

Patron Lady Lennox-Boyd



Lancashire Gardens Trust

VISIT TO RODE HALL, Cheshire, Wed. 8th April 2026 ST7 3QP



Rode Estate has been in the ownership of the **Wilbraham** family since **1669**. It was originally bought from **Randle Rode** by his cousin **Roger Wilbraham**. The Wilbrahams were prominent landowners in Cheshire at that time.

Shortly before the death of Randle Baker Wilbraham, the seventh baronet in **1980**, the decision was taken to open the house to the public and, at the same time, help was sought from **English Heritage** to enable urgent restoration work to be undertaken. A very serious outbreak of dry rot was detected and it was not until **1987** that the work was completed. Since this time, **Sir Richard** and **Lady Baker Wilbraham** have welcomed thousands of visitors to **Rode Hall and Gardens** to share the beauty of the house which is especially noted for its family portraits, Gillow furniture and fine collection of porcelain and pottery.

Rode's Grade II listed park and gardens are amongst the finest in Cheshire. A seventeenth-century survey described 'orchards, gardens and courts within the Greene before ye hall' but there are no further records of the grounds until 1790 when Richard Wilbraham Bootle commissioned a 'Red Book' from the landscape gardener Humphry Repton (1752 – 1818).

It was Randle Wilbraham III, Richard's son, who implemented some of Repton's proposals, employing in 1803 **John Webb** (1754 1828), a partner of **William Emes**. Webb constructed a new entrance driveway, laid out the five-acre Wild Garden in the dell to the west of the house, and created two artificial lakes: the 'less water' or 'Stew Pond' and the one-mile long 'large water' known as 'Rode Pool'. There is a tradition that when the family were at home a canvas of a

waterfall was placed to create the illusion from the house that there was a cascade between the two lakes.

Today, with the help of two gardeners, **Anne**, wife of the current baronet, has extended the seasonal interest in Rode's pleasure gardens from early Spring to late Autumn. (*website*)

PROGRAMME

- 11.30 Arrive and assemble in the hall carpark. (The property opens at 10am).
- 12.00 Guided tour of the house
- 1.00 Lunch in the courtyard café, bought individually
- 2.00 Tour of the garden with particular emphasis on the Dell; no official guide, but notes will be provided by Elaine.

The **price** includes both the house and garden, at the group rate.

LGT member £17

Non-member £19

Rode only accepts RHS and HHA members without charge when they come as individual visitors.

Please transfer money to LGT bank account –

Co-op Bank Account No. 65261512

Bank Sort Code 08-92-99

Please add Rode and your name in the bank reference and advise Elaine Taylor of your payment emtaylorgardens@gmail.com and number of places required.

Please book by 2nd April, so that we can inform the venue of numbers. No late payments.

DIRECTIONS ST7 3QP

From the M6, exit at J17 and follow the A534 towards Congleton; turn south on the A34 (Stoke) for 2 miles, then at Scholar Green follow Church Lane (as below).

From Manchester take the M60 south and come off at J3 for A34 to Cheadle/Wilmslow. Stay on this road past John Lewis and Handforth Dean and then take the Alderley Edge bypass to Congleton. Stay on the A34 and 2 miles out of Congleton follow the signs in Scholar Green onto Church Lane, which is signposted Rode Hall. This turning is after Little Moreton Hall.