

Barnsdale Gardens – July 2023

Our July trip was to Barnsdale Gardens, close to Oakham in Rutland. We got picked up at Ruston's car park as usual by Stewart, for today's trip out. It was a nice dry start to the day so we kept everything crossed, that could be crossed, that it remained so.

We arrived safely at the gardens and booked our party in for the day, being greeted by a staff member. Vouchers and a plan of the grounds were handed out on arrival to each member, the voucher allowing us all to get a nice scone with jam and cream together with a drink at their cafe.

Barnsdale Gardens consists of 38 individually themed gardens over approximately 5 acres of land. The gardens were created by the late Geoff Hamilton, who at the time presented Gardeners World on BBC 2, and he used them in the series shown on television in the 80's and 90's. The gardens consist of, amongst others, a Kitchen Garden, a Japanese Garden, a Rose Garden and a Rock Garden. All the gardens are presently tended to by a mixture of full time staff and part time volunteers.

Everyone split up into their own groups and wandered through the gardens to view all the variety on show. There were lovely flowers and plants of all types, with hedging trimmed to shape that divided each section off from another. Although a map of the garden layout was given out on the day by the staff it was still very easy to lose yourself in the large expanse, well I did anyway. As was hoped the day stayed dry and the sun was out at times that kept things warm, which made this trip easier and more pleasant to enjoy. There were plenty of seats, benches and tables laid about the grounds where everyone could rest for a while and take in the pleasant surroundings.

Our thanks to all who attended the trip. All in all it was a very pleasant and enjoyable day out.