

Peter Foley at Waddow Lodge Garden
(Formerly of Holden Clough Nursery)

Waddow Lodge

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Dear

Over the last thirty years I have had the pleasure of meeting and presenting illustrated talks to many groups, including your own, often on more than one occasion and friendships have built up over the years and in turn I have welcomed your members to the nursery at Holden Clough. Anyway things have now moved on and my son John has now taken over the nursery site to run his own business from there whilst I have moved a few miles down the valley to the outskirts of Waddington.

As you may recall, at the start of this century in 2001 I was threatened with loss of sight due to illness, but although it cost me my marriage my sight was saved and now I am pleased to say that I am engaged to be married to a marvellous lady, Liz Dean, who I know some of you have already met. Liz has given me the utmost support, understanding and encouragement in the transition from being a nursery owner (with many plants in tow I may add!) to that of “Head Gardener at Waddow Lodge”! Between us, over the last two years or so, we have started an ongoing transformation of the gardens here in this Georgian property to reflect all that is good about current gardening techniques and create a real Plantsman’s Garden full of interesting and unusual plants. So by way of celebrating the last year of this decade, from 2010 we are planning to open the garden not only for charities but also for gardening and other social groups. Our charity openings this year were for ‘Marie Curie Cancer Care’ and ‘Perennial’ (GRBS) where we raised £1,200 and £800 respectively. We have dates planned for 2011 and have also been accepted for inclusion in the Yellow Book (NGS).

I will continue to offer my extensive list of illustrated talks to groups of varied abilities and interests across the country backed up by a good selection of interesting plants. In addition conducted tours of the garden will be available by prior booking and as we are situated on the edge of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) we have become members of the Green Tourism Business Scheme, working closely with neighbouring businesses in the

area and await our grading results later this year. Therefore in addition to the garden visit we can recommend good local businesses where you can obtain refreshments, country shopping and a brewery tour, making the visit much more enjoyable for all concerned with a low carbon footprint as well.

The leaflet for Bashall Barn (www.bashallbarn.co.uk) is enclosed which comprises a country food centre, restaurant and adjacent Bowland Brewery. Another farm diversification nearby on Twitter Lane is Backridge Farm (01200 427304) (www.backridge.co.uk) where various craft and design shops and a lovely tea room are to be found. Also in the village of Waddington is a good traditional country pub, The Lower Buck Inn (www.thelowerbuckinn.co.uk) (01200 423342). All of these will welcome groups or visitors throughout the week.

At the present time we have an extensive collection of perennials and shrubs with two large island beds planted this year in addition to three existing mixed borders. There are also some well established rhododendrons and other shrubs, a woodland copse with shade loving plants, a border of old-fashioned roses with another planted in March, and last year we planted a small orchard with ten varieties of predominantly historic Lancashire and Yorkshire apple varieties. An extension to our soft fruit and vegetable garden has reaped benefits this year. Plus a new heather garden and gradual development around our new pond area in the wild flower meadow down the drive. The Alpine House and adjacent greenhouse now have a large cold frame alongside and we eagerly await the newly planted raised alpine bed when it flowers next spring.

Around the house are several plants in containers as well as Hybrid Tea roses, climbing plants, herbs and box hedges with the new Mediterranean Border against the south-facing garden wall being expanded and a stone-built alpine plant display frame with traditional Victorian-type English lights planned for 2011. All our plantings and cultural techniques are done in an environmentally friendly manner with benefit to the environment.

We have mentioned our plans to many groups over the last year and received an encouraging response, so if you wish to book either a talk or garden visit then please get in touch. We are in the process of developing the website at www.gardentalks.co.uk and we will be able to keep you updated with future progress in the garden. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours sincerely

Peter Foley