

RHS Flower Show at Chatsworth 2017

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After an unexpectedly long 4 hour journey from Pershore College we eventually arrived at Chatsworth, the driver declaring he had only just made it within his time allowance! Traffic had built up for various reasons, one of which was parking difficulty due to the wet conditions.

Once in the Showground, it was possible to appreciate the setting on both sides of the River Derwent below the magnificent House and hills beyond. There were specially built bridges, one of which moved disconcertingly as we crossed and another decorated with flowers which was quite spectacular but proved to be rather a bottleneck as people stopped to admire the artistry involved in the decoration. The interpretation of Paxton's Great Conservatory containing exotic plants was impressive as was the exhibition of Well Dressing. The latter needed to be viewed at close quarters to appreciate the skill involved creating pictures using only petals, foliage and seeds.

The Floral Marquees were well sited at either side of the Great Conservatory but due to a complete lack of direction signs it took a lot of searching to locate the small nurseries which were out on the edge of the Showground.

I was surprised that, in view of the position of the Showground down in a dip below the hills, there was so little in the way of hard walkways. Once off the walkways we really needed wellies – even the entrances to the Marquees were seas of mud. Consequently, we gave up trying to get to all the Show Gardens which was disappointing.

The journey home thankfully took much less time and I was not really surprised to receive an e-mail from the RHS apologizing for the traffic chaos and offering tickets for another day, a refund or tickets for Tatton Park Show to anyone unable to get to the event. At least we got there, but would I go again? Probably not!