

Burnby Hall Tulip Festival Trip

U3A Garden Group – report by Julie, Kate & Fran

A jubilant gathering of 49 garden group members set off on an eagerly awaited first garden visit of the season on Friday 2nd May 2025, to Burnby Hall Gardens and Museum, Pocklington. The weather was all we could wish for, being sunny and not too hot, hovering at a pleasant 18°C.

On arrival, we were greeted by a cheery avenue of Pretty Princess, Blushing Lady and Menton tulipa in vibrant hues of pink infused with yellow, and golden yellow infused with pink, all beautifully coordinated and planted up in giant containers for maximum impact.

Our tour of the garden then took us to the enchanting & secluded Secret Garden, the Aviary Garden (listen to the canary song and the excited chatter of the various finches within) and Edwardian Summerhouse, with beautifully planted tulip beds in shades of reds, yellows, pinks and purples. Then on to the delightfully floriferous and quintessentially English Walled Garden, before moving on to the amazing rock garden where we discovered dwarf tulips, aubretia, sedum, euphorbia, heathers, hardy geraniums, rock roses, alpine and so much more. This led out to another, smaller lake, complete with pictureque bridge. However, rather than cross the bridge, we carried on forward to a large and impressive Stumpery so imaginatively constructed that it felt almost other-worldly and you wanted to linger in this leafy glade. Thoughts of A Midsummer Night's Dream came to my mind.

As we progressed through the garden we were treated to an abundance of tulip beds and planters throughout, all thoughtfully labelled. So you are introduced to Angel's Wish, Twilight Princess, Honky Tonk, Black Jack, Muscadet, Orange Angelique, Jimmy, Norah, Gabriella and many more. My overall favourite (if a favourite is allowed or indeed can be decided upon) would be Viridichic. There are also various sculptures thoughtfully sited around the garden ... spot the Lynx! And something about 'Saucy Beginnings'!

The museum, the entrance to which is located inside the café (I feel obliged to point this out as I spent an inordinate amount of time seeking it out), is well worth exploring for its intriguing glimpse of life in another era covering as it were the years between 1901-1926 when Major Percy Stewart, adventurer and traveller explored that world.

Dear reader, if you would like to visit this lovely venue (under your own steam as it were), then you will have an opportunity in July/August to make the acquaintance of Barbara Dobbins, Rosy Morn, Colonel AJ Welch, Marlicea Rosea et al., when these splendid waterlilies come into flower.

Maintaining my determination to be succinct, and this is me being succinct ... our next Garden Group Trip is on Friday 6th June 2025 to Wynyard Hall Gardens and Arboretum, and there are still **places available**.