

U3A Gardening group June 24 report for Forum

In June we had our second outing of the year with a visit to RHS Bridgewater on the outskirts of Manchester.

RHS Bridgewater is the newest of the Royal Horticultural Garden sites. There was a TV documentary series covering the restoration of the gardens a few years ago. The site covers 154 acres so there was plenty of scope for wandering around admiring the plants.

The walled garden has been renovated to include the Paradise garden and the formal Kitchen garden with an abundance of plants in bloom at the time of our visit. The walled garden covers 11 acres and is the same size as the Chelsea Flower Show! It is surrounded by further gardens including the Community Wellbeing garden, the Bee and Butterfly garden and the orchard.

Following a landscaped path we could visit the Chinese Streamside garden and Ellesmere lake. The lake sits below the historic site of Worsley New Hall which no longer exists as it burned to the ground some years ago. The grotto on an island in the lake is to be restored in the future.

RHS Bridgewater is amply served with cafes, a large shop and a plant sale centre. As group visitors we were given a discount voucher for the shop and many of us made purchases which were stored in the luggage section of the coach on the return journey.

All in all this was another wonderful day out with the opportunity for our Members to visit another RHS garden after our visit to RHS Harlow Carr last year.

On Friday 5th July we visit Brodsworth Hall and Gardens.

On Friday 2nd August we visit Castle Howard.

Late bookings are sometimes available so if you are interested in these trips but have not yet booked please contact Julie Archer.

Julie, Fran and Kate