


OPEN HOUSES AND GARDENS 2014

A MAY WEDDING

CHRIST CHURCH, WARWICK,
KIRKDALE FARM AND THE COCOON
10TH MAY, 2014




The Garden Club of Bermuda,
as part of the Open Houses & Gardens programme, invites you to

A May Wedding

Saturday, May 10th, 2014 • 10am to 4pm
Christ Church, Kirkdale Farm and The Cocoon, Warwick.
All proceeds to Scholarship Fund and community related activities

- Plant Sale
-
- Wedding-Themed Fashion Show
-
- Bake Sale
-
- Garden Tours
-
- Refreshments
-
- Meet Miss Bermuda
-
- Garden Art



- Flower stall
-
- Live music
-
- Children's activity tent
-
- Enchanted Garden
-
- Raffle Draw
-
- Crafts
-
- Plein Air Artists

Visit Christ Church, Church of Scotland in Warwick, built in 1719 and the elegant homes and gardens of Kirkdale Farm and The Cocoon, all beautifully decorated by our international award winning floral artists, depicting a traditional Bermuda wedding throughout. Meet our model brides, including Miss Bermuda, Katherine Arnfield.

A very special Garden Club presentation not to be missed!

Tickets available on the day: \$20 adults, \$10 children ages 10-18; under age 10 free.
Free parking behind Christ Church—follow the signs
Bus #8 from Hamilton or Dockyard to stop by Christ Church on Middle Road, Warwick
For more information: www.gardenclubbermuda.org

– PREPARATIONS FOR OUR MAY WEDDING DAY –
THE SETTING



Christ Church, Presbyterian Church of Scotland, Warwick



Kirkdale Farm



The Cocoon

PREPARATIONS



Our fashion show extravaganza was well rehearsed – fashion show organiser Sylvie Elliott tries a veil on model Hannah Gutteridge, while Judy Kitson tends her garden in readiness for the 'big' day

THE HORSE!







The stages of our fabulous 'topiary' horse: the design and build was created by artist Will Collieson who very kindly donated his time and services to this ambitious project. Karen Smith and her team of helpers worked in to the night to ready the now named "Sir Leafalot" for the big day.



Hundreds of sandwiches were prepared



A few of the many beautiful crafts made by Garden Club members



The hard working team of l-r Anna Fulton, Karen Smith, Carol Sims and Joanne Hunt headed up the organisation of our exciting May event.

DETAILS OF THE EVENT

A traditional Bermuda wedding is a joyous occasion. Our Open Houses and Gardens this year was an unforgettable event. Blessed with the best of Bermuda's weather on a beautiful May day, church and houses were beautifully decorated by our award winning floral designers, and a traditional Bermuda wedding was depicted throughout the day.

Christ Church (Presbyterian Church of Scotland) was breathtakingly decorated with greenery and white ribbon, and filled with celebratory music of the piano and

the dulcet chimes of the Hand Bell Choir.

At 11:00 a.m, Miss Bermuda, Katherine Arnfield portraying the lovely bride, walked down the high cherry hedged lane of Kirkdale Lane and outside the church made a brief opening speech before alighting into an elegant carriage with her "groom" to welcome guests at Christ Church front entrance.

Enhancing the fantasy, a fine and steadfast, "topiary" horse decorated by Garden Club members stood at the front of the carriage. (Traditionally, a Bermuda wedding party arrives at the church in a handsome, horse-drawn coach, its white ribbons fluttering in the wind, with a uniformed driver at the reins.)

After a visit to the church, visitors were invited to walk across Middle Road to a narrow lane and the gardens of Kirkdale Farm where a fashion show began at 12:45 p.m. Beneath the tents at Kirkdale Farm, lemonade and baked goods, Mother's Day bouquets, wreaths of spring flowers, crafts, plants and seedlings were offered for sale.

Adding to the festivities, Bermudian musicians, including the Suzuki Strings, the St. Paul's Recorder Group, Antoinette Davis (flute) and Andrea Hodson (keyboard) gave morning and afternoon concerts while Plein Air artists, at their easels, painted their surroundings.

Children expressed their own creativity by decorating containers to fill with flowers for Mother's Day. Afterwards, they could explore unknown territory in **The Enchanted Garden**, made for play and discovery.

Tours of the Churchyard at Christ Church and the gardens of both Kirkdale Farm and The Cocoon, were given by local historians and horticulturalists,

A brief history:

Christ Church (Presbyterian Church of Scotland), Middle Road,
Warwick Parish

The Reverend Barry W. Dunsmore, MA BD

Christ Church (Presbyterian Church of Scotland), the setting for "A May Wedding" is believed to be the oldest Presbyterian Church in the Western Hemisphere. (Presbyterianism in Bermuda dates from the early 1600s, soon after the settlement of the Colony.) Built in 1719 on land given by Thomas Gilbert of Warwick Parish, the walls of the original church still stand although over the centuries, alterations and additions have been made. The Baptismal and Communion silver pieces, beautifully wrought in the 17th and early 18th centuries, are the work of Bermuda silversmiths Thomas Savage, James Perot and George Hutchings. The handsome mahogany pulpit beneath a canopy or sounding board, built in 1837, displays the craftsmanship of James Williams who had been freed from slavery a few years prior to Bermuda's Emancipation Day, August 1, 1834. Dr. Francis Patton, a son of Bermuda and President of Princeton University, preached from the pulpit of Christ Church as did United States President, Woodrow Wilson.

Kirkdale Farm, 3 Kirkdale Drive, Warwick

Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Kitson

Kirkdale farmhouse was built in 1820 by William Obadiah Dunscomb on rich, fertile land protected from winter winds by a hillside on the north and cooled by the prevailing southwest winds in the summer. In close proximity to Christ Church, Kirkdale Farm takes its name from the Gaelic words meaning "church valley". The cellars of the house were used to store vegetables and farm equipment; domestic life took place in the rooms above. Particularly beautiful among the antiques, furnishing the living and dining rooms is a small, 18th century cherry sideboard made in Newport, Rhode Island. Although the land is no longer farmed, a vegetable garden and the citrus orchard are still bountiful. Lilies and roses grow in profusion and orchids are cultivated in the slat house at the far end of the property. Ornamental fan palms border the pool and a terrace that is partially shaded by a rose-covered pergola.

The Cocoon, 9 Kirkdale Drive, Warwick (a few hundred yards down the lane from Kirkdale Farm)

Mr. and Mrs. Cummings Zuill

The Cocoon is a spacious home, beautifully designed and decorated by the owners, one of whom is a painter (a talent shared by both her father and her daughter). The original cottage was built in the 1960s and enlarged in the 1990s; nonetheless, it resembles an old Bermuda house. The furnishings are 18th and 19th century English and American antiques; recollections of their provenance often offer entertaining and intriguing tales. It is said that the splendid grandfather clock, standing in one corner of the living room, arrived in Bermuda on a British warship returning to its island naval base after the sacking of Washington in the War of 1812. Art enlivens every room and includes French Impressionist paintings, primitives and exquisite still lifes handed down through generations of the family. Noteworthy, by the office doorway are three framed scrolls signed by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II, honouring the owner and both of his parents as Members of the British Empire, an exceptional achievement for one family. There is a fine collection of blue and white Chinese porcelain and carved screens collected on sojourns in Asia. On the dining room sideboard, the groom's cake, made especially for "A May Wedding" reception, is covered in gold leaf to symbolize prosperity. As the centrepiece on the dining room table, the bride's tiered cake is covered in silver-leaf, symbolizing purity. Traditionally, a tiny cedar sapling is placed on top, later to be planted, representing the couple's growing love.

Beyond the house, a wild and natural garden contains ruins of an early 19th century cottage that was destroyed by fire. The slat house is built around the original bread oven of the ruin.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF "THE DAY"

5 Brides

3 Grooms

2 Bridesmaids

6 Flowergirls

11 Models

2 Wedding Cakes

12 Plein Air Artists

5 Musical Groups

and in excess of 130 volunteers

Thank you all for making this day such a success.

ADMISSION.....



Photo by Hugh Conyers

THE CHURCH





Photo by Allan Davidson



Photo courtesy of Peter Smith

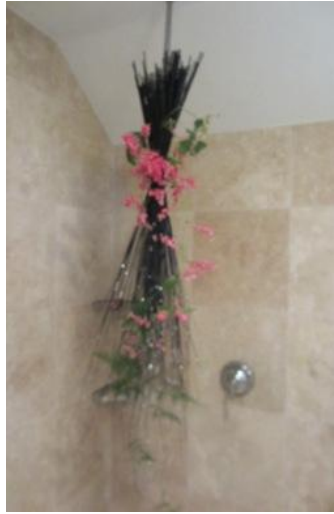
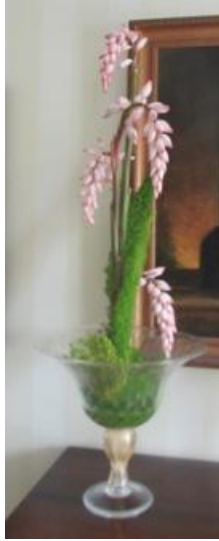
THE HOUSES.....

KIRKDALE FARM



.....THE COCOON





....yes, that's a real dove making her nest amongst the orchids!



THE BRIDES, BRIDESMAIDS, FLOWERGIRLS AND GROOMS



Photo by Allan Davidson



Photo courtesy of Allan Davidson



Photo by Hugh Conyers



Photo by Hugh Conyers



Photos by Hugh Conyers



Photo by Hugh Conyers



Photo by Allan Davidson



Miss Bermuda 2013/14, Katherine Arnfield



THE HORSE



THE CAKES



Photo by Hugh Conyers (left)

THE GARDEN TOURS



THE FLOWERS AND THE HATS



Photo by Allan Davidson (right)



THE PLEIN AIR ARTISTS



Photo by Allan Davidson (left)

THE GARDEN ART





THE BIG TENT





Craft and Bake Stalls
Photo by Hugh Conyers (right)



Plant Stall
Photo by Hugh Conyers



Membership and Raffles Table



Refreshments Stall

THE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES



Planting for Mother's Day (and a break for ice cream)

Photos by Hugh Conyers



The Enchanted Garden



Isn't she gorgeous?
Photo by Hugh Conyers

THE FASHION SHOW







Photos by Allan Davidson



Photo by Allan Davidson (left)



Photos courtesy Hugh Conyers



Photos by Hugh Conyers



THE ENTERTAINMENT



Photo by Hugh Conyers

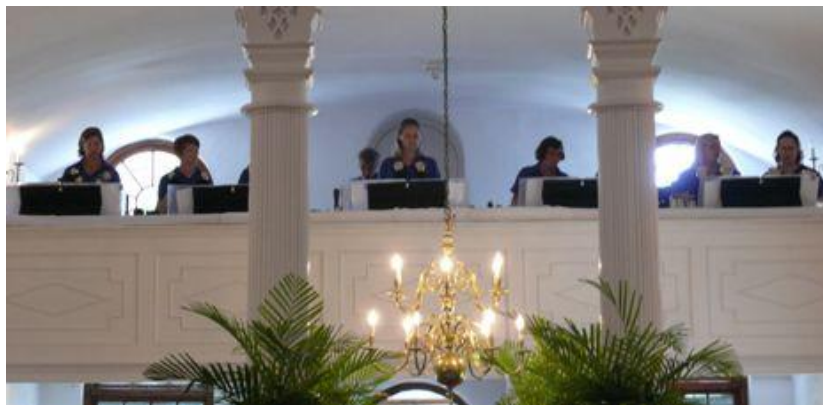


Photo by Hugh Conyers

THE TRANSPORT



"Transporter" Bruce Sims with wife Carol

THE BIRTHDAY GIRLS



THE ORGANISERS



.....and they're still smiling at the end of the day!

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, OUR VERY GENEROUS HOSTS
(SPECIAL THANKS TOO TO THE REV BARRY DUNSMORE)



Judy Kitson (left) and Cathy Zuill
Photo by Sally Madden

[OPEN HOUSES AND GARDENS 2010 - HUNTLEY MANOR](#)

[OPEN HOUSES AND GARDENS 2011 - PALM GROVE](#)

[OPEN HOUSES AND GARDENS 2012 - ORANGE VALLEY](#)

[OPEN HOUSES AND GARDENS 2015 - CHRISTMAS AT NORWOOD](#)