

### **U3A Gardening group August 25 report for Forum**

In August the gardening group travelled to Breezy Knees Gardens near York.

The gardens cover an area of over 20 acres and were featured recently on Gardeners World. Monty Don described Breezy Knees as “a beautiful modern garden created on the grandest possible scale”. The gardens are one of the largest in Northern England and have over 10,000 varieties of trees, shrubs and flowers. The gardens are divided into separate named areas, each with its own name and theme. The main entrance is a bespoke Breezy Knees metal gate.

From May until September the herbaceous borders have a succession of flowers in bloom. The garden has seasonal highlights starting in May and June with the collections of irises and peonies. The specially designed White Rose fountain was entertaining with its 2 minute display every 6 minutes, with well located benches to enjoy the view. The Raised Bed Garden was in full bloom with lots of herbs intermingling with the flowers. Late summer flowers including crocosmia, rudbeckia and Japanese anemones were in bloom. There were also lots of scents around the garden. The meadow was still full of flowers on our visit, some years ago the group had visited in September at which time the meadow had been cut back. The garden has lots of sculptures and fun structures with a giant pair of wellington boots, giant plant pot, large trowel sculpture and a dog made out of wellies.

The café was very popular with a good selection of scones, cakes, pastries, drinks and sandwiches.

Breezy Knees has an excellent well stocked plant nursery and many of the Members indulged in purchasing some delightful plants, fortunately the coach had plenty of space in the luggage compartment and some spare seats to accommodate our purchases.

This was another lovely day out with the weather holding and lots of garden borders to enjoy.

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September we will be travelling toSizergh Castle in the Lake District.

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October the garden group will be holding afternoon meetings at Stainton Village Hall with doors open at 1.45pm for a 2pm start. The first speaker of the season is Laura Ince-Henry who will be talking about Vegetable growing in the home garden.

Julie, Fran and Kate