



## **Combermere Abbey and Bridgemere Show Gardens**

**By coach on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**£59 per TGS member excluding cost of entry to Bridgemere Show Gardens + £5 per non TGS member**

**Maximum number 35**

Originally a Cistercian monastery dating from 1133, the Abbey became a Tudor manor and was then remodelled in 1920 in the Gothic style for Viscount Combermere. It was bought in 1919 by Sir Kenneth Crossley and is now opened by his great granddaughter, Sarah Callander Beckett and her family. A tour of the interior gives a glimpse into the changing fortunes of those who owned or rented it, as well as the lives of today's custodians. Of special interest is the recent restoration work on the exterior walls which involved several layers of building style having to be stripped back to the original walls, preserved and then refinished in the Gothic style.

Combermere Abbey's gardens have undergone extensive, decades-long restoration, culminating in recent limited public openings in 2025 after a five-year break, showcasing the Victorian Walled Gardens, fruit tree maze with a restored Glasshouse, Pleasure Garden and lakeside walks.

On arrival we will visit the gardens first. Refreshments will be included. We will then have a tour of the Abbey until 1pm-1.30pm.

There is no lunch provided on the day. You can either bring a packed lunch to eat on the coach (journey between venues about 30 minutes) or you can purchase lunch at Bridgemere Garden Centre (latest arrival about 2pm).

From Combermere Abbey we will travel to Bridgemere Garden Centre where you can visit the Show Gardens. There are 16 show gardens at Bridgemere, 9 being Gold and Silver winning gardens from RHS Chelsea, Hampton Court and Tatton. Recent additions to the Gardens include the 'Beautiful Abandonment Garden, the 'Down Memory Lane' garden, The Forge Garden, the Octavia Hill Garden and their Japanese Garden was refurbished in 2025.

At Bridgemere you can go into the Gardens at your leisure. We will not go in as a group. This will allow you to take refreshments at own cost and browse the retail outlets as well, if you choose to.

Bridgemere Show Gardens costs will be calculated when we have an idea of final numbers. RHS members enter free of charge. Gardeners' World members can take two people in for the cost of one. For every group of 10 paying visitors there is a discount.

Coach pick up times: Hill Top Cheadle 7.45am, Hale Barnes 8.15am and Knutsford 8.45am

We aim to leave Bridgemere Garden Centre at about 5pm, weather dependent.

For queries contact Maria Wilson on 01260 273020 or 078137 53035 or [mariawilson302@btinternet.com](mailto:mariawilson302@btinternet.com)

**Combermere Abbey & Bridgemere Show Gardens application form**

Number of places requested at £59pp + £5 for non members .....

I/we will meet the coach at : Cheadle 7.45..... Hale Barnes 8.15..... Knutsford 8.45.....

Name ..... Membership No.: .....

Address .....

Tel: ..... Email: .....

I am a RHS member (please delete as appropriate): Yes / No

I have a Gardeners' World 2-for-1 card (please delete as appropriate): Yes / No

Return this form with payment to Tatton Garden Society, The Old Hay Barn, Mere Estate, Knutsford WA16 0PY with a cheque or make payment to: Tatton Garden Society, RBS Business Account 10949282, sort code 16-22-27 with reference: your surname/Combermere

Confirmation of your place will be sent by email or phone unless a SAE is sent with the form.