

Waterperry Gardens

24th July 2024 (Wednesday) Coach Trip

- 9:30am Depart from Solihull Methodist Church
- 10:30am Arrive Waterperry, Oxford OX33 1LA
 - Includes Guided Tour
- 3:30pm Depart
- 4:30pm Return Solihull Methodist Church

Cost £42.00

Waterperry Gardens were made famous by Beatrix Havergal who established her School of Horticulture for Ladies here in 1932. With the outbreak of World War II, Waterperry was turned into a market gardening operation, producing much-needed food. The task was to keep the school operating as a going concern, whilst adding to the war effort by accommodating the arrival of the Women's Land Army personnel. They were soon put to work ploughing and digging for victory.

Land Army girls joined the existing staff and students and gardening courses were held on the last Saturday of the month called 'Dig For Victory Demonstrations' to teach people how to grow their own food. By now Waterperry had become an established and well-respected school.

The gardens are evidence of Beatrix' horticultural virtuosity, in particular the classical herbaceous border. This remains an object of admiration to because of the gardeners' continuing faithfulness to its original conception. Although the teaching school left its mark on the gardens, these were principally established for educational purposes, including the striking 'living catalogue' of herbaceous plants. Yet, since the closure of the school in 1971, extensive developments have taken place in the under the present owners, The School of Philosophy and Economic Science.

Waterperry is now home to 8 acres of beautifully landscaped ornamental gardens, a quality plant centre and garden shop, gallery and gift shop, museum and tea shop.

We will have a guided tour of the garden during our visit, as well as plenty of time to explore and shop.