



Bridford & Teign Valley Garden Club

Newsletter August 2023

Summer Gathering

The Summer Gathering was held on Saturday 22nd July by kind invitation of Jo MacDonald and Jan Traylen at their home. Twenty-four members attended but due to inclement weather we gathered in their conservatory and sadly missed going round their garden in which they had worked so hard in preparation for our visit. There was a delicious spread of savoury food and desserts with a good time enjoyed by all. A big thank you to Jo and Jan for their kind hospitality. The annual competitions, judged by Liz Aldridge, were won as follows:

Betty Shaw Cup for five flower stems of the same species - Francis Leversedge

Horticultural Cup for three different coloured vegetables - Paul French

Denning Kemp Cup for a potted plant - Jo Macdonald

Muriel Wickland Memorial Bowl for a Coronation coloured flower arrangement - Anne Rice

Cadhay Garden

On Friday 4th August, 15 members visited the gardens of Cadhay, just a mile outside Ottery St Mary. The gardens surround the Manor House which was mainly built in the sixteenth century but still has a medieval wing. We were guided by Dave who has been Head Gardener at Cadhay since 2002 and is due to retire shortly. He only has the help of one other gardener for four days a week.

We were taken first to the 2 acre walled garden which contains cutting flower beds for the house and fruit trees including damsons and plums which already looked ripe. The area also has a number of extremely neat allotments which are tended by locals, plus a large London plane tree, a hornbeam and a lime. The borders throughout the garden are a succession of colour from the end of May to the beginning of September. Next stop was the lake on whose banks are planted rhododendrons, which we were told are a magnificent sight in May, being reflected in the water. In Spring there is also a fine show of daffodils. The lake attracts kingfishers and herons and is covered in water lilies which help keep down the blanket weed. Around the lake was another holm oak, an old medlar and Cornus shrubs. Further on there was an area of mostly purple and white flowers - lavender plants which attracts the bumble bees, a large buddleia which the honeybees and butterflies seem to favour and some Veronicastrum with large white spires of flowers which the butterflies especially enjoy. This area also contained some bamboo *Steeea gigantissima*. A stumpery was an interesting addition, and some stumps had sedum growing on the top. There is a very tall tulip tree, a croquet lawn and then the main 120-foot-long border appeared as we neared the house. It is a very colourful mix of dahlias, cosmos, lilies, snapdragons, goldenrod, fuschia, heuchera, hollyhocks, and lavatera to name but a few. These colourful borders continue under the house windows. On the walls of the oldest part of the house is a large wisteria and a *Magnolia grandiflora*. There is also a myrtle with fragrant white flowers which Dave says ladies liked to use to perfume themselves before the days of deodorants. Dave ended the tour by leaving us in a small sunny and sheltered area with a bench to sit on and listen to the relaxing sound of a fountain playing in a small oblong pool.

We had a very pleasant visit to Cadhay in the company of Dave who was a witty host and informative guide. His pride in the gardens which he had created in his 20 years at Cadhay was obvious and we shall not forget his words of wisdom (in a Devon accent) "If you can't grow a weed, you can't grow nothing". It was something to ponder on as we ate our excellent cream tea!

www.bridfordandteignvalleygardenclub.co.uk/cadhay-ottery-st-mary

Lee Ford

Our September visit on Thursday 7th at 2.30pm will be to Lee Ford, Knowle Village, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 7AJ. This is an extensive formal and woodland garden, largely developed in the 1950's, but recently much extended with large displays of camellias, rhododendrons and azaleas including many rare varieties. There is a walled garden with fruit and vegetables, herb garden, bog garden, hydrangea collection and greenhouse. The ornamental conservatory has a collection of pot plants. There is a moderately steep tarmac slope to the woodland garden with gravel paths in the woodland. Entrance is £6 and there is a choice of tea and cake/scone or a Devon cream tea both of which cost £6. Please let **Chris Rosenbloom** know if you are going and which option of tea you would like, on **01647 252888**, email address **christinerosenbloom@gmail.com**

Christow Show

The Garden Club display of cottage garden plants was very colourful and attracted a lot of interest.

www.bridfordandteignvalleygardenclub.co.uk/christow-show-19-08-2023

Fast Rabbit Farm

On October 5th we will be visiting Fast Rabbit Farm near Dartmouth, where there is a 43acre garden with lakes, ponds and waterfalls.

Please let Ann know if you'd like to go by ringing 01647 253025 before 28th September. There will be another reminder in the next newsletter.

Here's hoping for some better weather to round off the summer. Please send anything of interest for the next newsletter to me by September 16th hibly@hotmail.com

Happy gardening, Hibly