

U3A Gardening group June 2025 report.

In June the gardening group travelled the short distance to Wynyard Hall in the Tees Valley. The hall is a popular venue for weddings and is set in a scenic location. The gardens at Wynyard were originally developed in 1822 during the Londonderry family's residence. The gardens formed a beautiful visitor attraction until they closed just before the war. In 1987 Sir John Hall purchased the hall with a view to developing a rose garden. At this time the garden had been derelict for decades.

We were given a tour of the garden by the Head Gardener Mark. He was very knowledgeable and guided us through the rose garden stopping to emphasise particular plants. The walled garden has 3,000 David Austin roses in 135 different species. Every year a senior rose expert from David Austin visits the garden to check on progress and the performance of various rose species. Mark explained how to plant and care for various types of roses. He recommended the Kew Gardens variety as having white flowers, no thorns and a long flowering period and another Olvia Rose Austin as having pink flowers and also flowering for a long time as well as The Generous Gardener.

The garden has a woodland walk leading towards the lake, with temples, ornamental gates, obelisks and a dog graveyard. Next to the Edible Garden there is a wire sculpture of Hambletonian, Sir Henry Vane Tempest's famous racehorse.

The café was excellent with excellent service and a delicious range of drinks, sandwiches, pies and cakes. There is also a gift shop including plant sales.

This was another wonderful day out and was enjoyed by all, with the Head Gardener's talk being a highlight of the day.

On Friday 4th July the group will visit Newby Hall and Gardens in Yorkshire.

On Friday 1st August we will return to Breezy Knees Garden in Yorkshire.



Julie, Fran and Kate