

Report from for the Annual Town Meeting

Chelsea Fringe in Henley 2018

Chelsea Fringe is a celebration of all things garden, floral, landscape, environmental. It takes place around the time of the RHS Chelsea Flower show but focuses on participation and local events, harnessing the energy created around that time.

The Festival is now in its 4th year in Henley and new entries are very welcome – for more information visit <http://www.chelseafringe.com/> or <https://en-gb.facebook.com/ChelseaFringeHenley/>

This year the Festival will run for 10 days – **19 May to 27 May 2018** and will feature new events, alongside old favourites, such as a showcase of local church flower arrangers in St Mary's Church, Henley and a blossom picnic at the newly planted Henley Community Orchard.

Last year we ran a very successful fortnight of events in and around Henley.

The year started with participation at the Festival day in Market Place to raise awareness of all the upcoming events.

We then coordinated 13 individual events throughout the period of the Festival which involved a huge breadth of events, location and local organisations.

- Floral flotilla – Chelsea Fringe and Henley in Bloom
- Now and Zen – pop up Japanese garden
- Babylon Plants open day
- Ikebana exhibition
- Camarilla ensemble at Babylon Plants
- Berkshire College of Agriculture – Heritage day
- Poems and Prosecco - Hambleden
- Peaceful garden – Henley Quaker open garden
- Blossoming from the heart – Kings Arms Barn
- Silent walk at Grey's Court
- Pot to Pan – Phyllis Court
- Gong bath at St Katharine's Parmoor
- Dunsden Community Orchard open day

The Floral Flotilla was held for the 3rd year and saw almost 20 boats join the parade of florally decorated craft. The bandstand hosted a wonderful band, the WI provided the teas and cakes and the Thames Valley Orchid Society joined in to raise awareness of their work and orchids. Residents and visitors both enjoyed the spectacle, which will be taking place again this year.

The Berkshire College of Agriculture joined the festival for the first time and held an extremely popular event opening the College and listed parkland up for tours and teas. They will be joining the Fringe again in 2018.

Local organisations such as the National Trust, Phyllis Court, Dunsden Community Orchard and the Allotment Association all supported the Festival.

We were grateful to be invited to participate in the Horticultural Tent at the Henley Show to raise awareness of our work.

We are extremely grateful for the support given by Henley Town Council and Henley in Bloom and look forward to continuing to work together to host another set of equally wide-ranging participative, garden-related, community events in 2018.

Victoria Newton – Chelsea Fringe in Henley Co-ordinator

For more information: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/ChelseaFringeHenley/> or call Victoria on 07780 607 738