Below are reports on our visit to Cooksmill Green Garden on 18th May from 2 of our members

LITTLE WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB VISIT TO COOKSMILL GREEN

From the moment we entered this beautiful garden we were enthralled by the unique layout, the planting, and the undulating form of the land. Around every corner there was a different vista, a different feature, all enhanced by the thoughtful planting and maturity of many of the trees and shrubs.

The chicken run featured a little 'chapel' as the henhouse and the decorative fence posts around it were from an old church organ. A little greenhouse turned out to contain a beautiful alpine garden. Round the corner and down some steps was a secluded pergola with wisteria climbing over it under which was pretty seating and another bubbling water feature. There was an area of sunken lawn, which is apparently often flooded as it was historically a large wild pond and as the land rises again there is a beautiful water feature with Koi carp and a little trickling waterfall - **and all this is part of the 'front garden.**

When you enter the rear garden there are secluded little areas with seating and beautiful planting, although how they find time to sit anywhere is amazing. Approached by an area with tree ferns and a rare Australian pine tree there is a beautiful little Japanese garden with Acers, rocks, ferns and hostas and a Japanese style structure.

Everywhere is absolutely immaculate with not a weed in sight. Lydia and Tony obviously dedicate a great deal of time to their garden and they have achieved absolute perfection. They don't open the garden to the public now as they did for many years to raise funds for the little Chapel in the community. Lydia did say it relieves them of a lot of pressure.

Our thanks to them both for making us all feel so very welcome and the weather was kind to us too.

When all then drove to The Bakery, attached to the Fox & Goose on the A414 where we were all seated together to catchup and enjoy our refreshments. Some of us just had to visit Greenbrook Nursery, right opposite.

Thank you again to Caroline for arranging this visit and to Lydia and Tony for sharing their stunning garden with our gardening club.

Visit to Cooksmill Green Garden 18th May

Today 14 members of our gardening club visited Lydia and Tony's garden in Cooksmill Green.

It is a beautiful garden with lots of hideaway secret places, one of which is a Japanese garden with 2 beautiful acer trees.

The garden had it all - fruit trees, vegetable plot, chickens!! Water features, a pond, gazebo - all planted up with such a variety of plants - peonies, allium, roses, geraniums to name just a few. Not a weed in sight!

A variety of trees had been planted in the garden but Tony's favourite was his Yew tree which had been trimmed to an oval shape and dominated one of the spaces. Tony and Lydia are great fans of the Chelsea flower show and had bought many plants from there over the years. One of their favourites was a white Rhododendron which had a really strong perfume which you could enjoy sitting on the bench next to it.

We said our goodbyes and headed to The Bakehouse for tea and cake. A nice end to a lovely afternoon.