

## **Gardens Programme Second Half of 2018**

In the first one I was talking of the excessive rainfall, now it's the excessive heat, who said gardening isn't a challenge?!

**Tuesday 24 July at 2pm Squirrels, 98 Barton Road, Torquay. TQ2 7NS  
OS 202 905655**

*From Newton Abbot take A380 to Torquay. After ASDA store on L, turn L at T-lights up Old Woods Hill. 1st L into Barton Rd. Bungalow 200yds on L. Also could turn by B&Q. Parking nearby. They used to suggest parking in B&Q but you could be fined so don't! There is parking on Barton Road towards the cemetery . Admission £6 to include a cream tea.*

*Plantsman's small town environmental garden, landscaped with small ponds and 7ft waterfall. Interlinked through abutilons to Japanese, Italianate, tropical areas. Specialising in fruit incl peaches, figs, kiwi. Tender plants incl bananas, tree fern, brugmansia, lantanas, oleanders. Mandevilla. Collections of fuchsia, abutilons, bougainvilleas, topiary and more. Enviromental and Superclass Winners.*

*27 cleverly hidden rain water storage containers. Advice on free electric from solar panels and solar hot water heating and fruit pruning. 3 sculptures. Many topiary birds, animals and balls. Huge 20ft Torbay palm. 9ft geranium. 15ft abutilons. New Moroccan Area. Colourful pergolas, many clematis. Perennial borders. Many nesting boxes, Ducks on slug patrol. Water features and small bog garden. 27 cleverly-hidden rain water storage containers, one 4x2x1mtr. Environmentally friendly water features and waterfall. large disguised compost heaps. Home-made solar hot-water panels. New large solar electric p.v. system. Advice on fruit pruning. Level garden with lots of seating. Featured on BBC Gardeners World & Radio 4, Gardeners Question time, BBC Radio Devon, in local newspaper and Devon life Magazine. Torbay in Bloom Environmentally Friendly Garden and Superclass Gold Medal Winners.*

This is a visit just for us so please let me know if you are coming.

**Wed 15<sup>th</sup> August at 2pm Great Ambrook OS Explorer 110/ Landranger 202  
823653 Admission £5**

<https://www.devonlive.com/news/stunning-lost-italian-garden-hidden-1082691>

[devongardenstrust.org.uk](http://devongardenstrust.org.uk) also has a very good article on the history of this garden.

I have arranged a visit to Great Ambrook on Wed 15th August at 14,00 hrs. We will be shown round by the garden historian Angela Dodd-Crompton. This is an Italian Garden

originally attached to the Great Ambrook estate, built between 1909 and 1912. It has had a chequered history since but has now achieved Grade II listed status by English Heritage. Chris and Sandy very kindly did a "recce" and suggest meeting at Fermoy's Totnes Road, Ipplepen, Newton Abbot. TQ12 5TN and then sharing cars – parking at the Garden is extremely limited. We would then be able to have our tea at Fermoy's.

Again, it is essential that you let me know well in advance as Angela will only come out if we can get a viable number. This is not a garden which is normally open.

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept Sedgewell Coach House Gardens Olchard. TQ12 3GU at 11am**  
4 miles north of Newton Abbot 12m S of Exeter on A380, L for Olchard, straight ahead on private drive. OS 192 876773

*A private wildlife sculpture garden and ongoing sculptural project. Heather Jansch, world famous sculptor best known for her life-size driftwood horses, makes innovative use of recycled materials in her extensive garden. The experience begins with the walk down the driveway and spectacular views across a wooded valley. As one approaches the house the road bends to reveal a lawned area leading to an orchard beyond. Everywhere you look there is something unexpected, every year there is something new to see as the herd grows and the garden expands, so even if you have been before, there will be surprises. 14 acres include stunning driftwood sculpture, fabulous views, woodland bluebell trail & timeless stream-bordered water meadow. Level areas for wheelchairs, pools, herbaceous borders, medicinal herb garden. Plentiful undercover seating & secret areas to dream in undisturbed. Come & picnic. Sadly dogs are no longer welcome because too few owners cleaned up after them on my lawns choosing instead to leave it to my gardeners! Admission £4.50 I tried to arrange a Group visit last year but didn't get a response so this is an NGS Day, hence my suggestion of 11am, being the opening time.*

Pam Greenhough has mentioned that the Kelly Mine at Lustleigh has its biannual Open Day on the 2<sup>nd</sup> too. It's on the A382 between Bovey and Moretonhampstead. Details are at [kellymine.co.uk](http://kellymine.co.uk). No underground access but run by a preservation society who are keen to show it off, disabled access not good. Pam thought that the two visits could be combined. It was one of a group of ten mines working deposits of micaceous iron oxide. OS191 795818

It would be good to have expressions of interest.

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm Plaz Metaxu (Coombe House) Witheridge EX16**  
**8PT OS 180 796140 Admission £6 plus £1.50 for tea**

This again, is a private visit by kind permission of Alasdair Forbes, the owner. He writes:-

*Plaz Metaxu could be described as a contemporary (and modest!) take on the early eighteenth century landscape garden. It has been developed since 1992. The Devon Gardens Trust have placed the garden on their list of registered parks and gardens.*

*It is often spoken of as a 'garden of ideas' and compared to Ian Hamilton Finlay's 'Little Sparta' in Scotland, and it is true that an interest in poetry, mythology, psychology, and both eastern and western philosophical traditions do underwrite the garden, but always out of respect for, and in collaboration with, the character of the garden's varied spaces. While not a plantsman's garden, the numerous trees and shrubs, and the way they are placed, has justified a visit from the Woody Plant Committee of the RHS.*

*It is a valley garden (the name means 'The Place that is Between') of 13 ha. with a lake, walled garden, two courtyards, orchard, woods, mini arboretum, stream, ponds, extensive lawns and many sheltered walks and enclosures, as well as the surrounding sheep pastures.*

*Directions: Postcode EX16 8PT*

*Turn into the Square in the centre of Witheridge, on the B3137.*

*Take the Lane towards Drayford (signed East Worlington)*

*After half a mile, on the left, you will come to an ash tree on a mound between two drives. A 'Garden Open' sign will direct you further down the Lane.*

*Continue for a few hundred yards until you see another sign directing you through a gateway into a field on the left.*

*Once in the field, drive back (east) across the top of the field and park in the north east corner of the field. A nearby gate leads into the garden (which may or may not be open, depending on where the sheep are!)*

*Someone will be there to greet everyone. (Probably either me or my gardener, Cyril).*

**Again, it is worth looking at the Devon Gardens Trust website link to Plaz Metaxu. I really hope that we can get a good number to sign up for this, it's taken me some time to track this one down and get an invite! We will be taken round by Alasdair himself. He asks me to stress that, for his insurance point of view, the visit will be at our own risk. It's not anymore dangerous than everywhere else we visit, but he wants this stated.**

**October – date to be decided later depending on autumn colour, Lukesland, Ivybridge.** We've been before and people will recall a lovely garden with an excellent tea and very friendly owner. Dogs welcome.