

Over Kellet and District Horticultural Society

Dig This – Summer 2017



Lake House, Capernwray Peter Clinch and all photos in this issue

Evening visit to Lake House, Capernwray: Wednesday 7th June

Some six months ago Phil Hegarty had the extreme weather foresight to arrange a visit to the extensive grounds of Lake House on a dry evening in a week when well over 2 inches (50 mm) of rain fell and there were gusts in excess of 40mph.

Twenty-two OKDHS members enjoyed a glass of wine or soft drink and wandered around the garden for well over an hour. The five acres have been in the present owner's family for more than 40 years; when purchased it was a field with a stone barn. In the 70s the building was converted to living accommodation and extended on two later occasions to form an 'L' shaped building with a separate stable block.

The garden has received thoughtful attention over the last 25 to 30 years, with an avenue of small trees leading down from the public road to the house. The gently curving lake, set in a few places only a few yards away from the River Keer, was excavated in 1990 and provides an attractive setting for the buildings. At the sheltered, north-east end is a summerhouse which we were told was bought as a garden shed. It has been converted at little expense by cutting large windows in three sides and adding a balcony over the water's edge. Sitting in it as some members did was a joy, with a fine view along the lake to the small island and the western sky.



Though minimal the waterside planting is attractive, with large-leaved gunnera, candelabra primulas and varieties of rosa rugosa.

Members were interested in the simple yet effective planting around the patio, which looks across the lake to the woods surrounding Capernwray Hall.



An unusual feature is a raised vegetable bed set some 4ft 6inches (1.5 metres) above ground level.



It had originally been a shrub bed but now contains rows of thriving vegetables. There is a set of stone steps at one side (shown at the left of the photo) to enable the gardener to maintain the plot!

A plant sale provided by Simon Robinson of Farleton Horticultural Ltd, who helps to maintain the gardens, did very brisk business, featuring as it did some architectural and deeply coloured plants not widely available.



Feedback from those who attended was very positive – so, an event which would be worth repeating at another venue (if we can find one) in the future.

Our thanks to Tony and Edwina Collinson for generously opening their garden for our appreciation.

OKDHS Events

Talks etc

An Introduction to Alpines: Friday 22nd September at 7.30

The talk postponed from 3rd March may include a demonstration of planting techniques to create a garden in a trough.

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 Annual General Meeting: Friday 17th November at 7.30

Apart from the formal business there will be the usual opportunity towards the end of the meeting for members to make suggestions for the future of the Society, comment on the talks and events it runs, and raise any matters of concern. Please put the date and time in your diary ... now!

Talk in November or December

We are actively planning to book a speaker for a Saturday morning in November or December to cover a suitably seasonal theme.

OKDHS Trips

ngs Gardens visit: Sunday 9th July

Only one member indicated a wish to go on the pair of visits to Grange Fell Allotments and the grounds of Lakeside Hotel, Newby Bridge so, with regret, the Society cancelled the event.

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>>

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 as soon as possible 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.

So far just two members have indicated an interest in a visit – more will be required to make a trip viable.

Other gardening events in the area ngs Scheme

Warton

There is a group opening of three gardens in Warton Village: 2 Church Hill Avenue, 111 Main Street and 135 Main Street on Sunday 16th July, between 11am and 4.30pm. All proceeds to charity.

Lupton

Summerdale House, Nook, open every Friday and Saturday to 26th August, 11am to 4.30pm.

Floral and Horticultural Shows

Bolton-le-Sands

Summer Show on Saturday 12th August, 2pm-4.15pm and Autumn Show on Saturday 21st October, 2pm-4pm. Refreshments available. Both events at Old Boy's School.:

The next issue of Dig This will appear in September.

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