

Review: Aspects of Alfrick Open Gardens – Sunday 9 June

Let's start with the great news that we had 317 visitors, sold 115 Ploughmans meals and raised £2550 profit, which will be split equally between the Village Hall and St. Richard's Hospice. Congratulations one and all, firstly to the Gardeners that opened (we know how much time and effort goes into preparing for the day), to the volunteers that ran the Village Hall, to the cake makers, to the visitors and to all those that made this day a success. Also a special thank you to those that provided parking on their land, particularly where space was crucial.

We were once again gifted with good weather, apart from a brief downpour at noon, and we gave our visitors 13 gardens to visit, four of which were new this time. I'm not sure if anyone made it to all the gardens but we certainly received some lovely feedback from the visitors as they walked around. The Village Hall was once again the hub of activity and the lunches and afternoon teas were a great success (thank you Denise for the advice to have coffee and cake ready before 11am for our many early visitors). We had a successful Plant stall and Preserves stall along with our own Raffle, Garden Book stall and selling of plant donations. It should be noted that we were supported by a number of local suppliers for the food, notably Drew's of Little Witley for tomatoes, Croome Cuisine cheese, Legges of Bromyard for Ham and Loafers of Bromyard, artisan bread maker.

To add extra interest we offered a number of gardens with a classic or historic car. This proved a talking point and of particular note were the very rare 1935 Frazer Nash BMW, and the enormous American 1961 pink Cadillac with the Gardeners being asked "ooh, is that yours!"

Everyone enjoyed their day with lots of lovely comments about the friendliness of the open gardeners and residents that visitors met during the day and in true 'Alfrick' style we were also able to reunite lost property and find a set of car keys!

We are currently consulting with our open gardeners with a view to opening next year and then bi-annually to put us back to our original pattern and avoid clashing with other local open gardens.

We are very thankful to all that supported the day and help us raise such a wonderful amount.

Bridget and Gavin Lewis, Organisers.