

Beautiful Bledlow Manor Outing on Thursday 7th July



Twenty-four members attended a wonderful outing to Bledlow Manor gardens, the home of Lord Carrington, 7th Baron: his father being a former MP, Defence and Foreign Secretary.

We were greeted by the head gardener, Mark Thompson, who gave us a brief talk on the history of the gardens and the delights we were going to experience. After being treated to a hot drink and cake we were left to explore the grounds on our own. The 12 acre gardens are magnificent and a true delight to the senses.

Everything we saw has been created since the 1950s, the layout principally from 1967. Since 2019 the plantsman and designer, Sean Walter, has advised on replanting and rejuvenation throughout the garden. [Sean is the owner of the Plant Specialist Nursery in Great Missenden, a participant nursery of our Membership Card Discount Scheme. This is well worth a visit to not only buy from their wide range of perennial plants for sale but also to view their own colourful and beautifully laid out display gardens].



The grounds are divided into different areas. These range from the old walled kitchen garden filled with vegetables, cutting flowers and various fruit trees (including peaches and apricots) trained against the walls to more intimate hedged garden rooms. A stone flagged area with various alpines growing between the paving and surrounded by colourful borders opens to a lawn with a double row of standard Portugal Laurels, leading from the house to a formal sunken pool with fountain surrounded by beech hedges and overlooked by a pleached row of limes.

Other delights included a wrought iron gazebo covered with roses, a croquet lawn surrounded by mixed borders, a garden created in the memory of the late Lady Carrington planted with her favourite flowers and shrubs, a



small parterre garden with a statue of St. Peter removed from the Houses of Parliament during restoration, and a topiary garden. Sited throughout are various sculptures and sculptural water features: the most intriguing being a fountain shaped like a coracle at the centre of a garden room of blue, white and yellow flowers. The water was dyed green and very tempting to dip one's hands into, but politely, yet firmly, not to do so.



Behind the manor, openings in the hedges led into a wonderful sculpture garden of two and a half acres, created since 1991. One is led through gently undulating grassed areas surrounded by sculpted borders richly planted with trees, shrubs and mass ground cover groupings with more contemporary sculptures at every turn.





We also visited The Lyde Garden accessed from the grounds via a gate in the boundary wall and across the lane by the church. Originally water cress beds, it is now a tranquil peaceful sunken oasis, with paths and steps through more tropical styled planting including Tree Ferns and the giant leaved Gunnera, leading down to the Lyde, a tributary of the River Thames which rises here via series of natural springs. Ponds have been created richly planted with aquatics and marginals.

A great day was had by all, and we hope to welcome more of our members on future garden trips.

Our glorious SUMMER SHOW



The judges hard at work

Walking into the Old Drill Hall at the Youth Centre on Bellingdon road in Chesham on the 2nd July, the exhibits slapped your senses. The colours and variety of blooms, along with other

displays, was completely sensational. The many Dahlias, Sweet Peas, Roses, Fuchsias, early vegetables, shrubs and mixed basket displays on the long tables were but a few of the entries keeping the judges more than busy.



The winning entry in the Group Class

A Group Class, for 1 to 6 people to jointly enter, choosing to put together a display of four items from a choice of 16 proved to be a popular choice with exhibitors. Exhibits in this class included photos, flowers, pictures, handicrafts and interesting containers.



The winning entry in the Decorated Cup Cakes Class: Theme - Jubilee



won a prize, or just to enjoy the many exhibits and gorgeous homemade cakes with a cup of tea. A few trophies were awarded, including the Challenge Cup for Sweet Peas and points given to all the winners that will go towards the Autumn Show. The

afternoon was rounded off with an entertaining raffle with fabulous prizes.



We look forward to welcoming more exhibits from members at our Autumn Show.

OCTOBER SOCIAL- Shaken, not stirred!

Friday 14th October
Bellingdon and Ashridge Village Hall
7pm till late



He's charismatic, charming, adored by his many women, hated by countless super-villains, and drives an amazing car! Code name "007", the spy that never loved me, James Bond is our theme for our October Social. For a golden £10 you can delve into the world of MI6's most famous employee, with a licence to thrill three-course meal, music, dancing, and a "Spectre" - acular quiz that'll make "Q" scratch his head. Whether it be Dr No, Ernst Blofeld, Vesper Lynd, Pussy Galore, or the hero himself, why not join us at the Casino Royale by dressing as your favourite "Bond" character. Bring your own alcoholic drinks.

To reserve your place, please send or hand cheques (made out to Chesham Vale Gardeners' Society) to Nicola or Adrian. Book early to avoid disappointment as places will be limited.

SUMMER SOCIAL - Saturday 18th June



On a rainy early evening (remember one of those?), our Summer Social took place in conjunction with the Allotments Group at the Focal point on the Cameron Road allotments. At first the marquee, tables and chairs seemed empty, but gradually people started to arrive during a respite in the rain, but at the same time unsure of what the weather would do. The thirty or so members with their families and friends that did attend contributed delicious food and drink and thus were treated to a lovely buffet of pasta, quiches, sausage rolls, salads and other home-made dishes. Plenty of drink was available from Strawberry and Elderflower cordials to red and white wine.



The marquee sides were eventually lifted as the sun came out. When there was a little rain, people were dancing in it as it was a welcome sight, especially for the allotment holders present. There was a raffle with fabulous prizes, and the evening finished just in time for the next heavy shower. People enjoyed conversing with others, listening to the soft music and a great time was had by. Many allotments were very well tended and stocked with a wide range of vegetables and flowers.

The May Plant Sales Sensation!

It seems so far away now, but May had two mornings the CVGS committee members will remember well.



The feeling of delight from customers wanting to buy seedlings and young plants for their garden, or allotment, was felt as they approached the doors of Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall on Saturday 14th May. Whether they didn't have the time, or success in growing from seed (like myself), villagers and towns folk alike stepped through the doors with eager anticipation. The appeal of some gorgeous homemade cake with a cup of tea helped finish their shopping experience in fine style.

The following Saturday, 21st May, on such a wonderful sunny morning many ventured to our stall underneath the Clock Tower in Chesham's High Street, determined not to miss out on the wonderful array of plants for sale. At both venues, eager gardeners with plans for the growing season, it was wonderful to hear their ideas and pass on a few tips. A big thank you to all members that contributed to the sales. It was a great help.

Until next year.....



Get ready for our AUTUMN SHOW!



As always, Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall will be the venue for our Autumn Show this coming Saturday 3rd September. There is a wide variety of classes to enter for all gardeners, or even non-gardeners! A copy of the Show Schedule has already been sent out to members, with details of all the classes, Rules, and Entry information. Staging is between 9.30 and 11am, and the show opens at 2.30pm to the public.

The Schedule can also be downloaded from the Facebook page or a printed copy collected from Adrian or Nicola at the addresses at the end of this Newsletter. If you have any questions about any of the classes or just need a bit of advice please contact us through Facebook, speak to Nicola or Adrian or email us at cheshamvalegs@gmail.com We will be happy to help. The more the merrier!

REMAINING 2022 DATES for your DIARY:

- **Autumn Show** - Saturday 3rd September. Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall.
- **Allotment Group Cream Tea/Heritage Open Event** - Sunday 11th September 3pm to 5pm. Cameron Road Allotments Focal Point - organised by the Allotment Group. All welcome
- **October James Bond Themed Social** - Friday 14th October 7pm till late. Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall.
- **Allotment Group Autumn Social** (possibly quiz) - Saturday 15th October 7.30pm. Chesham Town Hall.

For further information on the Autumn Show, entries and general enquiries please either email cheshamvalegs@gmail.com or contact either our Show Secretary Nicola Parkes at Glenelg, Bellingdon 07973558675 or our Chairman Adrian Norris at 215 Chartridge Lane, Chesham 01494 793746, 07718609719.