

Gardening group Wed. 5th. May '10

The sky was grey & the wind chilly but that didn't stop 16 of us enjoying the beauty of Hartland Abbey Gardens. The Abbey founded in 1157 & became a family home in 1539. There was so much colour everywhere, both from cultivated & wild plants.

The verges of the winding path to the walled garden & especially the banks either side of the path to the sea, were bathed in bluebells. Complimenting the intense blue were pretty white wild garlic (ramsons), violets, campions, buttercups & more, with the bonus of birdsong wherever we walked.

The woodland path above & paralleling the drive to the Abbey, led us past colourful camellias, rhododendrons, through an interesting bog garden designed by Gertrude Jekyll to the 18th.C walled garden with organically grown vegetables, informally planted colourful borders, rebuilt glasshouses stuffed with plants & mature climbing plants over the attractive old walls.

We were welcomed by a beautiful posing peacock outside the tearoom where we concluded our visit.