

MID SUMMER OUTING

Wednesday 15th June 2022

Bledlow Manor Garden, Bledlow, Buckinghamshire, HP27 9PA

Haslemere
Gardening
Society

Bledlow Manor Garden is a very different garden from that of Lord Carrington. It was a delightful experience in every way. We were treated to tea and very tasty cakes on arrival at Bledlow Manor, and then Lord Carrington told us about the garden's history and design and took us on a tour himself. It was obviously a much-loved and personal place for him, and a joy to be allowed to admire it. The garden is divided into different 'rooms' each brimming with flowers. There was an alpine garden where we were warned to watch where we put our feet, as in between the paving stones were lovely little treasures. Roses were a strong feature in most of the gardens and seemed to be having a good year. There is a sculpture garden which is very interesting, and formal ponds with vegetable dye in them to make them look deeper.



The afternoon ended with a walk around the Lyde Gardens, which is open to the public and goes down into a valley with narrow walkways and paths and interesting trees and shrubs with a stream running through it. We were all very grateful to Lord Carrington for allowing us to see his beautiful garden and for sparing the time to share it with us.

Bledlow Manor House Garden is set in the Chiltern Hills and is the private garden of Conservative politician and former cabinet minister Lord Carrington. The house was designed by Robert Adam. It is a dramatic example of an Arts and Crafts compartment garden, making more use of topiary than of herbaceous plants. We will have a private viewing of the walled kitchen garden, water garden, parterres and sculptures. Bledlow Manor's gardens reward a deeper look because they aren't just a collection of "garden rooms"—they're a coherent landscape narrative shaped over nearly 60 years. The sources you prompted me to check give us a rich, layered picture of how the place works as a whole.

Established in **1967** by the 6th Lord & Lady Carrington in collaboration with landscape architect **Robert Adams**, the garden is renowned for its striking layout, unobstructed views, and contrasting ambience that endure through the years. Since **2019**, designer **Sean Walter** has refreshed the plantings while upholding the original vision, giving the space both a sense of rooted history and contemporary vibrancy. If you appreciate witnessing how gardens evolve through careful planning, this setting offers much to explore.

The Lyde Water Garden, formed from historic cress beds nourished by springs, is a standout feature. Drawing subtle inspiration from Japanese design, it evokes a unique atmosphere with sequences of pools, intricate stonework, moss, and shade-loving plants, providing a tranquil, cool haven distinct from the sunlit upper gardens. Be aware that access may be challenging due to steep terraces.

The English kitchen garden is admired for its ornamental approach, where geometric pathways intersect spaces filled with vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers arranged in genuine potager style. This enclosed area contrasts attractively with open lawns adorned with sculptures, and visitors interested in mapping will appreciate the clarity of the garden's lines and forms.

An impressive collection of contemporary sculptures is on display here, featuring artists such as **Peter Randall-Page, Michael Cooper, Alistair Lambert, Barry Mason, and Paul Vanstone**. Each piece is thoughtfully placed to frame vistas, accent paths, or enliven the lawns, exemplifying the harmonious integration of modern art within a classic landscape.

The granary garden, which was recently replanted, now boasts a central fountain. Contemporary, textural planting updates the borders, while paved parterres divided by yew hedges blend traditional patterns with modern sensibilities. Nowhere is the ongoing restoration evident since 2019 more than in this part of the grounds.

Spanning **12 acres**, the garden's varied terrain creates an assortment of experiences. Sculptures grace the open, sunny lawns; the kitchen garden provides an enclosed, productive retreat; and the shaded water garden flourishes alongside spring-fed streams. Hedges, paved walkways, and meticulously pruned greenery establish smooth transitions throughout, ensuring that, whether you're mapping, photographing, or simply exploring, the grounds present captivating sights and rewarding discoveries around every corner.

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Bledlow Manor Garden's full visitor and contact details are straightforward: the garden uses the Carington Estates contact point at Perry Lane, Bledlow, with a single postcode, phone line, website, and email for all enquiries.

Everything below is drawn directly from the estate's published information.

📍 Bledlow Manor Garden — Contact Details

Address / Postcode

- **Bledlow Manor**
Off Perry Lane

Bledlow, near Princes Risborough
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