

Lindsey U3A Garden Group

**Visit to Bolham Manor, Retford** on Tuesday 28 April 2026.

Our hosts Pam and Butch Barnsdale welcomed us to their fascinating garden that they have landscaped and planted over many years.

A delightful driveway leads to the house, with daffodils and bluebells, and three life-sized, willow figures of ladies dancing in the lawn. A patio area lead us to a knot and topiary garden with a herbaceous border and circular seating nearby.

From the patio there is a winding path leading down to a large pond. Along the sides of the path are well-stocked herbaceous borders and, every so often, a garden ornament. There are a wide variety of trees: acer, conifer, and horse chestnut, most of which were in the garden when Mr & Mrs Barnsdale bought the house. Members admired the Wedding Cake Tree (Cornus Contraversa) and the climbing rose 'Joseph Banks' that has tiny yellow flowers. We walked through the woodland walk with many bluebells in flower. Among the many plants are azalea, early flowering clematis and Japanese false Solomon's seal with tall sprays of cream star-shaped flowers.

Members commented on the colour combinations of the flowers. A member said that 'It is a delightful combination of formal and informal, making it an exciting garden'.

We enjoyed tasty refreshments, whilst sitting indoors or outside, sharing thoughts on plants and gardening. This is a garden we will be returning to in the future.

Our thanks to our hosts.

Louise Kevill  
April 2026