

Magic and mystery

‘Dragonflies flit about between the two ponds and it is hard to believe that Haslemere Station is one street away...’

Local freelance garden designer Rebecca Smith discovers a magical garden in the heart of Haslemere...

National Gardens Scheme (NGS) Surrey county organiser Maggie Boyd and her husband David have opened Bardsey for the NGS for the past seven years.

The two-acre plot is divided into many different areas and has a wonderful atmosphere of scent and colour. There is much to see in this deceptively large garden; planting ranges from traditional rose and lavender-filled borders to more modern prairie-style beds at the bottom of the garden.

Upon entering the garden through the pedestrian gate off Derby Road, one is met by a lush parterre garden filled with lavender and roses.

Having decided to remove the front lawn completely, the Boyds have replaced it with lovely shaped box-edged beds filled with the Pictorial Meadows Annual Seed Mix developed by Professor Nigel Dunnett and the University of Sheffield.

The day I visited, this area was filled with Shirley poppies running from scarlet to soft pink and contrasting with the clear bright blue of cornflowers. This area is surrounded by brimming perennial borders anchored by shrub rose ‘Blair’ on one side. This pink rose is beautifully scented. A swath of lavender is backed by golden hops and a bench marks the perfect viewpoint.

Deep borders flank the footpath to the front door of the house and swags of Rosa ‘American Pillar’ divide the borders from

the former tennis lawn. Traditional garden perennials such as scabious, delphiniums, geraniums and alchemilla mollis combine beautifully to create a sense of abundance.

Around the back of the house, the mood of the garden changes. There is a ‘hot’ border beneath the terrace, and the planting here is in vivid shades of red, scarlet and orange - influenced by the planting at West Dean. Clematis ‘Princess Diana’, achillia ‘Cloth of Gold’ and monarda ‘Cambridge Scarlet’ all shine in this area.

Chickens have their own garden area and the names of the current occupants are written on the gate.

A shaded table and chairs at ‘Quercus Circle’ mark the spot where an oak tree was removed. This shaded area is surrounded by woodland planting, including many hostas, acers, hydrangeas and winter box (sarcococca).

The garden then slopes gently away from the house through paths cut into long grass to the orchard and finally to the ponds. I particularly liked the paths mown into the long grass and the use of the oak sculpture in the bed of alchemilla mollis was striking and modern.

The paths wrap around the ponds and through yet more planting: lush, verdant bog planting of grasses, hostas, day lilies and aruncus (goats beard) cover the bank above the pond. Two decking areas provide seats to view the garden and watch the ducks. Dragonflies flit about between the two ponds and it is hard to believe that Haslemere Station is one street away!

The path continues through the planting and there is a surprise carving from a fallen tree to greet the visitor. Continuing back towards the house, there is a large kitchen garden separated from the main garden by a hedge. There are fruit cages, vegetable beds

and a productive greenhouse filled with tomatoes. Sweet pea cordons line the fruit cage to encourage pollinators and marigolds bring hoverfly and other beneficial insects.

There is a lot to see in this garden in Haslemere and there really is something for everyone.

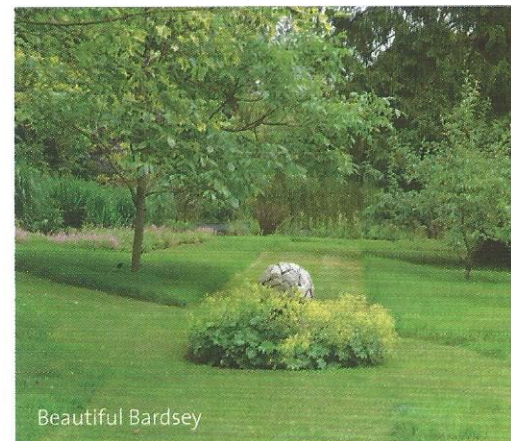
Bardsey is open for the National Gardens Scheme on Saturday and Sunday 2, 3 August between 11am and 5pm. Teas will be served in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support Midhurst.

**Bardsey, 11 Derby Road, Haslemere
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**The National Gardens Scheme,
01483 211535, www.ngs.org.uk**

Rebecca Smith is a freelance garden designer offering a range of services from full garden design and rebuild to one-off garden consultancy work.

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Beautiful Bardsey