

SPRING VISIT

GWYDIR CASTLE AND CAERAU GARDENS

Saturday May 7th 2022

£31.00

Our destination for this year's spring visit is North Wales. Here we will visit two lesser known properties both in the vicinity of Conway. At Gwdyr Castle our visit includes both the Castle and its gardens. (These are a change from our advertised programme)

We will travel along the North Wales coast road with its fine views of the sea, before turning south to reach the small town of Llanrwst a few miles up the River Conway. Here a right turn onto Pont

Fawr (*Big Bridge* is somewhat a misnomer for this narrow pack horse bridge) which crosses the river to reach **GWYDIR CASTLE**. Perhaps the coach will cross the river at Conway and take a more westerly route to the castle.

Gwydir Castle is an ancient Welsh house and is regarded as one of the finest Tudor houses in Wales, the castle was formerly the ancestral home of the powerful Wynn family. We will be offered tea & coffee on arrival at around 10:30

The historic gardens at Gwydir Castle are amongst the very few in Wales accorded Grade 1 listed status. They represent an

important example of the formal Renaissance garden of the Tudor and Stuart periods, with later overlays and plantings from the nineteenth century. As well as two fine 16th century garden arches and associated walls and terraces, there are many fine early trees, including fourteen pre-1700 yews and three surviving Cedars of Lebanon from the original twelve said to have been planted in honour of King Charles I's wedding to the French Princess, Henrietta Maria in 1625.

The Old Dutch Garden is famous for its huge yew trees and fountain, while the Knot Garden, in the Courtyard, was laid out in 1828 by Sir Charles Barry, the famous architect, in the form of a Tudor Rose.

The fine wisteria, which adorns the Hall Range was planted in 1828, the same year that peacocks are claimed to have been introduced to the gardens. Gwydir's

sweeping views and formal vistas make it one of the most romantic gardens in Wales.



We will aim to leave Gwdyr at 12:30 to continue up the Conway valley toward Bala, arriving at **Caerau Gardens** by about 13:45 where we may purchase lunch (or alternatively take sandwiches). Stephanie bakes all of the cakes. She is offering our large group a choice from three soups and five sandwich fillings for £7.95.



The Gardens were started in 1994 by Toby and Stephanie Hickish. The farmhouse was derelict and there was just a field and an overgrown hedge in front of the house.

Situated over 1,000ft (304m) above sea-level, with far reaching views over the Berwyn Mountains, Bala Lake and Cadair Idris, the gardens at Caerau are believed to be the highest gardens open to the public in Wales.

There are crescent-shaped herbaceous borders, laburnum-covered pergolas, rose gardens, castellated yew topiary, spring gardens full of flowering rhododendrons and azaleas, an arboretum containing some fine Japanese maples, pleached lime walkways, courtyard gardens, a variegated ivy-clad water feature, woodland walks and even a beach hut garden!

We will leave Caerau Gardens aiming to reach Edgworth / Bromley Cross about 7:30pm.



To reserve a place

Call Heather on 852522 / 078 111 33 642 or Jean on 309394 / 07792 761368

or email with your name, telephone and number of places wanted:

outing@edgworth-horticultural-society.co.uk

Date: Saturday May 7th 2022

Cost £31.00 p/p includes coach and garden entries.