

TOUCHSTONES

Orcas Island Garden Club, September 2021

By Karen Chapman, CPH

As gardeners we accept the need for continual re-assessment, modifying our plans – and our plants, due to unexpected circumstances. Yet not all of life's changes are welcomed or so easily adapted to.

In this presentation, we'll explore ancient villages, stately homes, and the rolling English countryside through my eyes of ex-pat turned tourist. We'll peek over private garden walls and stroll through the grand estates that I explored on a recent trip, looking for ideas we can use in our own gardens while being immersed in the rich history.

As I share my personal story and we all reflect on the past year, my greatest wish is that you too will learn to identify, cherish, and find strength from those connections that lie deep within your soul.

Places of Interest Mentioned

Wirral Peninsula

Leasowe Castle

Yorkshire Dales

Pateley Bridge in Nidderdale

St. Wilfred's Church in Burnsall

Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Water Garden in Skelldale

Harlow Carr (RHS garden)

Peak District

Eyam (plague village)

Ashford in the Water

Castleton and Peveril Castle

Chatsworth Estate (house, gardens, grounds, farm shop, villages)

Haddon Hall

Oxfordshire

Greys Court, Henley-on-Thames (National Trust)

Buckinghamshire

Marlow, Marlow lock

Personal Reflections

What are your touchstones?

- A fundamental or **quintessential part** of feature (*Merriam-Webster*)
- Person of importance. Significant other. Your constant, the person who completes you and makes you whole. **A true friend** without criticisms and judgements, **who loves you unconditionally**. (*Urban dictionary*)

Keep in touch; I love to share news & ideas with fellow gardeners.

Website, blog, books, online courses <https://lejardinetdesigns.com/>

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Would you be interested...

...in **joining my husband Andy and I** on our next adventure to England, scheduled for June 2022? Would you like to come on an intimate tour of some of my favorite public and private gardens, visit significant historical sites and learn more about life in England? Newsletter subscribers who have indicated an interest will be offered priority booking this fall. We anticipate the tour will fill quickly and have a waiting list.

Sign up here: <https://lejardinet.activehosted.com/f/11> (even if you already get my newsletter) and be one of the first to receive details of the full itinerary.