



Abingdon Horticultural Society

2023 Summer Newsletter

Number 120

Trips.

Robin Carter

On the 25th May we had our outing to Savill Gardens in Windsor Great Park. Forty-two members joined in and we had a great day out. The weather was good to us and was ideal for walking around the gardens. Not having been before I was surprised how nice it was with level paths to walk on and plenty of plants, shrubs and trees to see. The main show were the Azaleas and Rhododendrons both were at their prime in full flower and there were plenty to see. Some energetic members walked down to the Valley Gardens around a mile away to see even more. I understand it was well worth the walk even those that didn't make the distance said there was a lake which was well worth a visit. Unfortunately some of our members succumbed to the plants in the garden centre and came away with pots and trays of plants. We left at 4pm with no one left behind!



Our next outing is on 24th August to Bourton House Gardens and Chastleton House the application forms will be out towards the end of June and they must be back to me before the end of July to give me chance to organise everything.

Bourton House Gardens are situated on Bourton Hill just outside Morton in the Marsh. It is a small garden of just 3 acres with a tearoom and toilets. The garden features terraces, herbaceous borders and a topiary walk. As the gardens are small there will be a visit to nearby Chastleton House and gardens in the afternoon. This property is run by the National Trust. The house was built in the 17th century and has not been altered since. The NT wish to keep it unmodernised so there are no tea rooms on site but there are Toilets! Apparently, the church next door usually make teas etc on open days. I suggest you stock up at home or Bourton House. The Chastleton gardens are a series of rooms with a kitchen garden and wilderness walk. The admission price also includes Chastleton House. National Trust members please remember to take your NT Card!

The details of this trip are now available on the website.

It was an early start on Sunday 11th June from Abingdon as we began the pickups with our "chauffeur" Josh from Prospect Coaches, and with all 33 holidaymakers safely onboard we then headed off for Biddulph Grange Garden our first visit of our holiday. It was a beautiful sunny day at Biddulph Grange which didn't disappoint with all the different areas to visit within the Garden - Egypt, Italian Garden, Cheshire Cottage, China, Himalayan Glen + much more.

On arrival at the Best Western Forest Hills, Frodsham we were met by Cerys who had all our room keys ready plus the menu choices for our first evening 3 course meal. With everyone freshened up we all met for dinner at 6.30 pm which was really delicious and all left the tables feeling full. Some people then went off for a walk to explore our surroundings, a swim in the pool or had an early night.

Monday 12th June 8.45 am departure for RHS Bridgewater which was another sunny day, we were met by Karen from the coach who took us all to the Group entrance and handed us our tickets and maps. We all enjoyed the beautiful gardens and appreciated the shade of the trees, we departed at 3 pm to make our way back to the Hotel. We had a thunderstorm at dinner time which was right overhead at one stage which made one or two of us "jump"!

Tuesday 13th June 9.15 am departure for Dunham Massey, Altrincham where we were able to visit the fine Georgian House set in 300 acres of parkland, catching sight of the fallow deer who were relaxing in the shade, some of our party joined the Garden Tour with Patricia which was very interesting.

Wednesday 14th June 9.15 am departure for Tatton Park where we were able to visit the Mansion, Farm and Gardens, some people taking the Japanese Garden Tour which was very interesting and absolutely stunning. Another beautiful day.

Thursday 15th June 9 am departure for Chester where we were dropped near the Roman Amphitheatre and could wander through the streets of black and white timber-framed building, walk the City Wall and explore the thriving shopping centre with a host of cafes, restaurants and pubs. At 1 pm we then met to board the coach to head to Port Sunlight, a unique garden village built by William Hesketh Lever to house his soap factory workers in 1888. We were able to visit the Port Sunlight Museum and recently restored Edwardian workers' cottage. Another warm sunny day.

Friday 16th June 9 am departure for Trentham Garden which was beautiful with its Italian Garden, Lake, Woods and Park. There was also a lovely Garden Centre outside and an avenue of little shops. At 2 pm we then boarded the coach for our return journey back to Abingdon, with Josh taking the scenic route to avoid the traffic on a busy Friday afternoon.

Overall, the holiday was a great success with everyone looking out for each other and circulating at dinner time to make new acquaintances, we were very fortunate with the hotel and staff, the choice and food at mealtimes were excellent and with Josh our "chauffeur" who was very calm, patient and collected, which was a bonus. Thank you to Chrissie & Julie at Just Go and everyone who came along and made it a lovely holiday.

Autumn Show

Barbara Bingley

It may only be June, but it won't be long before we get to September and the Autumn Show. I hope everyone is growing and nurturing plants and vegetables, so we have many exhibits for the Show.

The Autumn Show date is Saturday 9th September. Please have a look at the schedule to see the classes you would like to enter this year.

A few pointers about entries for the show:-

Summer garden judging:

Entries for the Summer Garden classes must be made by Tuesday 11th of July for judging on Wednesday 12th of July when the gardens must be accessible.

Classes are for front or rear small garden >70 sq. m, front or rear large garden <70 sq. m and hanging basket/s & container/s.

Entry is £1 per class.

Below is a sample of new classes or those needing timely preparation/planning.

A class of floating fuchsia flowers, jam, jelly, chutney fruit cordial

Photographs – something beginning with 'F', a Water Reflection and a Weather view.

Crafters are invited to enter the Handicraft class - Crafty Meal on a Plate. (Full details in the schedule) This will be judged by visitors to the show. The winner will be awarded the Muriel Welch Memorial Cup.

The schedule and entry details are available on the website www.abingdon-hort-soc.org.uk

Barbara
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News From Members

Blue Sky Eco Cafe

Susan Hammersley is one of the volunteers who open the Blue Sky Eco Café on the first Tuesday of every month, except January and August, from 12 – 2pm at Long Furlong Community Centre, Abingdon, OX14 1XP. The next dates are July 4th then September 5th.

They serve organic, seasonal and locally sourced foods which include wholefoods, plant based, vegan and gluten free options. All food is freshly prepared.

Menus are available on the website: <https://blueskyecocafe.org.uk>.

Fuchsias

Many of you may have lost your fuchsias in pots this year. One of our members had hers survive by keeping them in an unheated greenhouse and burying the pots in the soil after cutting the plant back.

Obituary

One of our very long-time members, June Murthwaite, sadly died on 31st May. June was an active member who successfully entered domestic & handicraft classes in the shows.

Request.

If any members have any useful garden tips, tasty menus they wish to share or any other items of interest they would like to have considered for the next newsletter then please forward these to the secretary, Linda Berry.

Sponsor

Charlton Park Garden Centre - Wantage, sponsors our Society by supplying us with plants for raffles. Their garden centre has an extensive range of quality plants and garden requisites. They also bring a wide range of seasonal plants and bulbs to the Abingdon Market on a Monday. We hope you will continue to support them.

Contacts

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