

June Visit

Rather a dull, damp, dismal day for our visit to The Folly at Charlton. But the weather didn't dampen our spirits and enthusiasm once we saw the garden!

It is not a huge garden, but one that has been cleverly designed and lovingly planted and maintained, far exceeding its description in the NGS booklet.

Approaching the pretty flint cottage, nestling in this gentle valley we were welcomed by the sight and perfume of a magnificent Rambling Rector rose covering the front boundary.

Once in the garden it was difficult to choose what to explore first; the little art gallery, the tempting selection of plants for sale or the garden!

The terrace was full of interest around the seating area with elegant pots and water features, then steps led up to a pristine green lawn. Borders were brimming with plants... small trees, rose bushes (no sign of black spot!) and a huge range of perennials. It was the fantastic gentle colour schemes of yellows, mauves, apricot and white that I wanted to relocate to my garden.

Sculptural features were also fascinating:- a wooden sphere set amongst pebbles, various arches and arbours, a cluster of terracotta rhubarb forcers, a robin perched on a spade, an ancient looking well and a horse's head peering over paddock railings as a focal point at the end of the garden. In addition, a happy home for very busy honey bees!

Last but not least must be mentioned the warm welcome from Joan who was very patient in answering all our questions!

Memorable too were the cakes, the scones with cream and homemade jam to accompany coffee and tea-surely a suitable celebration on Terry's birthday?!

So much to absorb and inspire us for our own gardens...The Folly really warrants another visit....or Many Happy Returns!

Pip Slater