



Open Gardens Manuden 2016 Sunday 10th July

OPEN GARDENS 10TH JULY 2016

Manuden Open Gardens 2016 has officially been declared a success! By the time of reading this it will be almost a distant memory but cast your mind back to that lovely July afternoon which after the rain in the morning turned out to be glorious!

We had an amazing response with well over 350 people attending. The weather was perfect, sunny and warm but not too hot for walking around the gardens. We had visitors from afar -Chelmsford, Cambridge, Ware, Ilford, Epping and Harlow to name just a few! We were grateful to our advertising and the fact we made the Daily Telegraph newspaper's gardening section was an added bonus!

Obviously we have to thank various people without whom it would not be possible. In no particular order special thank you goes to all the garden owners who agreed to open and by all accounts thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon! To all the volunteers who helped on the day providing teas and cakes to visitors. To Matthew from "Matthews plants of Roydon" who so generously donated the plants for the plant stall; not only did he deliver them but also took back the very few unsold ones!

To Intercounty for providing all the signs showing where the gardens were and printing all the tickets and maps etc. To Nerys for the 2 large banners advertising the day and finally to the other members of the open gardens committee who so generously gave up time organising the day. By the way they are not just retiring and awaiting the next Open Gardens Day! No dear reader they are busy planning another event, 'a little different' I think you will say! Read on...

We were so pleased that so many people enjoyed the afternoon and one of the many comments was "how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful part of the world!" I think we are all guilty of rushing through our lives with so much to do and often we forget how lovely Manuden is and as one visitor said to me " Every garden was lovely even the ones not open just walking round such a pretty place was worth the entry fee alone!!"

The purpose of the afternoon was to raise money for the village and I am somewhat astounded to say we raised £1746.40! (after expenses). Again this has been the most successful Open Gardens event so far!

As you may know we try to organise this afternoon every two years so watch this space for the first reminder in 2017 for our next open day in 2018!

Now for all the people who have so kindly said that they have enjoyed my top tips, here follows the last top tip for this season don't forget to buy your ticket for the Sing a long a Sound of Music, as organised by the Open Gardens committee!

Richard Dale-Cooke

More details to follow – if you would like to open your garden in 2018 then please contact us

on:- open-gardens@manuden.org.uk

PS All my top tips are available on <http://www.manuden.org.uk/Manuden-Open-Gardens.asp>

PPS We are on Twitter https://twitter.com/manuden_open