

<b>Committee</b>	Assets & Services Committee
<b>Month</b>	September 2022
<b>Report Title</b>	Bridge End Gardens Training Update
<b>Report Author</b>	Georgia Arnold – Office Administrator & Committee Clerk
<b>Attachments</b>	None



### Summary

Committee is asked to note the following updates regarding Bridge End Gardens, with particular note that Liz Lake the Chair of Friends of Bridge End Garden has been promoting the Gardens in new ways.

### The European Boxwood and Topiary Society

The European Boxwood and Topiary Society recently ran a 'Learn to Clip' course for the volunteers at Bridge End Gardens. Liz Lake approached the EBTS who were pleased to run the course and noted how wonderful the Gardens are.

The following positive feedback from the session has been received from those in attendance:

- *The trainers were very entertaining and so knowledgeable. We all learnt a great deal – the volunteers don't usually work on the topiary but now I think they could.*
- *Traditionally box has been trimmed after Derby Day (1st June) but they said it wasn't essential and box could be cut from August onwards even to January. This does help the team as summer is so busy.*
- *They said they use hedge trimmers for the first cut and then shears for the finishing.*
- *The first hour was spent on keeping tools clean and sharp during and after clipping (and pruning generally) – none of us were doing this (the team do, to some extent) but the message was – if you do this the plants will be healthier and less work in the future. Both the team and the volunteers need to take this advice on board, but it means allowing time for this to happen.*

### Fruit Pruning Course at Audley End

Senior Gardener of Bridge End Gardens, Nathan, attended the Audley End fruit pruning two-day course last month. Participants of the course came from Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany and the UK. The training opportunity was found from the Chair of Friends of Bridge End Gardens.

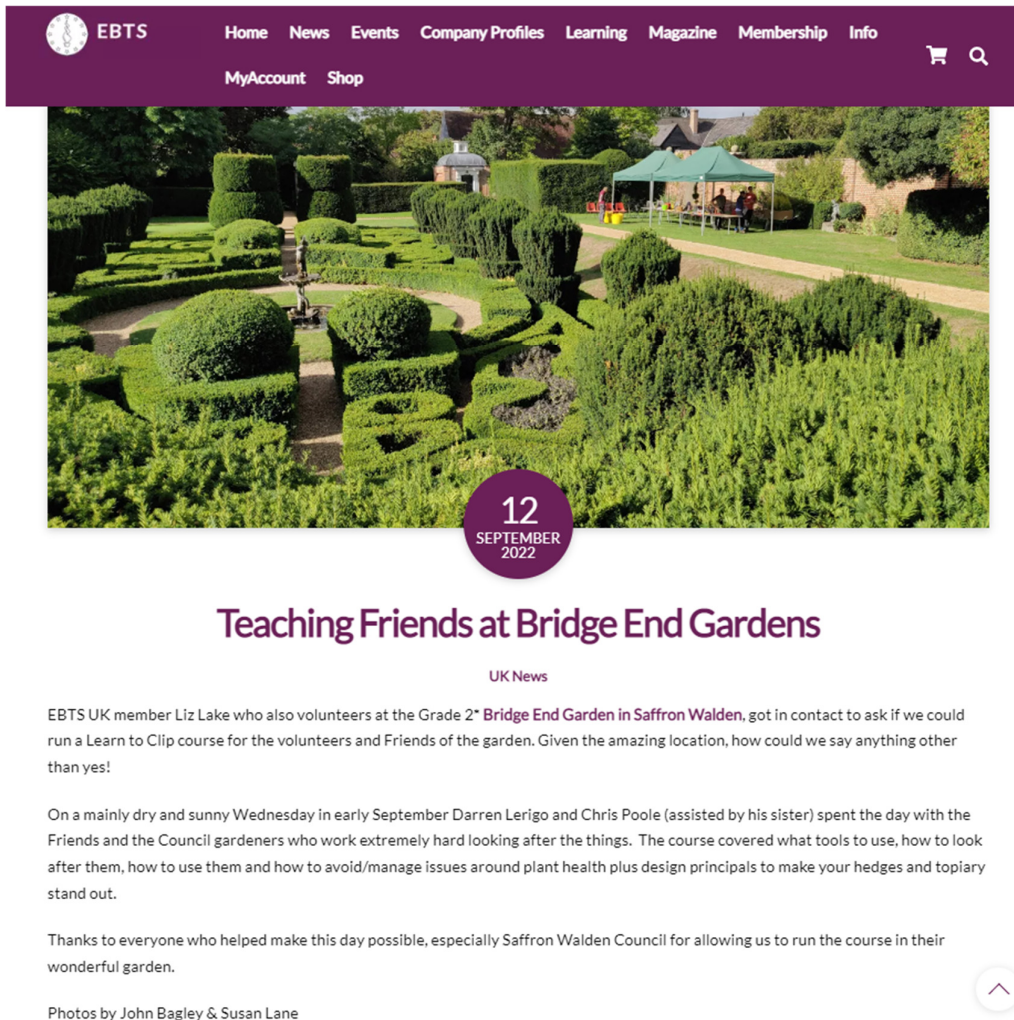
There roughly 30 participants in total who work at prestigious gardens associated with palaces, schloss, universities and large private parks and gardens. Who after the course visited Bridge End Gardens.

Liz Lake has said the group *“were so impressed by the Garden and Nathan for managing it with (in their eyes) such limited resources.”*

## Recommendation

Committee is asked to note the report, particularly the hard work and efforts from the Friends of BEG, Nathan and the SWTC Staff.

Below screen shot of the EBTS website for information.



The screenshot shows the EBTS website interface. At the top is a purple navigation bar with the EBTS logo and menu items: Home, News, Events, Company Profiles, Learning, Magazine, Membership, Info, MyAccount, and Shop. Below the navigation bar is a large image of a formal garden with a circular topiary hedge maze. A purple circular badge in the bottom right corner of the image reads '12 SEPTEMBER 2022'. Below the image is the article title 'Teaching Friends at Bridge End Gardens' in a purple serif font, followed by the sub-headline 'UK News'. The main text of the article is in a smaller, dark grey font. At the bottom right of the article content is a circular button with an upward-pointing arrow.

EBTS

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12  
SEPTEMBER  
2022

## Teaching Friends at Bridge End Gardens

UK News

EBTS UK member Liz Lake who also volunteers at the Grade 2\* **Bridge End Garden in Saffron Walden**, got in contact to ask if we could run a Learn to Clip course for the volunteers and Friends of the garden. Given the amazing location, how could we say anything other than yes!

On a mainly dry and sunny Wednesday in early September Darren Lerigo and Chris Poole (assisted by his sister) spent the day with the Friends and the Council gardeners who work extremely hard looking after the things. The course covered what tools to use, how to look after them, how to use them and how to avoid/manage issues around plant health plus design principals to make your hedges and topiary stand out.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this day possible, especially Saffron Walden Council for allowing us to run the course in their wonderful garden.

Photos by John Bagley & Susan Lane