

Gardening Group Report for June by Sue Holmes

We certainly got our timing right for the first visit of the year, dry all day until returning to the coach when it started to rain. And on the journey home, boy did it rain.

Scampston Hall and gardens, what an absolute delight. Our tour of the house with our guide Ann whose knowledge of the family, the house and the paintings was quite remarkable, all told with humour and a slightly irreverent view of the family. And it was a home still lived in by the current owners which made it more interesting and homely, with family photos, TV, etc in some rooms. Owned by the St Quintin family from the 1690's until 1933 when the family name died out. The family line continued with daughter Margery marrying into the Malone family and her daughter married into the Legard family which continues today with Christopher. There were black sheep who lost fortunes, having to sell off their horses, many of which are reflected in the fine paintings, but that's another story.

The parkland was designed by Capability Brown, using his ha-ha to give the appearance of a seamless landscape, creating lakes to mimic rivers, one end being dominated by the Palladian Bridge, further along we have the Cascade and the Old Ice House.

The Walled garden is a somewhat newer design. In 1999 Piet Oudolf created what was then something very different, although we are now quite used to the use of "rooms". Piet created 12 different areas, drifts of grass running through a lawn, a silent garden with 24 columns of yew reflected in a rectangular pond, spring and summer box borders, squares of box backed by herbaceous borders, a perennial meadow with naturalised planting using leaf, flower and stem to give a long season of interest, serpentine garden with its waves of clipped yew, and the mount where climbing the steps offers a view over the garden, slight obscured by the cherry trees.

Speaking of views over the garden Christine Walkdens series Glorious Gardens from Above (BBC 2 Sunday mornings) was at Scampston a couple of weeks ago you may be able to view it on catch up or i-player.

Next visit **Friday 5th July. Tudor Croft, Guisborough and Wynyard Hall Rose Garden**