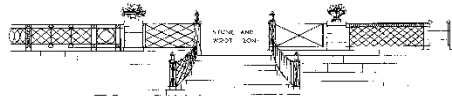


Patrons Sir Mark and Lady Lennox-Boyd : President Mr Robert Parker DL



Lancashire Gardens Trust

RODE HALL, Cheshire ST7 3QP

Wednesday 20th June 2018



Rode's Grade II listed park and gardens are amongst the finest in Cheshire. A seventeenth-century survey described 'orchards, gardens and courts within the Greene before ye hall' but there are no further records of the grounds until 1790 when Richard Wilbraham Bootle commissioned a 'Red Book' from the landscape gardener **Humphry Repton** (1752 – 1818). His relation at Lathom House, Lancashire, followed suit and commissioned Repton also. [Our party will be shown this fragile, little book with its dainty watercolours during our house tour.](#)

It was Randle Wilbraham III, Richard's son, who implemented some of Repton's proposals, employing in 1803 **John Webb** (1754 1828), a partner of **William Emes**. Webb constructed a new entrance drive way, laid out the five-acre Wild Garden in the dell to the west of the house, and created two artificial lakes: the 'less water' or 'Stew Pond' and the one-mile long 'large water' known as 'Rode Pool'. There is a tradition that when the family were at home a canvas of a waterfall was placed to create the illusion from the house that there was a cascade between the two lakes.

Today, with the help of two gardeners, **Anne**, wife of the current baronet, has extended the seasonal interest in Rode's pleasure gardens from early Spring to late Autumn. The highlight of the year is undoubtedly February when Rode becomes one of the gardens in the North West that opens for '**Snowdrop Walks**'.

Spring daffodils follow snowdrops, hellebores and other winter blooms and soon afterwards the woodland is carpeted with bluebells and fragrant lily-of-the-valley. By April the Wild Garden is ablaze with many varieties of rhododendrons and come May clumps of hostas and primulas brighten the damp and shady banks of the adjacent **Stew Pond**. Professor Pratt's scented azaleas are planted here, alongside Boathouse Walk, a path leading directly to **Rode Pool**. A distant view of the water and the Cheshire countryside is presented from Nesfield's terrace; the formal

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rose gardens are at their best at the beginning of June, with the coloured herbaceous border
lasting well into high summer.

With new plantings, the gardens are constantly evolving and the 10-acre site set amongst sheep-
grazed parkland provides plenty of opportunity for innovation. The small **Italian Garden**,
created in 2007 in the ruined Old Tenants' Hall, has a fountain, Italian cypress and olive trees. It
wittily evokes the famous ruined gardens at **Ninfa**, south of Rome, whose first English roses
were planted in the late nineteenth century by the gardens' creator, **Ada Bootle Wilbraham**, the
wife of **Duke Onorato Caetani** and a descendant of Richard Wilbraham Bootle.

Wednesdays – tours of the house take place every 45 mn, as advertised on the notice-board
outside the house. Antique furniture, paintings and fine china decorate the lovely Georgian house.

THE PROGRAMME

- 10.45 Assemble in the courtyard; coffee / tea may be purchased in the café beforehand.
11.00 Tour of the garden and park; a woodland and lakeside walk may be taken also.
13.00 Purchase own lunch in the café.
13.30 Tour of the house for those with tickets.

Bookings to Mary Bishop
Mobile phone number, just on the day 07811 021 631

----- (cut here)

VISIT TO RODE HALL, CONGLETON ST7 3QP
Wednesday 20th June, 2018

THIS EVENT IS FOR LANCS GT MEMBERS ONLY

The price for the garden guided tour only -

I require..... place(s) for member @ £8 total £

The price for the house guided tour, and garden guided tour-

I require..... place(s) for member @ £10 total £
Cheque total £

Name (s) **member**.....**guest**.....

email, very clear please.....
mobile phone, for emergencies

Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you require a written confirmation;
otherwise I shall confirm to you by phone or email.

Cheques please to '**Lancashire Gardens Trust**', to this address, by 13th June 2018 –
Mrs M. Bishop, 497 Chorley New Road, BOLTON BL1 5DQ