

Historians' meeting (with Gardening Guild) 16 June 2022

Clive Katz: The History of Calke Gardens

In June, members of Gardening Guild and the Historians got together for a talk on 'The History of Calke Gardens', given by Clive Katz. First there was a short video about the history of Calke Abbey, including the present ownership of the National Trust which decided to keep the rooms "in a state of decay" or arrested decline, so they look as they did in 1886. Unfortunately the speaker then had a few technical issues, but these were eventually resolved and Clive showed slides of the gardens: these were originally intended to be manicured for the family and friends to walk around. The gardens have been altered over the years and are now at a distance from the house. They include an auricula theatre, an orangery and walled vegetable and flower gardens.

Following this talk, Gardening Guild members and Historians will be visiting Calke Abbey on Saturday 20 August, meeting in the stableyard outside the cafe at 11am (people may wish to arrive earlier to have a cup of coffee beforehand). The group will explore the gardens and people are welcome to stay for lunch and look around the house if they wish.