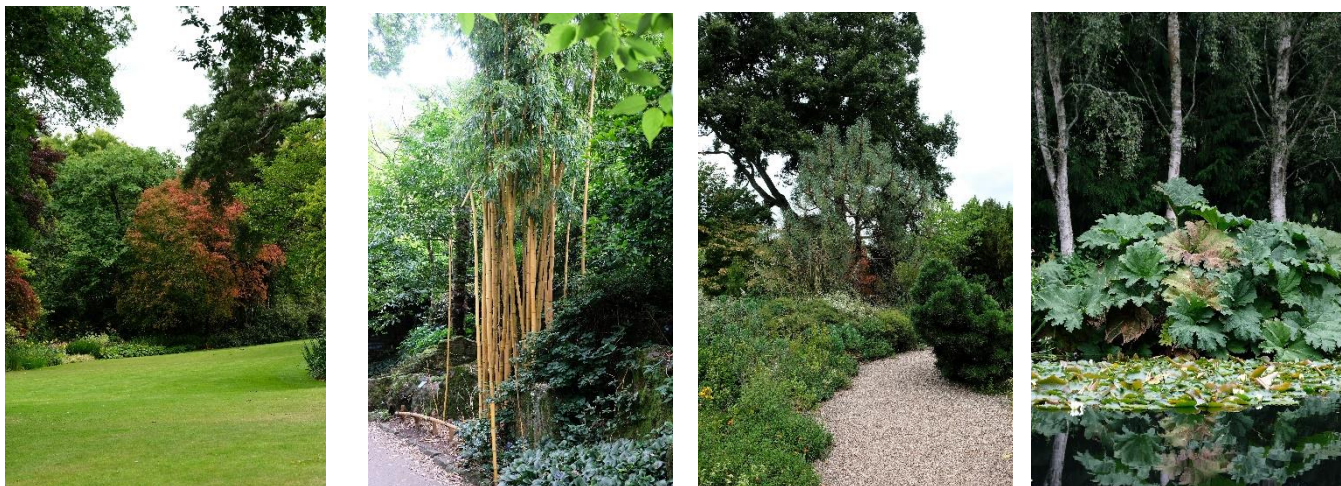
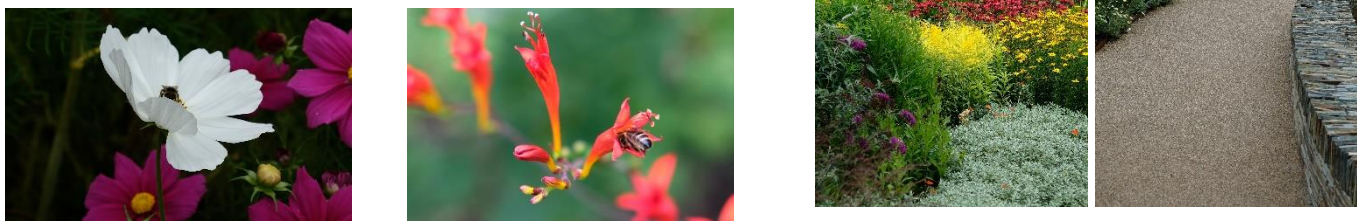


Thoughts from the Manse 15th August 2020

Last week I visited my sister, the first time since January. She lives in rural Devon in a lovely modern house built on the core of an old farmhouse and she always looks after me. It was lovely to simply get away and switch off from the pressures of the last five months. One of my sister's planned treats for us was a visit to RHS Rosemoor in North Devon with a 'Tramper' for me, a four-wheel drive buggy, that enabled me to access almost everywhere without the pain and worry of walking. We spent five hours exploring the many and varied aspects of the garden and of course photographing everything as I went. It was the best day out for many years and the weather stayed dry, if cloudy, with only a slight 'cooling' breeze, which was ideal given the length of time we were outside. As we walked around there was time to catch up on family news as we also wondered at the amazing plants on display. I thought I would share some of the highlights with you to bring a little bit of creation into your week.



Four views, the first across a lawned area with a backdrop of beautiful coloured foliage, one of the delights of the garden is that the lawns are there to enjoy also, no 'keep of the grass', and families can play, picnic and simply lie and relax on the many areas of grass, paradise. Then the most amazing bamboo with canes you can just get your hand around, a path meandering through pine and evergreen trees and reflections in the lake. This was the green side of Rosemoor but there was plenty of colour including two show gardens, the 'hot' and the 'cool garden'. These latter were part of the formal area with rose gardens etc., then there was the fruit and vegetable area and two areas of woodland walk, which my buggy coped with very well.



All around the garden were insects gorging on nectar, and of course pollinating the plants, and in the fruit and vegetable area the results of this were very evident with harvests of all kinds waiting to be picked. Throughout the garden were bursts of colour from Crocosmia and having watched a recent Gardener's World piece on the origins of our many varieties of this plant and seen it growing in its natural environment alive with bees it was interesting to see so many varieties in one place, all alive with bees. Another highlight was the many varieties of hydrangeas and I now have a wish list for future gardens, with 'Pinky Winky' and a lacecap top of the list. I have so many photographs of glorious flowers, but I leave you with a cheeky little chap I came across near the lake, creation is truly wonderful.

