

Garden Visits

Page	Garden	Country	Date
1	Madingley Hall, Cambridge	UK	October 2025



The first of our Bridge Street Botany Club garden visits has taken place! On Saturday 1st November our small group (1) visited the Gardens of Madingley Hall (2). The Hall was built in the 16th century, but the Gardens were, famously, landscaped by Lancelot "Capability" Brown in 1756 for Sir John Hynde-Cotton.

Pride of place today is taken by the Walled Garden, labelled A in (2), which has been carefully reordered by a team of gardeners, led until his recent retirement by Richard Gant, who included specific areas such as a sunken garden and medicinal and herb borders (3). Further afield (B and beyond), the gardens open out to embrace the original Pleasure Gardens of Capability Brown, revealing great vistas punctuated with magnificent specimen trees, some now over 250 years old, with great avenues extending to the horizon, bordered by yew topiary. Very impressive!



The Walled Garden provides a warm microclimate suitable for exotic shrubs and trees. Individual plant species in the garden included the Castor Oil plant (4), Wormwood (5) and Borage (8), all in the medicinal border, and an excellent selection of alpines, including Houseleeks (6), Stonecrops (7), and Thymes in the raised Alpine bed. An Indian Golden Rain Tree (9,10) and Japanese Barberry (11) provided spectacular autumnal colour, with butterflies still on the wing (12), together with the last of the summer roses, including the fragrant Gallica rose Charles de Mills (13). Further afield, under the gaze of a hairy man (probably Dionysus, 14), ancient sequoias (15,16) were to be found scattered among indigenous specimens of pedunculate Oak (17), not to be confused with its sessile relative! A fabulous start to our botanical adventures...

