

**NEWSLETTER****JULY 2018**

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 8 AUGUST  
BEST FRUIT VARIETIES FOR YOUR GARDEN  
SPEAKER: EVA ROGERS**

Venue: Christchurch Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, Marlborough.

**Doors open 7.15 for 7.45 p.m.**

Eva trained in horticulture and is interested in all aspects of it. She has had experience in Parks and the Royal Gardens at Windsor Castle. She has run a small wholesale and retail nursery, been a garden consultant and given Adult Education classes for many years.

Lectures are free to members and there is no need to book. They are also open to non-members and a donation is appreciated. Tea and biscuits are served before the talk so come early to chat to friends and buy some raffle tickets. Garden related offerings for the raffle – plants, books, seeds - are always much appreciated.

**A WEEKEND IN WALES**

**FRIDAY 15 ~ SUNDAY 17 JUNE**

**DYFFRYN GARDENS AND ARBORETUM**

Jane Howarth writes: Miles and I decided to look at the garden from the large window of Reginald Cory's bedroom, only to meet an enthusiastic National Trust volunteer keen to give us the low-down on the house. While this cut our visit to the garden shorter than planned it set the house and gardens in context. The enormous wealth of the Cory family, derived from exporting coal round the world, paid for the mansion, largely completed in 1893. Our informant suggested that the modelling of the entrance hall, with the staircase strangely hidden away round a corner to one side, was due to the use of the large hall for meetings of the temperance movement. John Cory was a friend of William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, and gave around £50,000 a year to charitable enterprises.

Reginald Cory, one of John's sons, was a keen plant hunter. Thomas Mawson was commissioned to design gardens for his plants. We thought the gardens unusual. Seen from the house the vista is plain, stretching away across expansive lawns. There is ample room for separate croquet lawns for children and adults before you even reach the Great Lawn with its thin finger of water leading to a distant pond. The land slopes upwards gently from the house, and we were told that water once poured downhill from a lake beyond, flooding the basement of the house. The decorative and colourful garden 'rooms' are set to one side of the house and the natural-looking rockery and adjacent fernery to the other side, so scarcely visible from the main rooms of the house. Both house and gardens are works in progress and beginning to show great potential. A distinctive high spot of our visit was coming upon the very large bronze of Chinese philosopher Lao Tze seated sideways on a water buffalo, reading, as if ambling through the garden.

**THE NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN OF WALES**

*Tricia Hayllar writes: On Saturday morning we set off from our hotel for a short drive to the National Botanic Garden of Wales. Set in the beautiful Carmarthenshire countryside, the Garden is a fascinating blend of the modern and historic. The weather was grey and damp but we were able to shelter in the the world's largest single-span glasshouse, designed by Norman Foster and Partners, which houses some of the most endangered plants on the planet. We enjoyed seeing the exotic butterflies and plants in the Tropical House, within the unusual double-walled garden, and several members braved the elements on a guided wild flower walk in the extensive meadows.*

### **ABERGLASNEY GARDENS**

Amelia Trevethic writes: Aberglasney was made famous by the BBC TV series 'A Garden Lost in Time' which followed its restoration. It is now a wonderful showcase. At its heart is the unique Elizabethan Cloister garden in front of the house. You then move through to the Upper Walled Garden, designed by Penelope Hobhouse. Then on to the Lower Walled Garden which is the kitchen garden with a wealth of fruit trees & vegetables. The hidden gem is called the Ninfarium which makes use of part of the ruins of the house with a glass atrium which houses exotic and sub-tropical plants.

### **PICTON CASTLE & GARDENS**

Dorothy Aitcheson writes: Our last day in Wales took us further west to the lovely thirteenth century Picton Castle in Pembrokeshire. Luckily much of our day was planned to be under cover as the weather was not kind to us. The rain for which Wales is so famous really set in so our exploration of the gardens was rather hurriedly but stoically taken. The walled garden included an interesting section explaining the medicinal uses of various common plants. Worth a longer look on a fine day. Many also ventured off to have a look at the native British owls or get lost in the maze.

The main event of the day was a guided tour of the castle. We were fortunate in having a very knowledgeable and enthusiastic guide who had worked in various capacities at the castle for many years. We were able to see the "Picton Renoir" made famous by the BBC programme "Fake or Fortune". Unfortunately the painting was judged to be fake, which means the new roof which had been planned will have to wait!

I could not finish without mentioning the lovely lunch we all had in Maria's Tapas Cafe. Maria was a very attentive hostess and the leisurely lunch was just what was required on a damp day. A bit of shopping later (the plants were very reasonably priced!) and we were off on our journey home. Despite the weather, a great last day.

### **COWBRIDGE PHYSIC GARDEN**

Anne Crawley writes: We visited Cowbridge Physic Garden on a wet afternoon at the end of the tour and in my opinion saved the best 'till last. Barely half an acre, the Physic Garden is a haven of peace set in the centre of a delightful small town full of independent shops with clean streets and beautiful flower displays.

Laid out in a formal design, the planting plan reflects reflects physic gardens from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries'. It uses a wide mix of plants, flowers and trees that would have been found in Britain before 1800 and used for healing, cooking, perfume and cosmetics, and dyeing fabrics.

Twelve central beds are devoted to plants specific to a part of the body or a particular illness and each bed is appropriately labelled (Kidneys, Eyes, Nerves, Lungs etc.) In the areas around the perimeter of the garden the emphasis is on colour and fragrance (roses and edible nasturtiums, borage and chives) backed by espaliered apple, pear, walnut, quince and mulberry trees.

The tranquil atmosphere of the Physic Garden is enhanced by the central fountain. Entrance is free and seats in the pavilions and alongside the paths allow visitors to enjoy the garden at leisure.

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***Many thanks to Carol and Cheryl for organising yet another wonderful trip. Do look at the photos on our website to get a flavour of the weekend.***

The copy deadline for the August Newsletter is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July  
Contributions to [anne@unicorn9.plus.com](mailto:anne@unicorn9.plus.com) or phone 01672 512317

**VISIT TO WATERPERRY GARDENS  
FRIDAY 20 JULY 2018**

Waterperry gardens were developed in the 1930's when Beatrix Havergal opened her School of Horticulture for Ladies. The 8-acre ornamental gardens include a rose and formal knot garden, water-lily canal, riverside walk, and herbaceous border. It will also be possible to view (optional) the contemporary frescoes in Waterperry. These are thought to be the largest single work of its kind in this country in over 500 years. There is a café, garden shop, gallery and plant centre. They have one motorised mobility scooter, so if you wish to use it, please ring to book it in advance on 01844 339226.

We leave Marlborough at 9.30am and return at 5.30pm. The cost will be £19 for coach and entry to gardens. Refreshments are not included in the price, nor is the optional tour of the frescoes. Picnics are allowed.

**Travel times:**

Barnes coach pick up High Street (The Polly) **9.30 am**

An Ogbourne St Andrew pickup **at 9.15 am** may be possible, see booking form

Return to Marlborough at **5.30 pm**.

Please return the booking form below by **6<sup>th</sup> July** if you would like to come.

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**BOOKING FORM  
VISIT TO WATERPERRY GARDENS  
FRIDAY 20 JULY 2018**

Name .....

Address .....

Phone .....

Cost £19.00 per person

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... made payable to Marlborough Gardening Association.

*If you would like to be picked up in Ogbourne St Andrew please tick here,  
and depending on numbers this may be possible (you will be advised).*

*Please send this form together with your cheque by **6<sup>th</sup> July** to:*

*Amelia Trevethick, Granham Thatch, Granham Hill, Marlborough SN8 4DW*

**VISIT TO HESTERCOMBE GARDENS  
THURSDAY 23 AUGUST 2018**

Hestercombe Gardens are considered unique as they span three centuries of garden design. Set within 50 acres, the Victorian Shrubbery, the Georgian Landscape Garden and the Edwardian Formal Gardens all offer a different experience to explore. Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll influenced the design and planting of parts of the garden. Hestercombe offers cafe, shop and plant sales. Trumper Mobility Scooters are available but must be booked in advance (for which a charge is made). If you are interested please enquire on 01823 413923.

We will also visit the Willow and Wetland Centre where we will join a short tour to see the different types of withes being grown and a demonstration of basket making. We can also revive ourselves with afternoon tea. Mobility scooters are not available at the Wetland Centre.

This visit will mean quite a long, but hopefully varied day. We leave Marlborough at 8.15am and return at 6.30pm. The cost will be £30 for coach, entry to gardens and guided tour at the Wetlands Centre. Refreshments are not included in the price. Picnics are not allowed in Hestercombe Gardens, however a picnic area can be found near the Visitor Reception.

**Travel times:**

Barnes coach pick up High Street (The Polly) **8.15 am**

An Ogbourne St Andrew pickup **at 8.30 am** may be possible, see booking form

Return to Marlborough at **6.30 pm**.

Please return the booking form below by **9<sup>th</sup> August** if you would like to come.

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**BOOKING FORM  
VISIT TO HESTERCOMBE GARDENS  
THURSDAY 23 AUGUST 2018**

Name .....

Address .....

Phone .....

Cost £30.00 per person

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... made payable to Marlborough Gardening Association.

*If you would like to be picked up in Ogbourne St Andrew please tick here,  
and depending on numbers this may be possible (you will be advised).*



*Please send this form together with your cheque by **9<sup>th</sup> August** to Amelia Trevethick,  
Granham Thatch, Granham Hill, Marlborough SN8 4DW*

## NGS gardens open in July

**BROADLEAS HOUSE GARDENS: Sun 1 July (2-5.30). Adm £5, chd free. Home-made teas.**

Devizes, SN10 5JQ.

6 acre garden of hedges, herbaceous borders, rose arches, bee garden and orchard stuffed with good plants. It is arranged above the small valley garden which is crowded with magnolias and rhododendrons, cornus and hydrangeas. Wheelchair access to upper garden only, some gravel and narrow grass paths.



**DANE BROOK, Milkhouse Water, Pewsey, SN9 5JX.**

*1m NE of Pewsey. Sun 1, Sat 28, Sun 29 July (12.30-5). Adm £5, chd free. Home-made teas.*

**Gluten free available.** Donation to Veterans Outreach Support.

Approx 1 acre of gardens, incl herbaceous beds, shrubs, trees, semi-formal garden, roses, oxbow pond with planted banks and thatched summerhouse. Tree lined river walk runs the length of the garden, leading to shrubbery. Also lawns and paved areas with planted containers. Far reaching views from paddocks. Small craft stall with handmade gifts and accessories, home-made sweets, jams, chutney, fresh laid eggs. Rare breed sheep, horses and vintage tractor. Wheelchair accessible in dry weather with exception of pond and stream areas.



**TWIGS COMMUNITY GARDEN** Manor Garden Centre, Cheney Manor, Swindon, SN2 2QJ.

*From Gt Western Way, under Bruce St Bridges onto Rodbourne Rd. 1st L at r'about, Cheney Manor Industrial Est. Through estate, 2nd exit at r'about. Opp Pitch & Putt. Signs on R to Manor Garden Centre. For NGS: Sun 22 July (1-5). Adm £3, chd free. Home-made teas.*

Delightful 2 acre community garden, created and maintained by volunteers. Features incl 7 individual display gardens, ornamental pond, plant nursery, Iron Age round house, artwork, fitness trail, separate kitchen garden site, Swindon beekeepers and the haven, overflowing with wild flowers. Featured in Garden Answers & Wiltshire Life magazine and on Great British Gardens website. In Top 100 Attractions in South West England. Most areas wheelchair accessible. Disabled WC.



**CROFTON LOCK HOUSE** Crofton, Great Bedwyn, Marlborough, SN8 3DW.

Michael & Jenny Trussell, 01672 870674,

*Lock 62, K&A Canal, Crofton, 1m W of Great Bedwyn. 4m W of Hungerford. Signs from A4 at Great Bedwyn turning, and from A338 at East Grafton. Limited parking. Garden 8 - 10 mins walk along towpath. Sun 29 July, Sun 5 Aug (1.30-5.30). Adm £3.50, chd free. Home-made teas.*

**Gluten free cakes available.**

¾ acre garden in idyllic setting around 200 yr old, off grid lock keeper's cottage. Garden comprises herbaceous beds designed with a painter's eye to provide riotous colour, sculptural form, and an abundance of wildlife from spring to autumn; at rear a small orchard, collection of apple and soft fruit trees, raised vegetable beds, artists' studio (open) and restored privy. There is no access by car. Wheelchairs have to be pushed along the tow path.

