

**Welcome** to the 18th year of Secret Gardens of Oxton. Taking place in the delightful conservation area of Oxton Village on Wirral, this year we are able to celebrate the winning of two prestigious awards from Britain in Bloom (in association with the RHS). The event and the magnificent hanging baskets, that are a summer showcase for the Village, won awards last year. Since 2001, the event has raised over £300,000 for charities and we hope that you will support this year's charities.

Visit The Hub (in the grounds of Prenton Prep School) in Mount Pleasant for event information, refreshments, music and the Secret Gardens' Grand Charity Raffle. Discover over 25 private gardens on view, enjoy the entertainment (including children's activities) and visit the arts and crafts stalls. Have a great day out in Oxton!

## Entertainments, events and fun things to do

### At The Hub

**St Joseph's School Choir**  
10.15am for 15 minutes

**Dick Neal, saxophonist**  
10.45am for 45 minutes

**Brian Lupton, folk singer**  
11.30am for 30 minutes &  
3.15pm for 45 minutes

**Prenton Prep School Choir**  
12 noon for 20 minutes

**Lilli Moore, jazz singer**  
1.30pm for 1 hour

**Art and artists**  
Displaying and selling their wares on Mount Pleasant, and in the Village.

### The Village Centre

**Creative Community Choir**  
10.45am for 45 minutes

**Heswall Concert Band**  
11.30am for 45 minutes

**Mersey Morris Men**  
12.15pm for 20 minutes &  
2pm for 30 minutes

**Wirral Samba Band**  
12.45pm for 45 minutes

**Organ Recitals**  
St Saviours Church (V on map)  
2pm and 3pm

**St Saviour's Junior Choir**  
2.30pm and 3.15pm  
at St Saviours (V on map)

**Wirral Alliance of Poets and Dave Ellwand, piper**  
in various locations during the day.

### For children

A range of fun things to do throughout the day in the Village Centre, some may have a small charge.

**Arts and Crafts for Children**  
At the Green Shop and at Maitland Church (M on the map)

**Carousel**  
(sponsored by Brennan Ayre O'Neill)

**Dapper Donkeys**

**Face painter in the Village Centre**  
(and at Maitland Church M on the map)

**Splat the Rat, Pull a String and Hook the Duck**

**Parkgate ponies - Rose Mount Close**  
(H on map), from 11am  
(proceeds to Parkgate Pony Sanctuary)  
...and for adults too  
**...and also for adults to visit**

**Christ Church**  
(C on map) From 12 noon  
Self guided leaflets & historical displays

**Grand Charity Raffle,**  
at The Hub Not your usual raffle. View the wide range of prizes on display and distribute your tickets among the prizes you want to win. All proceeds to the Secret Gardens' charities. The draw takes place at 4.30pm

1 ticket = 50p 5 tickets = £2  
10 tickets = £3 20 tickets = £5  
40 tickets = £7

The more you buy the cheaper the ticket.

**'People of Oxton' at the Williamson Art Gallery** is a photographic portrait project by local photographer James Deegan. The people live, work or have a strong connection to the area and all the images are taken in Oxton in their home, garden, favourite spot or place of work.

James is giving a short talk on his exhibition at 1pm at the Gallery. Free admission.

**Plant sales**  
(in partnership with Friends of the Arno) Village Centre while stocks last. Proceeds to Secret Gardens' charities and Friends of The Arno.

**St Saviour's Church (V on map)**  
Panoramic views from the Tower  
12 noon - 4pm. Tours every 30 minutes. Tickets at the tower, £2, child £1. Under 16 to be accompanied by an adult. Flat shoes only and other limitations may apply. Check at church.

**Guided tours** of the church  
from 12.15pm

In the Parish Centre from 12 noon  
**Geoff Owens** local artist, viewing and sale. **Simon Chadwick**, local author, sale and signing.

**The Friends of Ness Botanic Gardens**  
at The Hub. Professional plant advice, bring your plant problems.  
*Have your discount voucher (back page) stamped (valid until 5 August 2018).*

**The Oxton History Group,**  
in Mount Pleasant, by The Hub  
Visit their stall and find out how they are re-discovering Oxton's past.

**Tree planting celebration - 50th tree**  
12.45pm at 5 Poplar Road  
Please join us to mark the occasion.

**Williamson and Priory Friends,** in Mount Pleasant, by The Hub  
Visit their stall and find out how they support the work and educational activities of the Gallery and Priory.



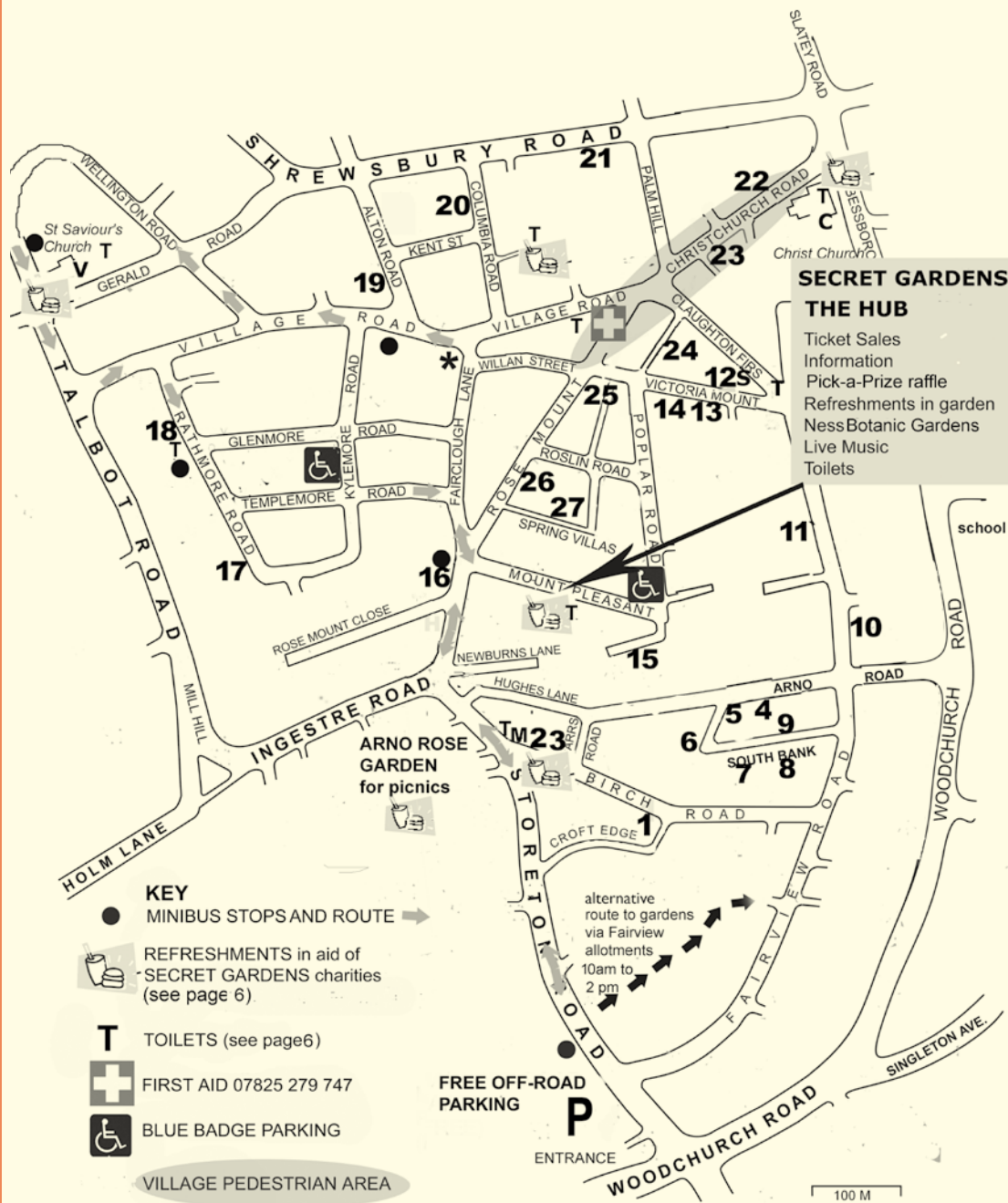
## Gardens with map numbers and accessibility information

You can view the gardens in any order and as many times as you wish. Take care, as many of the gardens have slippery or uneven surfaces. No dogs, other than assistance dogs. Please note, South Bank is unmade.

### Wheelchair access

Sorry, no garden has full wheelchair access. Please follow the letter code: no wheelchair access (X), limited wheelchair access (L)

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | 39 Birch Road (L)                                |
| 2  | 74 Birch Road (X)                                |
| 3  | 23 Hughes Lane (enter from Birch Road) (X)       |
| 4  | 10 South Bank (enter from Arno Road) (X)         |
| 5  | 12 South Bank (enter from Arno Road) (L)         |
| 6  | 17 South Bank (X)                                |
| 7  | 13 South Bank (X)                                |
| 8  | 7 South Bank (X)                                 |
| 9  | 8 South Bank (L)                                 |
| 10 | 20 Fairview Road (L)                             |
| 11 | 15 Fairview Road (X)                             |
| 12 | 19 Victoria Mount (X)                            |
| 13 | 10 Victoria Mount (L)                            |
| 14 | 8 Victoria Mount (X)                             |
| 15 | 2 Rich View (L)                                  |
| 16 | 22 Rose Mount (X)                                |
| 17 | 32 Rathmore Road (X)                             |
| 18 | 8 Rathmore Road (X)                              |
| 19 | 3A Alton Road (X)                                |
| 20 | 2 Columbia Road (L)                              |
| 21 | 5A Shrewsbury Road (L)                           |
| 22 | 28 Christchurch Rd (L)                           |
| 23 | 37 Christchurch Road (X)                         |
| 24 | 18 Cloughton Firs (enter from Prices's Lane) (X) |



- 25 2 Victoria Mount (enter from Victoria Lane) (X)
- 26 43 Rose Mount (X)
- 27 1 Spring Villas (enter from Rose Mount) (X)
- 1 Fairclough Lane  
Not a garden but a quiet place to rest

## The Arno Rose Garden

Visit the delightful Arno Rose Garden – winner of the prestigious Green Flag Award. See the new rose arch, the recently planted rose beds and sit and experience the peace and tranquillity.

### Parking

((See back cover for public transport))  
Free off-street parking on Oxton Fields is shown on the adjacent map (CH43 5TW). Parking nearer Oxton Village centre is very limited. Please avoid parking on the fragile York stone pavements.

Blue badge holders' parking is on Poplar Road and Mount Pleasant. Enter from Roslin Road, Rose Mount end. Also at Kylemore Road between Templemore Road and Glenmore Road.

### Minibus Service

This FREE service is, regrettably, not suitable for visitors with mobility difficulties. The stops are marked on the adjacent map. The bus runs approximately every 10 minutes. First bus departs the free car park at 10am. Last bus departs The Hub at 4.30pm. Please wear your seat belt.

### Pushchairs and buggies

These can damage gardens and cause congestion so just ask at each garden if there is a parking place.

## Refreshments provided by charitable organisations

(see logo on map)

*A donation from profits will be given to the Secret Gardens' charities.*

*Refreshments served all day unless otherwise stated.*

### The Hub

All profits to the Secret Gardens charities

Tea, coffee, fruit cordial, homemade cakes and brownies, sandwiches (Sponsored by Bogan Carpet Superstores)

### Christ Church (C on map)

Tea, coffee and biscuits from 12 noon

### Maitland Church (M on map)

Storeton Road

Tea, coffee, juice and cakes, 10am - 4pm. Bacon butties until 12 noon

### St Saviour's Church (V on map)

Tea, coffee, juice and sandwiches, from 12 noon

### 64th Birkenhead Sea Scouts

Columbia Lane, off Columbia Road  
Hot drinks, cakes, afternoon tea.  
10.30am - 4pm

## Oxton Village

In addition to refreshments provided by charitable organisations, businesses in and around the village centre and the Williamson Art Gallery offer a wide choice throughout the day. From coffee and cake to a three course meal, see what is on offer at the village cafes, bars, pubs and restaurants. Some have outdoor seating and all offer an Oxton welcome to tempt you. You won't go home hungry or thirsty!

Oxton Village has a vibrant centre with a wide variety of shops and businesses to meet your every need. Many will be open on Secret Gardens' day, so take a walk into the Village centre and make it a gardens and shopping trip.

Check out the website for more information [www.oxtonsociety.org.uk](http://www.oxtonsociety.org.uk)

### Toilets (T on map)

open all day unless indicated

#### Bidston Road: St Saviour's Church

(includes baby change facilities) (until 4.30pm) ♿

#### Christchurch Road: Christ Church

(from 12 noon) use car park entrance (includes baby change facilities) ♿

**Cloughton Firs** (corner of Victoria Mount): Shrewsbury Arms. (S on map) (from 12 noon)

**Columbia Lane** (off Columbia Road): 64th Birkenhead Sea Scouts

**Mount Pleasant:** The Hub

#### Rathmore Road: Oxton Lawn Mews

(near junction with Glenmore Rd)

#### Storeton Road: Maitland Church

(includes baby-changing facilities) (10am to 4pm) ♿

#### Village Road: Oxton Conservative Club

(from 12 noon) ♿

*(Please don't ask for access to houses)*



## This years Secret Gardens' charities

### Birkenhead Woodcraft Folk (Registered Charity no.1148195)

We are based in Oxton. We run weekly groups for children and young people aged between 0 - 18. Activities are based on equality, friendship, peace and social justice through active co-operation, and include games, drama, singing, craft, problem solving, discussions and issue based work including local, national and global campaigns. We hope to encourage young people to become actively involved in their communities and we also take the group camping and hostelling in this country and abroad. The funds from Secret Gardens will be used to run our Play Out Project this summer in the Arno Old Quarry. The funds from Secret Gardens will also enable the term time children's groups to keep running over the next few years and subsidise camps and trips for the children during the holidays.

### Sundowns (Registered Charity no.1089679)

We are Wirral based and were established as a registered charity in 2000 to support children and young persons with Downs Syndrome, their families and carers. We work in partnership with local businesses, other partner agencies, health, education and social care to improve the quality and quantity of opportunities for people with Downs Syndrome. We provide support and a range of activities and social opportunities to improve confidence, build relationships and enhance skills e.g. Makaton pre-school signing for babies and social group, information and educational events, respite weekends, outdoor activities and social events for all the family. The funds from Secret Gardens will be used for Sundowns annual family retreat in December 2018.

### The Vikes Youth Club (Registered Charity no. 4961783)

We provide social and recreational facilities to the local community through programmes, projects and clubs. These initiatives aim to develop primarily children and young people physically, mentally and emotionally in order to give them the best opportunity to develop into well-rounded individuals and valued members of society/the community. The Viking Youth & Community Centre has been providing facilities to the residents of Tranmere and Rock Ferry for almost 50 years and by creating a safe, nurturing and engaging environment 'The Vikes' has been able to improve conditions of life for many children and young people throughout the years. 'The Vike's is entirely dependent on grants and monies from rentals and will use the funds from Secret Gardens in support of its activities.

### The Oxton Society (Reg. charity no. 511130)

The Society's share will be dedicated to Village and Conservation Area projects. The Society's aims are to promote, in relation to Oxton Conservation Area: high standards of planning and architecture, public awareness of local geography, history and architecture and the preservation, protection, development and improvement of local features. The Society's funds go towards grants for tree planting, design awards, floral displays, Christmas lights and other activities.

*Please Note All sales and fund-raising activities in the Village for the Secret Gardens charities are listed in this programme or are clearly marked with a sign to that effect. Any other sales or fund-raising activities do not have the support of the Oxton Society, they are not part of the Secret Gardens event.*

# Voucher for Secret Gardens visitors

## 50% off one adult entry to Ness Botanic Gardens plus all children free



This voucher must be validated on **May 13**  
at the Ness Botanic Gardens stand at 'The Hub'

One voucher required for each adult visit. Valid until 3 August 2018  
Adult entry normally £7.50 (concession £6.50) children 5-16 normally £3.50

Ness Botanic Gardens, Neston Road, Neston, CH64 4AY. 0151 795 6300

[www.nessgardens.org.uk](http://www.nessgardens.org.uk)

### First Aid

Sponsored by Jack & Jill Day Nursery and Pre-School. St John Ambulance will provide first aid, help and information in Cooke's Yard (Village centre) Phone 07825 279 747 for advice and assistance (number valid only on the day).

### Lost and found

At The Hub. Items will be retained until 20 May 2018. Leave a message with your phone number on the Secret Gardens Information Line 07963 248 268.

### Programme information

This programme is printed 8 weeks in advance. Any changes will be posted on the day at Ticket Sales Points and on the Village notice board.

### Public Transport

By train – to Conway Park Station, Birkenhead. 2 minutes walk to Birkenhead Bus Station  
By bus – please check your journey on [www.merseytravel.gov.uk](http://www.merseytravel.gov.uk) Alight at the Queen's Arms, Storeton Road or the Caernarvon Castle Pub, Bidston Road, or the Halfway House Pub, Woodchurch Road. Oxton Village is 10 minutes walk.

### Acknowledgements

Many thanks to those owners who have opened their gardens. Thanks also to the 300 volunteers who have given their time to prepare for, and to work on, the day.

Thanks to Jess Malpas for publicity artwork ([jessmalpas@gmail.com](mailto:jessmalpas@gmail.com)). Thanks also to Phill Jenkins ([phillipjenkins@mac.com](mailto:phillipjenkins@mac.com)) for publicity, programme design work and photographs.

The Society is very grateful to **Prenton Preparatory School** for hosting the charity refreshments, raffle and music and the use of their gardens, premises and facilities on the day.

The Oxton Society and co-operating charities are also indebted to the many businesses and individuals that have generously provided support and sponsorship.

## BOGANS CARPETS SUPERSTORES

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lowest prices**

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**off with this voucher**

*valid until 5th August 2018*

### Find us at:

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Claughton Road Birkenhead CH41 6EY  
Great Howard Street Liverpool L3 7DW