

U3A Gardening group July 25 report for Forum

In July the gardening group travelled to Newby Hall and Gardens near Ripon, North Yorkshire. The house is Grade 1 listed and includes some fine furnishings. Some Members took a guided tour around the house. There are numerous examples of Chippendale furnishings and joinery work throughout the house.

The gardens are extensive and were originally designed in the early 1920s. The double herbaceous border at 170 metres is one of the longest in the country. It is on a north south axis and runs up to the house at the top and the River Ure below. The gardens also feature the Rose Pergola, Summer House, Laburnum Pergola, Rose Garden, Rock Garden, Water Garden, White Garden and Woodland garden.

Some members enjoyed a trip along the river in a boat and others had a ride on the miniature railway.

Many of the Members enjoyed a fascinating hour looking at the intricate designs and tiny details of the Dollhouse Exhibition. The Teddy Bear Exhibition was equally fascinating with the original Paddington Bear on display.

At the time of the visit there was the 19th Newby Hall Sculpture Trail with 50 sculptures on display throughout the garden, made from a mix of bronze, stone resins and glass. All were available for purchase with the highest price for both the Spring and the Ammonite Jurassic sculptures being £36,000 each.

The café was well stocked with cakes, pastries, drinks and sandwiches. There was also a gift shop including plant sales.

This was another wonderful day out with lots to do and was enjoyed by all.

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

On Friday 5th September we will be travelling to Sizergh Castle in the Lake District.

Julie, Fran and Kate