



WELL as we wait for Summer to arrive, the longest day of the year has passed, the thoughts of Autumn are round the corner, you may be wondering what you can do in your garden while squelching through the mud! Maybe your time would be spent better visiting some of the local hidden gems that are so close you could almost reach out and touch them. Well the RCCHS has done just that, and what a day. Here is a low down on the away day by Committee member Patricia Swindells...

A HIDDEN GEM REVELEY LODGE

Margaret McIntosh, Chairperson of the RCCHS, arranged an outing to Reveley Lodge, Bushey, at the end of May. This was in response to views expressed that our members would like more trips. The trip was a joint venture with members from the *Hatch End Horticultural Society* and it added an extra dimension in that we got to meet new people and share information and advice.

The weather was absolutely glorious, bright blue skies and a soaring temperature. A day when it looked like Summer had arrived (a false promise as it turned out!).

Most of our group had never heard of Reveley Lodge and we were all surprised by what we found in this corner of London. Definitely a hidden gem. The morning started with a tour of the Lodge. The group was divided in smaller parties and taken around the house by the volunteer guides. Each room has been restored to show how it would have looked.

Albert Chewett came to study art in Bushey at the famous *Herkomer Art School* in 1900, after three years he returned to Canada and then came back to Europe with his family, eventually settling back in Bushey where he was able to rent the lodge.

In 1921 he had the opportunity to buy the estate, he paid £5,000 for the house, nine cottages and four and a half acres of land.

He met Eila Hamilton-Baillie, the daughter of a clergyman when she came to tea at Reveley. They married on her 19th birthday in 1931. He was 53.

Albert died in 1965 aged 88 and Eila stayed in the lodge, her home for 70 years, until 2003. She bequeathed the lodge in 2003 to the *Bushey Museum Property Trust*.

After the tour the group went back in to the Salon for tea and cake. The cakes were excellent and the portions very generous! The next

Tickets are selling fast for "An Evening with PIPPA GREENWOOD" on Tuesday 15th November 2016, to come along and enjoy a fantastic evening with the BBC Radio 4 presenter please call Warren on 01923 451616 for tickets. See website for details.
<http://ruisliphorticultural.org.uk/>



section of the trip was a conducted tour of the garden and our guide was the Head Gardener Nick Boyes, a professionally trained *Kew* gardener.

The tour was very informative with tips on the types of tools to be used; how to keep work to a minimum; not to listen to certain TV experts with detailed and extremely useful information on the different plants grown.

With additional help from a part-time assistant gardener and a small number of volunteers, the garden has been nurtured and is now a space where people can enjoy beauty and tranquility. The emphasis now, with ever evolving new planting, is to create a garden with year round interest. Even after the tour the group stayed on to enjoy the experience and pick the brains of Nick on what they should do in their own gardens.

For those interested in going back or going for the first time the garden is open free of charge during weekdays throughout the year. In addition during the summer months, the garden opens on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. The house has a limited opening but for more details see the website: <http://www.reveleylodge.org/garden/>

POST BAG

I would like to ask the RCCHS if there is a plant that tolerates boggy soil, I live in Northwood at the bottom of a hill, and all this wet weather has caused my garden to become a bog! What should I plant?

Well how topical! It's hardly tropical! So here are a few ideas. One plant that loves the wet conditions and has some lovely foliage and color is *Ligularia*. The one I love is *ligularia przewalskii*, *przewalskii* is a vigorous perennial to 2m in height, with erect black stems bearing large leaves palmately cut into jagged lobes, and slender racemes with of small yellow flower-heads in late summer. Another idea for boggy conditions is *Zantedeschia*. It can be deciduous or semi-evergreen, tuberous perennials with lance-shaped or arrow-shaped leaves and tiny yellow flowers forming a dense spike-like spadix, with a showy, hood-like spathe.