

Gardening Group – Report for July by Sue Holmes

Wow! If you enjoy beautiful gardens I can highly recommend Tudor Croft, Guisborough, or if roses are your thing Wynyard Hall is the place to go.

Tudor Croft, an Arts and Craft house build in the 1930's by the Crossley family, a Yorkshire brick manufacturer, and used as showcase for their wares, brick pillars now supporting a long rose pergola, curving paths, lily ponds, follies, and also carved stones and troughs from Guisborough Priory. Bought by the Heagney family in 1952 the five-acre garden has continued to be improved and cared for mainly by Mike and his sister Gel (Geraldine) with the help of volunteers. Since selling his business in 1999, Mike has collected rare and interesting plants from around the world which are all labelled and catalogued. There are so many different little gardens within the garden everyone can find something to enjoy. The specially designed fernery, with its limestone walls and newly replaced glass roof provides a perfect humid atmosphere. A mini walled garden has recently been made into an herb garden. Gel who lives in the original gardener's cottage, with a stream running past her front door, looks after the vegetable patch and oversees the catering. As well as opening the garden to groups like the U3A they also have an open weekend for charity, we are now on the mailing list and will let you know when the garden is open, but I have told them we will be back for another visit, perhaps at a different time of year.

Wynyard Hall gardens started with the lifelong ambition of Sir John Hall to have a rose garden. That dream came true in 2015 with the opening of the Walled Garden. 3000 David Austin roses from 135 different species, together with a range of perennials. This has matured into a top four favourite David Austin rose gardens, alongside Kew, Wisley and Bodnant garden. Outside of the walls the edible garden supplies the café, restaurant and shop with fresh produce. The Marquee garden offers views towards the Hall and perennial borders with space to stroll and relax. The Glasshouse has garden accessories and homeware for sale and is also used for a range of workshops. AND to top the day off we had good weather!

Next garden visit:

Friday, 2nd August – Helmsley Walled Garden (all seats taken)

Leave Barnard Castle (Outside Addisons)	-	9.00am
Arrive Helmsley	-	Approx. 10.30am
Leave Helmsley	-	4.00pm
Arrive Barnard Castle	-	Approx. 5.30pm