

Over Kellet and District Horticultural Society

Dig This – May 2017



RHS Harlow Carr: Main Borders and Woodland

Peter Clinch

Visit to RHS Harlow Carr, near Harrogate, North Yorkshire

Twenty-five members leaving Over Kellet on a windy, wet morning, travelled by coach to Harlow Carr on Saturday 13th May and arrived in dry but overcast weather. Thirteen members took a 90-minute tour of the extensive gardens led by a volunteer from The Friends of Harlow Carr. The fifty or so volunteers from The Friends assist the thirty paid staff and three students to maintain the wide range of separate garden areas.

The highlights of our visit were the rhododendrons and azaleas in the woodland area and the tulip trail (beds and container displays) scattered around the open areas.



Rhododendrons and bluebells at RHS Harlow Carr

Peter Clinch



Tulips at RHS Harlow Carr

Peter Clinch

The Alpine House was quite spectacular with a mixture of permanent planting and sand beds for tender potted alpines not yet ready to go outside. Around the outside of the House were numerous troughs planted up in a variety of ways with displays of the tiniest plants.

The stream-side area, originally designed and planted up by Geoffrey Smith, was devastated a few years ago by flood water off adjacent fields. The course of the stream from the Queen Mother Lake has been made more sinuous to break the power of the flood water, and the planting around the feature is starting to bed-in.

Those of you who visited the gardens more than 10 years ago may remember the feature 'Gardens Through Time' sponsored by the BBC and shown on TV at the time. That educational area has been and continues to be the subject of change; and only Gertrude Jekyll's 1900's and Diarmuid Gavin's modern garden are to remain.

Of course, many of us had to end the visit at Bettys Cafe



Yorkshire Cream Tea, Bettys Cafe, Harlow Carr

Peter Clinch

OKDHS Events

Talks etc

Postponed talk on Alpines – now: Friday 22nd September at 7.30

The power cut at the Village Hall on 3rd March led to the cancellation of the talk by David Morris. He has kindly agreed to give it on Friday 22nd September at 7.30.

OKDHS Quiz Night: Friday 27th October at 7.30

Further information will be published later. If you want any more details, please contact Phil Hegarty (733549).

OKDHS Trips

Lake House, Capernwray: Wednesday 7th June

Tony and Edwina Collinson have very kindly agreed to open their extensive and beautiful garden to members of OKDHS on Wednesday 7th June. This will be an early evening visit by car. We are expected at Lake House at about 6.00pm; the plan is to meet at the Village Hall at 5.40pm to sort out car shares. We do need to have a clear view of how many members intend to come, so **please contact either Phil Hegarty (733549) or Peter Clinch (734591) by 31st May**. The Society will provide wine and soft drinks to make the stroll through the gardens more enjoyable.

ngs Gardens visit: Sunday 9th July

Special arrangements have been made for group access to three quite diverse gardens on days outside the limited dates they are open under the National Garden Scheme (ngs).

Grange Fell Allotments, opposite Grange Fell Golf Club, will be opened specially for us to visit at 11.30am on 9th July. The usual ngs admission charge of £3 per person will apply. The allotments are managed by Grange Town Council and were opened in 2010. Thirty plots are rented out, offering a wide range of gardening styles and planting.

Then around 2pm we will have special admission to Lakeside Hotel and Rocky Bank Gardens at Newby Bridge, two very different gardens on the shores of Lake Windermere. The Head Gardener, Roger Thresher, will lead the tour. The usual ngs admission charge of £5 per person will apply.

The Lakeside Hotel Garden has herbaceous borders, shrubs and seasonal bedding. A roof garden features a lawn, espaliered local heritage apple varieties and culinary herbs. Rocky Bank is a traditional garden with rock outcrops, planted with alpines, herbaceous borders and trees. A woodland area has species rhododendrons. Finally, there are wild flower and cut flower gardens.

Between the two visits there is a choice of bringing your own lunch or using the Hotel Brasserie and Bar – a selection of sandwiches and chips will be available at a cost of £10 per head, drinks extra. Booking for the Brasserie lunch is essential as the hotel is likely to be very busy on a summer Sunday lunchtime.

Please let Peter Clinch (734591) know by Friday 30th June if you intend coming on the trip, whether you will be requiring the Brasserie lunch, and give your address and phone number. Also, indicate if you will have spare places in your car for those without transport.

Closer to the 9th July full details of the locations and timings will be made available to those coming on the trip.

Help wanted – Lovell Quinta Arboretum, possible visit

I am thinking of organising an autumn trip to Lovell Quinta Arboretum, nr Congleton, Cheshire. It was established in the 1950's by Sir Bernard Lovell and contains over 2,500 trees and shrubs. It has the national collections of Fraxinus (Ash) and Pinus (Pine).

The site is managed by Tatton Garden Society and there is more information on their web site:

[<https://tattongardensociety.org.uk/lovell-quinta-arboretum.html>](https://tattongardensociety.org.uk/lovell-quinta-arboretum.html)

Before I make any plans or bookings for this rather specialised attraction, firstly, would any member wishing to go on a coach trip to the site contact me by 30th June so I can gauge the level of interest and, secondly, would any member who has been to the arboretum contact me to provide more information and an opinion on the site.

Committee News

At the Society's Committee meeting in April we welcomed Liz Brewster as a co-opted member. The Committee is still below strength and every voice and hand helps to run the Society and its events. Volunteers interested in joining the Committee should contact the Chairman, Arie Klijn (727692).

Other gardening events in the area: ngs scheme

Warton

There is a group opening of four gardens in Warton Village. They are 2 Church Hill Avenue, 111 Main Street, 135 Main Street (open under ngs scheme for first time, but only on the dates in June and July) and Tudor House (but open only on the dates in May and June). The dates are 21st May, 18th June and 16th July, between 11am and 4.30pm. All proceeds to charity.

Silverdale

Hazlewood Farm, Hollins Lane, open 11th June, 11am to 5pm.

Lupton

Summerdale House, Nook, open every Friday and Saturday to 26th August (11am to 4.30pm) and additionally Sunday 18th June (11am to 4.30pm).

If you have any questions or comments about this newsletter please contact the compiler: Peter Clinch (734591)