

## **Gardening Group Report for May by Sue**

Our May garden visit was to The Himalayan Garden and Sculpture Park near Ripon

I was a little confused to start with - was I on a gardening group trip or was it an art appreciation trip, there was times I wished there had been someone from the art group with me to explain some of the sculptures. That said, it was a most enjoyable day and as it is several years since I have been to the Himalayan Gardens there was many changes.

The side of the valley immediately below the café was mainly the same planting wise, magnificent, rhododendron, azalea, in just about every colour imaginable, and down to the valley floor with its three lakes. It is the other side of the valley that has been totally transformed, now all planted with the continued Himalayan theme, and sculptures everywhere, some obvious, some a little obscure, some just needed a closer look (what I thought was a deer on closer inspection was a billy goat).

The outstanding feature of the new area has to be the clay Meconopsis poppies, created by the local community, school children, garden staff, who were encouraged to personalise or dedicate their poppies.

Although the weather was quite dull and disappointing for most of us, one of the party said it was great for taking photographs.

### **No meeting in June**

**1<sup>st</sup> July;** Kirkleatham Walled Garden followed by Mount Grace Priory

**5<sup>th</sup> August;** Colcotes Moor Farm, Dobbies Garden Centre, The Beacon

**2<sup>nd</sup> September;** Breezy Knees

Prices and arrangements for these visits will follow soon.