

Champs Hill: The Late Newlyn Exhibition – Thursday 19 May 2022

Feedback on this visit



Spring visits to Champs Hill exhibitions have become a bit of a tradition by now. We love the atmosphere, the paintings, the wonderful gardens and of course the gentle introduction by Mary Bowerman. And so do our members who not only turned up full of good humour but also reacted so positively. I am delighted to share some of their pictures, and a lovely summary of the visit by Alan and Sandra Park with some of their photos.



Overnight storms had passed away and the sun shone as we arrived in the car park. The party then gathered and we were led up to the Exhibition Centre in the Music Room. We were welcomed by Mary Bowerman with coffee and biscuits. She then gave a delightful welcoming address explaining the background to the Music Room and the Charity which supports young musicians and artists. She told us about the Exhibition and the garden which now has over 1000 varieties of heathers. Six are locally cultivated and newly introduced. She explained that this set of pictures was not based on the sea and fishermen of the earlier Newlyn works but more related to the landscape and agriculture of SW Cornwall. We were then invited to visit the Exhibition and garden.

The first pictures were by Stanhope Forbes who became very much the father of the group. Then there were several by Samuel John 'Lamorna' Birch.

My overall favourites were "The Fowling Pond", "The Seaweed Gatherers" by, I think, A J Munnings, (later President of the RA who was honoured by 2 Knighthoods) and "The Model" by 'Dod' Proctor.

After a brief chat with Mary's daughter and signing the visitors' book we headed for the garden. It was absolutely lovely in the sunshine with the rhododendrons and azaleas at their very best. We particularly liked the statues by Philip Jackson and especially those by Gwen Marcus. We eventually reached the pond and crossed the bridge over the waterfall. Skirting the cliff-edge we returned to the front garden and said farewell to Mary. "

