

LWGC outing to 'Peacocks' on Wednesday 14th May in Margaretting.

Phil Torr, the owner, gave us a tour of his beautiful 10 acre garden and a brief history of the house which dates back to Queen Ann, although it has had later works carried out on it.

At the front of the house is a large lawn with some interesting trees - an Italian Foxglove tree and the Tulip tree to name two. Throughout the garden trees are an important feature and amongst them have been spotted the 3 UK Woodpeckers- the Green, the Greater Spotted and Lesser Spotted.

The garden with all its varieties of flowers is a haven for all wildlife and there are many 'bug' hotels dotted around to encourage these visitors.

Leading off the lawned area are a series of separate gardens all with a different theme. One of these gardens had a beautiful Wisteria and Clematis walkway.

The gardens have 30 varieties of Clematis and 6 varieties of Wisteria, one of which had very impressive 3ft long hanging purple blooms.

Water is an important feature of the gardens .There is a small lake and a lovely little dell tucked away in one corner boasting a rather impressive man made waterfall which flows down Kentish Stone. Phil was unaware of this dell when he bought the house 25 years ago and discovered it while clearing out self rooted saplings. He cleared all the saplings and weeds out and brought the dell back to its former glory. He found out that it was the project of a Mrs Cooper who lived in the house in the 1930's. The waterfall is fed by a natural spring and a pump circulates the water.

Phil has established a wildflower meadow with an orchard containing 25 varieties of apple trees. He explained how he made the meadow and what is needed to keep it thriving. It is important to grow the Yellow Rattle plant amongst the wildflowers. This is because it is semi parasitic and saps the grass allowing the wildflowers to flourish and not be swamped by the grass.

This is a very impressive garden with a lot to see and Phil was an excellent host. We ended the tour with tea and cake provided by Phil's wife and relaxed in the sunshine enjoying the vista.