

## Ascott Gardens Open

The gardens opened at Ascott in aid of Air Ambulance provided a most enjoyable afternoon.

### Enchanting

The five gardens along the High Street all had little gems to admire and Rose Cottage was certainly enchanting with its diverse areas of planting, exhibiting beautiful plum red penstemons, white peonies and foxgloves. In another garden the sweetest little Call ducks sitting on their eggs in the herbaceous borders were a big attraction, as was Uncle Rolly's garden with his old ploughs on his shed roof, two vintage tractors at the entrance, plus the exhibit of a 150 years' old Pinches Gate - the modern version is still used along footpaths. Onto the Wychwood Wrought Iron premises where beautifully crafted work was on display. The Villager bus saved weary feet so a lift up to Ascott Manor was most welcome. The long sweeping lime tree drive was a treat in itself leading to the real jewel in the



crown, a magnificent house with a magnificent garden and views to die for.

### Ascott Manor

From the philadelphus-perfumed verandah one stepped down to the stunning herbaceous garden with roses that just had to be savoured. Then to the large lily pond, surrounded by more borders, and on to the swimming pool area - all most beautifully tended.

A cup of tea invited you to sit and reflect on the surrounding beauty. Celia Crampton, the well-known botanical artist, had some of her exquisite work on show. A walk down the wonderful peony borders and then up through the many high beech avenues, with a distant view of Shipton church, brought my visit there to an end.

Walking back to the village, Barn House and Meadow Bank gardens were on display, both treasures to end the day.

**Camilla Harvey**

## Thames Valley Air Ambulance

A beautiful day brought out a record number of visitors. Working with Air Ambulance was a new approach for us. Air Ambulance, which on average is flying missions three times a day is 100% charity funded and costs nearly £5 million a year to run, especially as they are now carrying doctors on board, which the Chairman of Air Ambulance, Sir Tim Jenner, says is saving even more lives.

We are very grateful for the village support - the Wychwood Scouts who handled the car parking were excellent. Ascott Gardens Open and the Wychwood Rotary raised over £5,000. A real bonus was an anonymous donation of £2,500 from a grateful benefactor. We plan to be in Kingham next year and to return to Ascott in 2016. If you would like to work with us, call on: 01993 831967.

**Paul Jackson**