



BRAIDWOOD GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024

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There will be no Garden Club meeting in July as we are in Winter Recess.

Report on the talk by John Tuckwell

Thursday, June 13

A MEANDER THROUGH SOME BRITISH GARDENS

On a cold winter's day in June, we gathered at the club to listen to John Tuckwell take us on his journey from Cornwall to Scotland, visiting nine gardens on the way.

We started with a delicious morning tea, provided by members A – K before John started the journey at the Eden project near St Austell in Cornwall. The project started life as a disused clay pit, which has been transformed into a beautiful global garden. Two huge biomes house a rain forest environment and a Mediterranean environment. John invited members who had visited to share their impressions of the project. The cost of entry here isn't cheap, but it is a full day out.



We then moved a few miles down the road to the Lost Gardens of Helligan. The first Helligan manor was built in the 1200's, with the gardens first starting to be developed in 1766. The outbreak of the first world war led to the gardens becoming overgrown and lost. Restoration started 1990 and it is now considered to be one of the finest gardens in the UK. The collection of Camellias and Rhododendrons is considered to be unique; the oldest is a Camellia Japonica planted in 1792. John recommends at least 4 hours here.



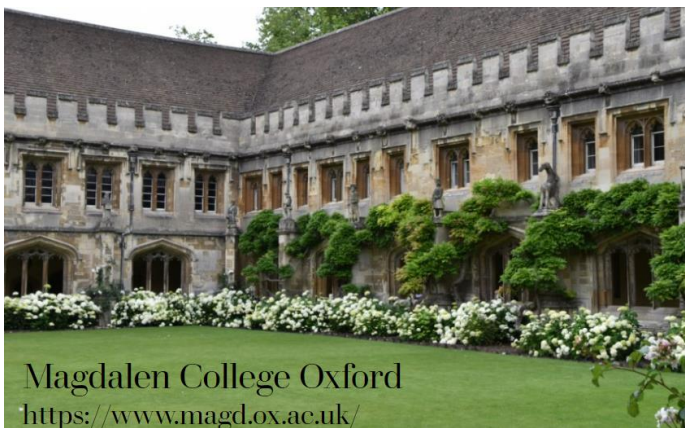
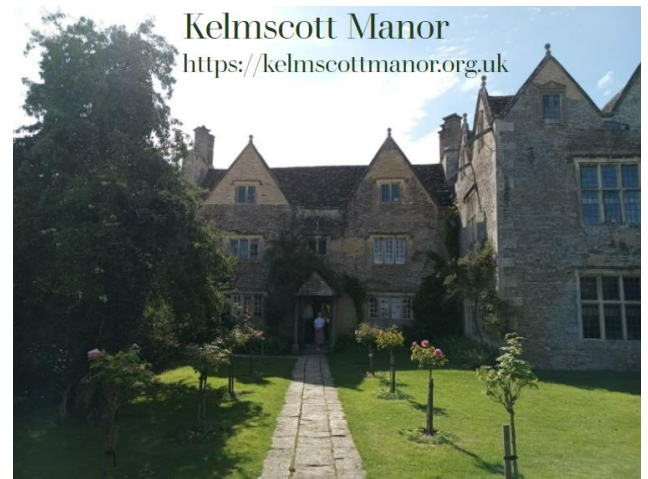
Our virtual tour of Britain now takes us close to London, Borde Hill, which is restored Elizabethan Mansion set in 383 acres. There is parkland, and woodland and 17 acres of formal gardens planted as a series of 13 outdoor 'Garden rooms.' John recommends allowing at least 4 hours to visit here.



Our next garden is RHS Gardens Wisley, which is the flagship of the Royal Horticultural Society. There are 240 acres of woodland and gardens to visit. Wisley is all about experimentation and there are numerous trials going on. There is a cathedral like glass house, and perennial borders to die for, a living gazebo and different ways to espalier pears. John recommends a full day to visit here.

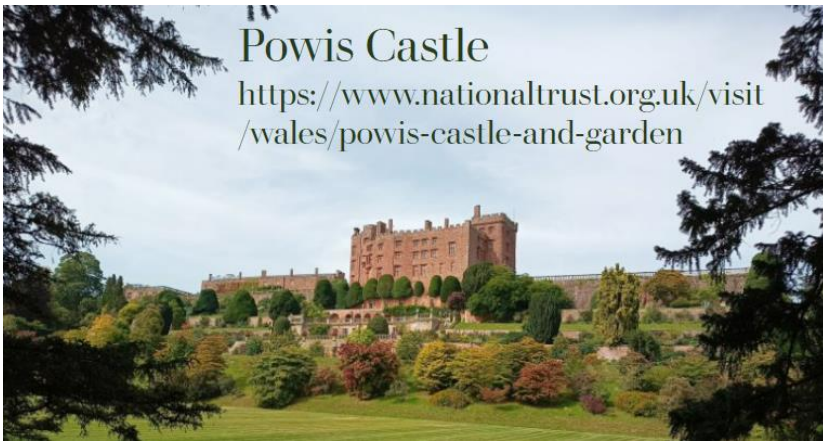


Next, we meander slightly north west to the Cotswolds 40 Minutes west of Oxford. Kelmscott Manor was the home of William Morris, father of the Arts & Crafts movement. The garden is a simple country garden and a tour of the house and garden would take at least two hours. There is a very nice café and pub in the village.



We now travel east back to Oxford and Magdalen College. The gardens here originated in 1458 and cover about 12ha. John grew up around here as his parents were tenant Farmers of Magdalen College. The college sold their farm, so John's dad became head gardener at the college for the following 12 years. The gardens include beautiful herbaceous borders, parkland, a water meadow and a deer park. There is no cost for visiting here and there are other gardens close by, which are also worth visiting.





Powis Castle

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/wales/powis-castle-and-garden>

Now we hop into our virtual vehicle to travel west over the Welsh border to Powis Castle near Welshpool. The castle was built in 13th century, and has been remodelled over the centuries into the grand home it is now. Beneath the castle are the Italianate Terraces, which are considered to be the finest surviving example of a 17th century terraces garden in Britain. There are gigantic clipped yew trees and an Edwardian formal garden. John spent half a day there including a castle tour.



Back in the vehicle, our next stop is north east into Yorkshire to RHS Harlow Carr Garden near Harrogate. The garden covers 58 acres, and includes water features, woodland and wildflower meadows, lavish main borders and lush moisture loving plants around Streamside. John spent half a day there, but also recommends a visit to Harrogate, which is a lovely spa town.



We leave Yorkshire to travel north, over the border into Scotland. Drummond Castle and gardens is just outside Crieff, an hour north of Glasgow and Edinburgh. Drummond Castle was built on a rocky outcrop in 1490. The gardens are very formal with long vistas and clipped trees, a brilliant rose garden, with some less formal areas at the edges. John spent around half a day there.



Drummond Castle & Gardens
<https://drummondcastlegardens.co.uk/>



And so, ends our tour of some of the gardens of Britain. Thank you so much John for a very enjoyable and interactive presentation.

Sources of information

'1001 Gardens you must see before you die' book. Great book if you are traveling anywhere in the world and want to visit gardens.

Royal Horticultural Society (RHS): just 5 Gardens, but with a further 220 partner gardens. Also their shows including the Chelsea Flower Show.

The National Trust is Europe's biggest conservation charity with over 300 homes and gardens in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. You can use your Australian National Trust membership card for free entry.

Great British Gardens online guide: over 500 open gardens, with various ways to search.

Britain Express English Garden Guide: bit old school website, but quite comprehensive.

Warning about seeds – you can no longer bring seeds into Australia from the UK without a phytosanitary certificate. This is because of the risk of Khapra beetle.

2024 Garden Club Plans

July 2024--- No Meeting	8 August ---- 2024 AGM
12 September --- Narranghi Olive Grove	10 October --- Local Garden Visit
14 November --- Nimmitabel Visit	12 December --- Christmas Party Lunch

WHAT'S ON

OPEN GARDENS CANBERRA - <https://opengardenscanberra.org.au>

BRAIDWOOD FARMERS MARKET The market is held in the National Theatre in the main street of Braidwood (opposite The Braidwood Bakery) on the first and third Saturday of each month in the morning.

SEPTEMBER 11 – OCTOBER 13, 2024 Tulip Top Gardens <https://www.tuliptopgardens.com.au>

OCTOBER Saturday 5-Sunday 6
Braidwood Open Gardens

OCTOBER Saturday 26 - Sunday 27 2024 Bathurst Gardeners Club Spring Spectacular.
<https://bathurstgardenclub.org.au/bathurst-spring-spectacular/>

OCTOBER Sunday 27, 2024 Bungendore Show
www.agshowsnsw.org.au/shows/all-shows/85-bungendore-show

THE PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Kate Chinnick



Chimonanthus fragrans

(Wintersweet)

- Native to China
- A deciduous shrub growing to 3- 4.5 m high and wide
- Has harsh textured mid green leaves
- Pale yellow flowers appear on bare winter branches
- Flowers have a lovely strong perfume
- Small fruits are yellowish brown when ripe
- Prefers a sheltered position in full sun or part shade
- Propagate from seed or layering of lower stems

What to do in the garden for July

- Remove flower buds from spring annuals for better displays
- Rhododendrons, Azaleas & Camelias will need watering leading to blooming
- Prune Wisterias and deciduous climbers
- Prune later flowering shrubs (not spring flowerers)
- Order summer flowering bulbs - Lilliums etc.
- Clean up prunings from fruit trees and mulch
- Sow Globe Artichoke and Asparagus seeds
- Clean and sharpen secateurs, loppers and saws
- Sand and oil (linseed oil) wooden handles on tools
- Turn over vegetable beds for spring plantings
- Watch for pink bud swell on early Peaches & Nectarines & spray for leaf curl with copper or lime sulphur