

BEESTON U3A GARDEN VISITS GROUP

(This was a joint meeting with the PRACTICAL GARDENING GROUP)

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 11th October 2017

WELCOME: Sandra welcomed everyone to the meeting including members of Practical Gardening and Isobel, a new member to the group. A special welcome was also given to the Speaker, Jenny Street from Rhubarb Farm, and Andy one of her volunteers. A few items of business were addressed before the speaker began her presentation.

BIDDULPH GRANGE & LITTLE MORETON HALL: Sandra said the group had enjoyed a marvellous day at Biddulph Grange despite the 400 steps. Little Moreton Hall was also well worth a visit and had made it a memorable day out.

6th FEBRUARY 2018: This will be a joint meeting with the Practical Gardening Group when Julia Powell will give a presentation on the History of Gardens. *(This meeting will replace the usual Garden Visits meeting for February.)*

HEMLOCK GARDEN CLUB: Their next meeting on 19th October is entitled 'Death in the Garden' (poisonous plants). Visitors and new members always welcome.

PROPOGATION TECHNIQUES: 28TH October, University Park. Register on line.

ELY FLOWER FESTIVAL: Sandra confirmed a few places are still available for the trip on 21st June 2018. Leave name if interested.

PRACTICAL GARDENING GROUP: Margaret Richardson said the date of the December meeting had been changed to Tuesday, 19th December when they would be making Christmas wreaths.

RHUBARB FARM: Jenny Street explained the concept of Rhubarb Farm which was opened in 2010 on a 2 acre site in Langwith on the Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire border. Initial funding for the project was given by Bolsover District Council to provide a service to the unemployed, recovering drug and alcohol users, ex-offenders, young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) people with learning disabilities or physical and mental health disabilities, ex service personnel, people with dementia and excluded school students. It is an agricultural based environmental and social enterprise scheme where volunteers grow fruit and vegetables and keep hens for the eggs which are sold to the community.

The highlight of 2017 was an invitation to have a stand at the RHS Chatsworth Flower Show in June. The RHS sponsored the feature and provided a designer to assist with the build of a 1940's Allotment and Garden for Hard Times.

Rhubarb Farm has also won Social Enterprise of The Year at the Rural Business Awards at Denbies Winery, Dorking, Surrey.

Further information on Rhubarb Farm can be found on their website <http://www.rhubarbfarm.co.uk>