

GARDEN VISITS GROUP

Meeting held on Wed. 8th March 2017

36 members were welcomed including one new member. Sandra expressed appreciation for the caretaker who had put all the chairs out for us.

U3A main meeting had gone well and was very busy. Norma, Jan and Jenny were thanked for their contribution to the display which Sandra was pleased with.

Thank you to Glenis for standing in for Jenny last month.

Hodsock – U3A main meeting visit. Lots of snowdrops, peak time, sun shining, everyone well looked after, well organized, good day had by all. History of Hodsock talk by campfire, marquee with reserved space for refreshments at any time, all served. Also winter flowering honeysuckle and Christmas Box scenting the air.

Another visit to Hodsock is being organized for May 9th 2018 to see the bluebells and to include a house tour and refreshments. £29.75

Also June 21st – 24th 2018 - visit to Ely Cathedral. Day to be decided.

May 4th-21st 2017 - Madeira Flower festival.

Recommended by Margaret who has been twice

Sandra drew our attention to a Bedding Plant Scheme run by a scout group in Stapleford. Order forms available for anyone interested. Plants grown at Donington nurseries. % of money goes to the scout group.

Sandra is going to fix a date to visit Brackenhurst this summer. Possibly on a Tuesday, 2pm-4pm. Needs a minimum of 12 people and includes an informal talk. £6pp includes refreshments. Share transport or bus.

Essex weekend - Sandra explained about the change of hotel, we will now be stopping at The Ipswich Hotel, Copdock. (Shortly to be taken over by Best Western) Partly refurbished, more rooms to be completed before we go. Outside of Ipswich but the bus would be available in the evenings if people wanted. Option to have deposit back if not happy with the new arrangements.

Gardens to be visited:

En route - Audley End – English Heritage - £15 including the house

- Bridge End Gardens – free

*Saturday – Beth Chatto Gardens – cost of entry included in the price
- Mark's Hall Gardens – RHS £5.50*

*Sunday - Cambridge University Botanical Gardens £5
- Anglesey Abbey – NT £11.15 & Lode Mill gardens only £6.70*

Entrance prices approximate

Other trips being considered:

Ness Botanical Gardens and stop at Bridgemere – costly for coach and a very long journey for a day visit.

Thornbridge Hall - Ashford in the Water. RHS partner. Open from April 6th. Possible stop at Dobbies or Buxton Pavilion Gardens.

Bidulph Grange NT - on its own or with Trentham Gardens. Entrance £7.65 and £8 Trentham.

Viv has volunteered to organize a day visit.

Plant Hunters' Fairs:

*Sun Sept 3rd – Leicester University Botanical Gardens
Sun Oct 1st - Felley Priory*

MARCH



Wed March 8th GARDEN VISITS MEETING – 10am

Wkend March 25th/26th HAMTON COURT PALACE – ‘Florimania’ –
Theme: ‘Royal Women’

APRIL



Thurs April 6th WOLLATON TRAVEL – ‘Kew and Beehive’ £39.50 Now Full

Thurs April 6th RHUBARB FARM OPEN DAY – 9:30am
Via Tram to Hucknall, Robin Hood Train Line and then taxi £5
each way

Fri April 7th- Sun 9th RHS FLOWER SHOW CARDIFF

Wed April 12th GARDEN VISITS MEETING – 10am

Sat April 29th BEESTON CIVIC SOCIETY – Trip to Kew, Book via Skills

Sun April 30th PLANT HUNTERS’ FAIR – Aubourn Hall, Aubourn, Lincoln

MAY



Wed May 10th GARDEN VISITS MEETING – 10am Joint meeting with the
Practical Gardening group. Speaker – Steve Shatwell, chief
executive from Reach (Learning Disability) under which Flower
Pod is a social enterprise
Raffle – prize a bouquet

Thurs MaY 11th-Sun 14th RHS MALVERN SPRING FLOWER SHOW

Sat May 13th-20th DORDOGNE GARDEN TOUR – See Sandy for details

Thurs May 18th HEMLOCK GARDEN GROUP – speaker from Rhubarb Farm

JUNE



First weekend in June COSSALL GARDEN TRAIL

Sun June 4th PLANT HUNTERS' FAIR – Felley Priory

Thurs June 8th RHS SHOW – Chatsworth

Fri June 9th BEESTON CIVIC SOCIETY – Talk about the Hive at Kew
by Wolfgang Buttress, Nottingham based designer of the Hive
at The Pearson Centre 7:30pm, Non Members -,£2 Pay on door

Sat June 10th WOLLATON TRAVEL - Chatsworth RHS Show £47.50

Sat/Sun June 10th/11th BEESTON & CHILWELL OPEN GARDENS
1pm-5pm £3.50

Wed June 14th GARDEN VISITS MEETING – 10am

Fri/Sat June 16th/17th BLENHEIM PALACE - entrance to Palace and gardens,
designed by Capability Brown.
Staying at the Holiday Inn Reading. Cost £90.
Contact Lucy Beardsley - Phone: 9397230

Thurs June 22nd WOLLATON PARK ROTARY CLUB – Talk by Steffie Shields on
'Capability Brown' – his life and work. Strelley Hall (NG8 6PE)
6:30pm, Tickets from Mike Lucas – 0115 8081356
£13 including refreshments provided by Mulberry Tree Café.
Raffle. Proceeds to Clic Sargent, Billy's House Nottm and The
Gardens Trust

Sun 25th June NOTTINGHAM PARK GARDEN TRAIL - £5

JULY



Sat/Sun July 1st/2nd NEWSTEAD FLOWER FAIR - 10am-4pm

Tues July 4th- Sun 9th RHS HAMPTON COURT PALACE SHOW

Fri-Sun July 7th-9th GARDENS OF ESSEX - staying at Copdock, near Ipswich.
2nights DBB + coach £159 double room £224 single room
Visiting 5 gardens.

Wed July 12th GARDEN VISITS MEETING – 10am

Sun July 16th JANE'S OPEN GARDEN – Allison Gardens Chilwell,
Small charge for charity and refreshments provided.

Wed July 19th-Sun 23rd RHS TATTON PARK FLOWER SHOW

Wed July 26th SANDRINGHAM FLOWER SHOW - with Skills £33