

CSGGA Newsletter

June 2019

RHS Affiliated Membership Number: 10570237



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Evening visit to Lindengate

Our trip to Lindengate proved to be a truly enlightening and inspiring evening, despite the inclement June weather. The charity provides a calm and nurturing environment for those with mental health needs and what they have achieved in the five years since they started is truly incredible. There are wetlands, wild flowers, cut flowers, vegetables and fruit, with themed garden areas and raised beds for wheelchair users to access. Their ethos stems from the belief that if you nurture nature, nature will nurture you and what really comes across is the peace and beauty of the place. It is no surprise that the charity is successful in their aim to improve the wellbeing of those who come seeking help and they hope to be part of an NHS referral scheme before too long.



They have various projects ongoing, such as providing a habitat for rare butterflies and developing a stock of indigenous black poplar trees. They are also experimenting with disease-resistant elm trees to see if the plants grown

from seed will be as hardy. All very valuable work in partnership with other organisations.

We enjoyed a guided tour round the gardens in small groups, learning about the history of the charity and the work they do, followed by tea, coffee and delicious strawberry tarts from Stratton Bakery (keeping it local!).

We left Lindengate feeling privileged to have experienced this magical place.

EO'C

As this was a very special evening and so many were captivated by the work of Lindengate we have invited other members to share their thoughts on the visit:

- *Holistic approach to mental health*
- *Simple and effective theatre across the garden - see pictures*
- *Inclusive and non-judgemental approach to gardeners and supporters*
- *Amazing progress in 5 years*
- *Brilliant use of terracotta pots to create interesting characters*
- *Great use of tyres for multi-level planting*
- *Training provided to supporters*
- *Future support opportunities include - Christmas Raffle Fund Raising, Plant Sale Purchasing, Collection Box at Meetings, Tool Collection*



at Meetings, Adopting, Cake Baking, Plant Sale Marketing "in partnership with"

JG

Although it was a grey and chilly evening I think we all felt the warmth and light of the surroundings and the enthusiastic staff. I was amazed at the diversity of the activities, not just gardening but construction, art work, tiling, cooking, jam making, wild flowers and more. Lindengate has created an environment to value and nurture people whose needs are so neglected by our society. The financial costs are high - let's do what we can to support this enterprise.

JB

As you all through the arch of ivy peace and tranquillity descends making it easy to ignore the drone of the traffic outside. Lindengate certainly lives up to the saying weeds are just plants growing in the wrong place. The 'weeds' certainly attract the wildlife and biodiversity. It would be lovely to go at a warm sunny time to experience the birds and insects.

MD

As soon as I entered Lindengate I was aware of the wonderful energy of peace and as I walked around the gardens this energy became stronger along with a wonderful sense of community with people working together in so many ways to create such an amazing variety of projects

I was not aware of the existence of Lindengate but now that I am I shall be supporting Lindengate in any way I can.

MH

A beautiful place where fairies and pixies would love to visit! **Anon**

Holiday 2019 The Gardens of Wiltshire and Somerset

This year's holiday fell during school's half-term holiday and it seems that many of our members were therefore unable to join us this year. However, rather than abandon our plans and disappoint the 20 or so members who had booked we managed to boost our numbers to 31 through approaches to other local organisations and thus the holiday was saved!

We used the well-appointed Aztec Hotel, off the M5, just outside Bristol, as our base, where we enjoyed good food and comfortable rooms. The swimming pool was frequently visited for a relaxing swim after our days out.



On route to the hotel, we spent the morning at Lydiard House and Park, Swindon. This Palladian House boasts a large walled garden, rolling parkland and a lake. Sadly, the church was undergoing restoration but we were able to visit an exhibition on the history of the house. We enjoyed a light lunch at the café before travelling on to Abbey House Gardens at Malmesbury. The garden is made up of different rooms with a beautiful water garden down a steep, tree-lined bank. Hidden amongst the plants were a number of unusual sculptures including a life sized gorilla!

National Trust's Tyntesfield was our first garden on the second day. We were met by several volunteer guides for a tour of the garden. The house proved a draw to many while others wandered further afield in the gardens to enjoy the extensive kitchen garden or a quiet coffee or lunch. In the afternoon we visited the American Museum and Gardens, newly renovated and located in the hills above Limpley Stoke, both the views and the planting was spectacular.

Day 3 took us to Wells and a visit to the Gothic Cathedral. Members were enchanted by the Vicars Close and there was time for some to visit the gardens of the Bishops Palace or to wander around the Saturday market before an afternoon visit to Stourhead. One of the National Trust's most famous gardens, the vistas

at Stourhead were stunning in the glorious afternoon sunshine. Fortunately, the rhododendrons were still in flower and provided some colourful reflections in the lake.

The next day was disappointingly wet. Our excellent coach driver and blue badge guide took us for a short drive into the hills surrounding Bath so that we could appreciate the beauty of the city while the rain eased off. Our visit to Bath included a visit to No1 The Crescent after which we all went our separate ways – some visiting yet more gardens, others the famous Roman Baths, art galleries or the Fashion Museum before returning to our hotel to enjoy our last dinner together.

After a final hearty breakfast, Laycock Abbey, Fox Talbot Museum and Village was our first port of call on our return journey. The Abbey gardens were a little disappointing but the house and village certainly made up for it. Our final stop was Broadleas Gardens, near Devizes. Privately owned, the main feature is a small, well planted valley garden full of camellias, cornus and rhododendrons. Delicious cake and a cup of tea rounded off our visit before our journey back to Chalfont St Giles.

Photographs from the holiday will shortly be added to the website. **BW**

M's Action Diary for June



- Regularly deadhead roses. Use secateurs to cut off the stalk down to the first leaf beneath the flower or, for a faster return to blooms, deadhead with your finger and thumb using the natural breaking point below the flower to "snap" it from the stem. Do not deadhead roses that are grown for their hips.
- Remove any shoots on variegated shrubs that have reverted to green or they will outgrow the variegated ones.
- Cut euphorbias and oriental poppies down to soil level after flowering. Fresh leaves will grow and some poppies will flower again.
- Deadhead rhododendrons and azaleas and give an appropriate feed.
- Trim hedges and feed with general fertilizer.
- Prune Spring and early Summer flowering shrubs such as deutzia, kolkwitzia, forsythia, philadelphus, and weigela.
- Some early flower perennials such as geranium and aquilegia require cutting back, unless you wish them to seed.
- Deadhead delphiniums and lupins to encourage a second flush of flowers.
- Keep feeding the wild birds and give them fresh water to drink and bathe.

The Plant Sale – what we're doing with the proceeds

At a meeting held at the beginning of June, the CSGGA Committee agreed to use our unexpected windfall from the plant sale to help repair/upgrade the audio/visual system at the Memorial Hall, purchase for our own use a camera to project demonstrations onto the large screen and to maintain the membership subscription at the same level for the coming year. Thus, we will be benefitting both the wider CSG community and our members. Thank you again to all those who contributed to its success.

Next Meeting

"Sun Tzu in the Garden" – Guy Deakins

This talk is a light-hearted and informative look at the military strategy for dominance on the battlefield that really does help tame garden pests and disease. Guy's talk is based on the teachings of Sun Tzu a Chinese philosopher, general and military strategist. Required reading at both Sandhurst and Harvard Business School, his book 'The Art of War' has a surprising relevance to fighting pests and diseases in the garden!



Chalfont St Giles Open Gardens Sunday 16th June

Nine gardens, including Milton's Cottage Garden, took part in this year's event. A number of new ones added to our enjoyment this year, all very different. Fortunately the weather improved as the day went on and the village played host to visitors wandering from garden to garden or enjoying a delicious spread of more made cakes in the Memorial Hall. Well done to all involved and thanks for all your hard work.

Outing to Hyde Hall Tuesday, 20th August

We will spend the day at RHS Garden Hyde Hall which is considered one of the finest gardens in the East of England. Hyde Hall is located amongst rolling hills with fantastic panoramic views. This 360-acre estate is constantly evolving as the garden team strive to retain the original intimacy and charm of this horticultural gem, while at the same time aiming to restore much of the estate to its former rural glory, including historic hedgerows and woodlands.



The cost for this outing will be **£19.00 for members** (or £24.00 for guests and non-members) which covers, entrance to gardens, garden tour, coach and driver's gratuity.

- Please bring a picnic lunch or visit one of the restaurants.
- Departing Chalfont St Giles Village Green at 09.15.
- Departing Hyde Hall at approximately 16.00.

Please use the booking form attached to this newsletter to reserve a place.

Your Committee

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New Committee members are always welcome. We are a friendly bunch! Please contact a committee member if you're interested in joining us.

Dates for the Diary

Visit to Kew

We are planning a visit to Kew to see the Christmas lights on **Wednesday 4th December**. We will also visit Osterley House for their winter exhibition. Full details and costs will be published once they have been finalised.

CSG Village Show

The Village Show is being held on Saturday 7th September. It is one of the highlights of the village calendar and enjoyed by so many. The Gardens Association manages the Horticultural Competitions and we always need help! If you can spare some time on the day, please put your name down at the next meeting or contact Briony.