



Bridford & Teign Valley Garden Club

Bridfordandteignvalleygardenclub.co.uk

Newsletter October 2025

The Italian Garden, Great Ambrook

Our October visit was to The Italian Garden at Great Ambrook, found just a few miles from Ipplepen down a tangle of tiny lanes. It was commissioned in 1909 by Arthur Smith Graham and designed by an architect friend to be separate from the house of Great Ambrook which he already owned. The garden of 4 acres was surrounded by 15-foot walls and planned as a private space for Graham to entertain his friends. After Graham's death in 1928, the house changed hands a number of times and eventually fell into neglect in the 1960s. With the help of a team of volunteers the current owners began the long job of clearing what was now mostly overgrown woodland to reveal the structure of the garden with its swimming pool, tennis court, summerhouse, pergola and stone paths. They discovered a deep, sunken rock garden with many ferns in an old quarry with a huge drystone retaining wall which was not even visible before restoration. Many tall palm trees still stand, Virginia creeper falls romantically over the remains of the summerhouse and the garden has a unique atmosphere and a feeling of faded beauty. We had a guided tour with a very knowledgeable volunteer who gave us a comprehensive overview of The Italian Garden both past and present.

Lorraine

Dates for your diary

November Meeting. 06/11/25

Thursday 6 November at 2 pm in the Bowden Room, TVCH, a talk by Helen Harding on "The Wildlife of Trusham Churchyard".

A.G.M 04/12/25

Thursday 4 December at 2 pm in the Bowden Room, TVCH,

There will be a photo screening of this year's garden visits and a Quiz.

The annual subs are due at the A.G.M and will be £8.00 for the coming year.

Elections

In accordance with the constitution of the club three committee members are due to stand down, Jo Marsh, Joseph Dunkley and Hibly Woods, if you wish to join the committee now is your chance to stand for election. Please let Paul know before the A.G.M if you so wish paul.n.french@btinternet.com

Annual Luncheon 08/01/26

The annual lunch will be at The Bridford Inn please make your choices from the menu below and return these to Paul French either by email or at the A.G.M.

Payments

Please pay for your subs and luncheon by bank transfer if possible, with your name as reference. Please confirm your payment by email to Mike Rosenbloom mikerosenbloom55@gmail.com

The account is

Bridford and Teign Valley Garden Club

68-92-99. account number 65540398

The committee has been busy and the programme for next year is full of interesting talks and visits.

Anything for the next newsletter to me kennickbarn@gmail.com please note the new email address

Enjoy the beautiful autumn colours and see you at the November meeting.

Hibly

Annual Luncheon

Thursday 8th January 2026, 12.30pm.

Starters

Carrot & Coriander Soup (V/GFO)
Salt & Pepper Squid with Lemon Mayo
Classic Garlic Mushrooms on Toast (GFO)

Mains

Moules Marinieres; Mussels in a cream & garlic sauce, French Fries(GF)
Steak & Ale Stew with Dumplings, Mashed Potato & Seasonal Vegetables
Chickpea & Cauliflower Curry, Rice & Poppadom (Ve, GF)
Tempura Mushroom Burger with Brie & Sweet Chilli sauce, French Fries & Salad (V,)

Desserts

Sticky Toffee Pudding
Apple Crumble
Brioche Bread & Butter Pudding
Served with custard, cream or ice-cream

Two Courses £25.50

Three Courses £30.00