

## Welcome to Arley! Trees, shrubs & plants looking good at present

20 August

After you enter the gardens turn left to reach the lawn in front of the house. Then go along the Furlong Walk until you reach the \*\*\***Herbaceous Border**, now in its principal period of glory which lasts until early October. Many different hardy perennials combine to make a beautiful picture. Particularly striking at present are the giant yellow daisies - *rudbeckia* 'Herbstonne' & *helianthus* 'Lemon Queen', *eupatorium atropurpureum* (very tall plants with heads of small deep pink flowers), heleniums, phlox & crocosmias in a variety of colours, the giant dahlia 'Admiral Rawlings' (huge deep purple flowers on stems 6ft high). Also looking particularly good are *artemisia lactiflora* 'Alba' with a mass of tiny milk-white flowers, veronicastrums, (delicate spires of pale pink flowers), *inula* 'Hookeri' (masses of bright yellow daisies at the front of the bed), tall lobelias in a variety of rich red & purple colours & the beautiful Aster 'Monch', also at the front, whose lilac-blue flowers are produced for months.

At the end of the Ilex Avenue is the \*\***Sundial Circle**, where a circle of *rosa* Erfurt will soon flower again. Just beside is an elegant planting of *crocosmia* 'Walberton Scarlet', lobelias & canna lilies against a backdrop of *tropaeolum speciosum* growing on the yew hedge. Next door is the \*\* **Rootery**, an area created in the 1860s to resemble a romantic mountain dell surrounding a pool and a grotto. Several beautiful, very old, Japanese acers grow round the pool, as does 'Skunk Cabbage' (*lysichiton americanum*) with its vast spinach-like leaves, the huge fern (*osmunda regalis*) with leaves up to 8ft high & the beautiful autumn-flowering *gentiana asclepiadea* displays its marvellously deep blue flowers in arching stems. Climb to the top of the path at the end of the pool near the waterfall to enjoy the beautiful view over the whole area. In \*\***The Rough** nearby is a fairly large specimen of the **attractively** shaped small tree, *cornus controversa* 'Variegata', with its magnificently tiered, creamy coloured branches.

\*\*\***The Walled Garden** is full of interest.. Do walk all round the beds to see everything. This garden is planted with a large number of flowering trees & shrubs with interesting foliage or flowers. Particularly noticeable at present are on the west side are *hydrangea* 'Annabelle' with huge voluptuous white flowers and a beautiful golden-leaved tree – *ptelea trifoliata* 'Aurea', which has bunches of lime-green seed-pods. At the northern end is the unusual shrub, *cestrum parquii*, with lots of pale yellow flowers. Beside the gates at the southern end of the garden is the golden leaved elder, *Sambucus racemosa* 'Sutherland Gold' with lovely, bright gold, finely divided leaves. At the southern end also is an attractive group of *crocosmia* 'Rowallane Orange' beside the beautiful golden-leaved berberis. In front of the trees & shrubs all round are a wide range of flowering perennials, including penstemons, the delicate pale yellow *nepeta govaniiana*, & agapanthus. At the north end of this garden is an attractive planting in red and grey/blue – deep red roses, the glowing red leaves of *Cotinus coggyria* 'Grace' and grey-blue *hosta* 'Halcyon', all backed by the enormous grey-leaved giant thistle, *onopordum nervosum*. Go and sit on the bench in this area so that you can enjoy the lovely view right across the Gardens, down the **Ilex Avenue** to the **Park** beyond, a view which always inspires a wonderful feeling of serenity.

In the \*\*\***Arbour Walk**, in the centre of the \*\*\***Kitchen Garden**, rambling roses climb the pillars, supported by huge cardoons and a wide range of colourful annuals including China Asters (*callistephus chinensis*) in a number of colours, cosmos and the delicate spiky flowers of *cleome*. Vegetables & soft fruit can be seen in the beds on either side of the Arbour & colourful annuals are planted in the beds in front of the walls. In the \*\*\***Flag Garden** floribunda roses and lavender are providing a good display. *Clematis rehderiana* is showing its pale yellow bells on the on the East facing wall.

Jane Foster

Areas of the gardens are marked with a code indicating the amount of interest at present:

Key: \*\*\* this area must not to be missed, \*\* lots to see now, \* some interest at present

