

MID SUMMER OUTING

Wednesday 12th July 2023

West Green House Gardens, Thackham's Lane, Hartley Wintney, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 8JB

We left Upton Grey at around 1 pm and headed to West Green House, where lunch was available, served on fine china decorated with pictures of the very pretty manor house. The garden is divided by a series of box hedges which seem to have survived both box blight and moth infestation and contained lots of roses, perennial plants and annuals as well as some amazingly whole rows of frilly lettuce. Does someone pop out and replace them every morning before the visitors arrive? Just as we were having tea, the rain came down, but we were extremely lucky to have had such a fine day in the midst of a rather damp and chilly July. It was a lovely day out.

West Green House Gardens in Hartley Wintney is one of Hampshire's most distinctive and imaginative garden landscapes, blending classical structure with theatrical design, water features, follies, and seasonal spectacle. The gardens are celebrated for their series of walled enclosures, dramatic water staircase, Persian-influenced glade, and richly planted borders. The Gardens surround an 18th-century Georgian house and are known for their artistry, structure, and sense of play. The garden was transformed by Marylyn Abbott, whose design style mixes formal geometry with whimsical features and bold planting. The result is a garden that feels both elegant and surprising.

The Walled Gardens: Each enclosed area reveals a unique atmosphere. Abundant herbaceous borders, neatly shaped topiaries, and changing seasonal arrangements fill the space. Near the house, sunken pools host thriving water lilies.

The Grand Water Staircase & Nymphaeum Fountain: This celebrated element of the garden stands out as a signature feature. Architect Quinlan Terry envisioned its design. The striking cascade draws attention toward the classical focal point—the Nymphaeum.

The Aviary Garden: Located close to the residence, this delightful section enchants visitors. Its decorative aviary is home to rare bantam and chicken breeds.

The Persian Water Garden: Recently established in a wooded glade, this garden reflects Middle Eastern influences. Tranquil pools, slender rills, and shimmering water surfaces evoke calm and serenity.

The Lake & Woodland Walks: At the heart of the landscape lies a restored lake. Winding paths through the woods reveal whimsical follies, distinctive sculptures, and vibrant plantings. In early spring, vast displays of snowdrops, daffodils, and fritillaries blanket the grounds.



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