



Members News: August 2023

Our Next Event:

Visit to Goscote Nurseries

Thursday, 17th August 2023, meet at **2.00 pm – in the Nurseries car park**

Our next event is a visit to Goscote Nurseries to hear about how it was established and how it is managed today. This is one of the best and most popular nurseries of our local garden centres. As well as a wide range of plants, including many trees and shrubs, there is a café serving tea and cakes, plus plenty of seasonal plants to tempt us!

We very much hope you can all come and look forward to seeing you there.

Note: A change from the published programme. Our next talk is *Medicinal Plants: A Medicine Chest in your Back Garden*. This has been re-programmed from May for **21st September** (replacing Badgers in the Garden, which will be a bit later on - 16th November). Apologies for any inconvenience caused by these changes.

Our visit to Bradgate Park garden: it was a real treat!



Photo: Farah Jack

Quorn Garden Club visit to Bradgate Park

Our band of intrepid gardeners gathered at the ruins in Bradgate Park and were led through an unremarkable gate set into the walls surrounding the house. What a sight greeted us! A cornucopia of colourful plants crammed into every nook and cranny with a delightful hum and buzz of insect and bird life all around. The garden has a very sheltered aspect being enclosed by two walls and receiving sun most of the day. The inner wall radiates back the heat it has taken up during the day to provide warmth long into the evening.

We were escorted around the garden by two of the twelve volunteers that tend the garden, Sarah, and Joelle. They told us about their work over the past five years reclaiming the beds of the former kitchen garden and planting out beds with vegetables and fruit. The long border following the inner wall is planted with hardy flowering perennials and shrubs and whilst we stood to admire the buddleia, we counted eight red admiral butterflies fluttering around from flowerhead to flowerhead. Both ladies were full of fascinating facts and clearly thoroughly enjoyed their time spent working in the garden. My favourite snippet was about *Verbascum Bombiciferum* and its many uses through time including the seed heads as torches / firelighters and apparently the leaves as “cowboy toilet paper”.

The plants and seeds have been donated mostly by the volunteers and must be able to thrive in quite an arid environment. There was no water on site and containers had to be filled and carried across the park from the stream or café area. After a recent site visit by the Trustees a large tank has been provided but the filling of this is still somewhat of a trial. There are plans to continue filling in the gaps in the long border but the retaining wall is to be repointed in late summer / early autumn so this will be done afterwards. As with any garden there is always something needing doing!

The garden is open to the public on Sundays 12noon to 3pm. A £2 donation per person is collected by the Bradgate Park Trust.

Farah Jack

Dates for the Diary

Plant Hunters' Fairs

On Sunday 20th August at Carsington Water, Ashbourne, DE6 1ST. For full details of all the 2023 the Plants Hunters Fairs nationwide go to www.planthuntersfairs.co.uk.

Alpine Garden Society Plant Show and Sale

Saturday 30th September, opens 11am at CE Primary School, Forest Street, Shepshed LE12 9DA. Specialist alpine, rockery, and hardy plant nurseries from all over the country will be in attendance. Always worth a visit!

Visit a Local Garden: lots to see!

Every Sunday in August: Honeytrees Tropical Garden, Bottesford, LE13 0EG.

Saturday & Sunday 19th August: The Old Barn, Swadlincote, DE12 8AF.

Sunday 27th August: Tresilian House, Melton Mowbray, LE130BQ.

3rd September: Washbrook Allotments, Welford Road, Leicester, LE2 6FP.

Every Wednesday, 7 June to 26 July: Stoke Albany House, Market Harborough LE16 8PT. 4-acre country house garden, display of roses, topiary, and water features.

For full information and more gardens go to www.ngs.org.uk.

Discount at Six Acres Nurseries

Following Dave Stockdale's talk to us in April, Quorn Garden Club members can benefit from a generous 10% discount on purchases at Six Acres Nurseries (Loughborough Road, Costock, LE12 6XB).