

So today Thursday 20th April we are off to Harrogate. The first day of their annual flower show.

What a great start. The coach was early, but then it was our Stewart driving. The sun was shining, although at 8.30am still a little chill in the air but that doesn't deter our members. So with everyone on board we were ready to rock n roll (not literally). Off we go, fingers crossed we have no hold ups, along the way.

Spoke too soon. What council would set up temporary traffic lights, just a few miles from the show. Half an hour delay but we got there in the end.

We jumped off the coach and headed into the grounds. Some of us walked to it whilst others, cheated, and got the hop on bus to where it was all happening. Off we all went to explore what was here.

We wandered around the many stalls, indoors and out, selling all different types of things. From plants, wooden furniture, sculptures, to pictures, clothes, cushions etc etc. things that you wouldn't find on your high street but something for everyone.

It remained sunny but the wind blew, except for when you were indoors. When you went to the areas indoors the plants were amazing, displays of different varieties of the same plant, flower arrangements on stands or incorporated on different items like manakins etc. All the different categories had been judged so it was nice to see who had come 1st, 2nd or 3rd, however, you may not have agreed with them.

As we all went round we saw some of the other members and we're all of the same view. There weren't many seats to sit and eat. Queues were long and food/drink was expensive. We put it down to the current times we are in and all said "pack up and flask next time". Quite right, nothing holds us back from having a nice day out.

Before we knew it, it was back on the coach and heading back home. Stuart was relieved when he saw people walking back with bulbs and pot plants. No one had purchased an over sized steel or wooden sculpture that no-one could lift, or, fit into the hold all. The only thing that had to go in the hold all was a wicker basket.

I think the majority of people enjoyed the trip despite the wind (no, it wasn't Chris again 😊).

Thank you all for coming.

Debbie Hoy