips.



Photo Mark Baldwin

The Epimediums are in flower, We're not sure of the cultivar, but it might be *Epimedium x versicolor* 'Sulphureum'. It's common name is Barrenwort and there is a large clump in the bed between the conservatory and Wisteria entrance. There is another smaller clump in the bed between Park House and the raised bed. Next to the Epimedium are some *Narcissus* 'Thalia' which have just come into flower. There is also *Narcissus* 'Thalia' beneath the Wisteria at the carpark entrance, they are starting to fade now.



Photo Ian Nicol



Epimedium are some Narcissus 'Thalia' (Photo Mark Baldwin)

Hopefully by mid May the Iris, Viburnum and Hesperis should be flowering.

Because of the cold weather we don't think much else will come into bloom for a couple of weeks, but the cold nights mean the Tulips should last longer and the Cherry tree is still looking good.



Cherry Tree Photo Ian Nicol