

Gardening Group 03.03.10

On a sunny day, 15 of us visited Higher Cherubeer garden (N.G.S. opened especially for us), near Dolton, N. Devon. En-route in Dolton we had lunch at the Rams Head pub which was very enjoyable, not the least as it gave us valuable chatting & catching up time.

We were welcomed by Jo Hynes who gave us a short talk about the garden's history, then walked with us around the garden which is situated in a small hamlet 500ft. on top of a S.W. facing valley surrounded by green fields & wonderful views. Originally a dairy farm, 15 years ago Jo & Tom transformed an acre of land by their house into a beautifully landscaped garden. There are stone edged raised beds, shady woodland beds, herbaceous border, large productive kitchen garden, fruit cage with resident bantam hens (who have weeding duties), very colourful basketry willows including a huge 'living willow' trellis & a short avenue of pollarded willows. Also a green house & Alpine house. Everywhere you look there are masses of snowdrops complimented by many shades of pink hardy cyclamen (the owners Jo & Tom Hynes hold the National Collection).

As an unexpected bonus after our tea & delicious homemade cakes, Jo invited us to 2 other nearby gardens owned by her relatives. Cherubeer, a cottage garden set round a 15th.C thatched house & Middle Cherubeer a lovely small garden with an eye catching mass of yellow winter aconites as you enter. All three gardens are opened together during the year for the National Garden Scheme. Well worth a visit!

Two pages of pictures below



