

DETAILS OF CHS SUMMER OUTINGS 2018

R J Jones Coach departs Aberystwyth Long Stay Car Park: times vary. Return times are approximate. Deposit on all trip £10.00: to book, download separate booking form.

1 A May day in the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Millichope Park, Bouts Viola Nursery & Mynd Hardy Plants

Wednesday 16 May 08.00am – 7.30pm

This will be quite a full day visiting 3 gardens. Millichope Park consists of some 14 acres of historic gardens with lakes and cascades dating from the C18. It normally only opens for NGS, and it took us a while to organise a visit. In mid May the bluebells and violas should be at their best. Major restoration work has been undertaken bringing the walled garden and C19 glasshouses back to life. Wildegoose Nursery, the small independent Bouts Viola Nursery and tearoom, is in the walled garden. Jack and Laura Willgoss will welcome us with refreshments, take us up to the historic gardens and then show us round their viola nursery. We then enjoy a light lunch and some retail therapy.

In the afternoon we head down to Mynd Hardy Plants on the Delbury Hall estate where a commercial hardy plant nursery has been established in the walled garden where restoration is ongoing. After a conducted tour with Richard and Jill Rallings, some more retail therapy (and tea and cake), we cross Offa's Dyke and head for home.

Estimated cost: £40 including all refreshments: morning coffee, lunch & afternoon tea.

2 A June day in west Gwynedd Nanhoron & Plas Gwynfryn

Tuesday 12 June 07.45am – 7.30pm

Nanhoron is a fine Regency mansion house hidden in some of the most beautiful landscape in Wales. The home of the Hardens, whose family has owned this estate for 700 years, Nanhoron has lovely and extensive gardens and opens only for private parties. The layout of the landscape you see today with its park running down to the lake follows the classic C18th plan, looking out from the house and capturing nature as the view. Bettina Harden will welcome us with coffee and cakes and an introduction, before she and her head gardener take us round. A 2-course lunch will be enjoyed here.

We then proceed to Plas Gwynfryn, a privately owned spectacular Welsh country house near Harlech. Set amongst 8 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens within the Snowdonia National Park, and formerly only opening once a year for the NGS. We will be welcomed and shown round by Caroline Evans. Tea and cake will be served before departure.

Estimated cost: £46.50 including all refreshments: morning coffee, lunch & afternoon tea.

3 A July trip with a difference

David Austin Roses & the award-winning Bowbrook Allotment Community

Tuesday 3 July 07.45am – 7.00pm

David Austin Roses take only one coach party a day when the roses are out. We booked our visit last year as part of the 50th Anniversary Year outings. In the early 1950s David Austin set out to create a more beautiful rose. Sixty years on, this simple objective remains. From a hobby breeder as a young teenager David Austin has gone on to breed a collection of roses renowned across the world. Rose breeding is often described as being as much an art as a science. All David Austin roses have a collective style and reflect one man's vision. All have beautiful blooms and in most cases wonderful fragrance held on graceful attractive shrubs. A garden of these outstanding roses is hard to beat for sheer exuberance of flower and fragrance. We will have tea/coffee with biscuits in the marquee on arrival. We will then be

given an introduction and an informative guided tour of the Rose Gardens. Then there will be time to enjoy the gardens at leisure. A two-course luncheon including tea and coffee will be served and with some time afterwards in the plant centre and gift shop.

We then return to Shrewsbury to the award-winning Bowbrook Allotment Community – a complete contrast! The allotments consist of 93 plots on a 5-acre site and have featured on BBC TV and local radio and in several magazines. Plots are cultivated organically. Peter Haycox will welcome us and show us round this thriving community, and tea and cake will be served before departure.

Estimated cost: £42 including all refreshments: morning coffee, lunch & afternoon tea.

4 A day closer to home near Newtown in rural Powys

Claire Austin Hardy Plant Nursery and Cwm-Weeg

Tuesday 31 July 09.15am – 6.45pm

Today we visit the working nursery owned by David Austin's daughter Claire and her husband, who are supported by a small, enthusiastic and knowledgeable team of full-time and seasonal employees. In addition to the large perennial selection of plants grown for sale, they hold the National Collection of both Bearded Iris (full status) and Hybrid Herbaceous Peony (provisional status). Claire herself will welcome us from the minibuses that will run us from the village of Sarn to the nursery. (As there are access problems, we will be leaving the coach at The Sarn, the nursery's café and retail centre in the village.) We will have the opportunity for coffee at The Sarn on arrival and on our return get lunch and enjoy retail therapy. We then rejoin the coach for the short journey to our second garden.

Last summer Alison Swanson and Joy Neal enthusiastically suggested this as a garden for us to visit. Cwm-Weeg near Newtown has a 2.5-acre formal garden set within 24 acres of wildflower meadows and bluebell woodland with stream. It is centred on a C15 farmhouse and has many surprises including fountains and statuary, grottos, a moss garden with artificial rock face and tree sculptures. All these features, together with lawns and extensive herbaceous borders, translate older garden vocabulary into an innovative C21 concept. Wolfgang Schaefer will be welcoming us and taking us round, and of course, we will enjoy tea and home-made cakes before we head home!

Estimated cost: £18 including refreshments at Cwm-Weeg. Morning coffee & lunchtime refreshments may be purchased at The Sarn.

5 A Late August day in the Snowdonia National Park

Plas Tan y Bwlch & Bryn Gwern

Wednesday 29 August 08.15am – 7.00pm

The Plas Tan y Bwlch gardens were badly affected by a disastrous storm several years ago. Garden consultant, writer, tour organiser/leader and lecturer Tony Russell has been leading the work to restore the gardens and is a personal friend of Bettina Harden who suggested he leads a tour there for us in our 50th anniversary year. We will have a welcome and introduction from Tony in the tearoom on arrival before he takes us on a tour of the restoration work in the garden. Afterwards we can buy lunch in the café before we depart for the second garden.

Bryn Gwern, the home of Hilary Nurse, the South Gwynedd County Organiser for NGS, is a sloping 2-acre garden in the hills overlooking Dolgellau with views to Cader Idris. Originally wooded, it has been redesigned to enhance its natural features with streams, ponds and imaginative and extensive planting and vibrant colour. The garden is now a haven for wildlife with hedgehogs and 27 species of birds. We will enjoy tea and cakes in the garden before our return to Aberystwyth.

Estimated cost: £21 including tea & cake at Bryn Gwern. Morning coffee & lunchtime refreshments may be purchased in the Tan y Bwlch tearoom.