

Lindsey U3A Garden Group

Coach Excursion to visit Felley Priory and The Old Vicarage on Saturday 30 May 2026.

Jane Guy, the organiser of Market Rasen's Garden Group, invited members of Welton's Garden Group to join her coach excursion into Nottinghamshire.

Our first garden visit of the day was to Felley Priory near Underwood. The Augustinian Priory was destroyed in 1535 and a manor house built in its place. The gardens have developed over time and its current owners have created a beautiful garden covering 2.5 acres.

The garden is divided into different areas with a large pond; a small white-themed enclosed garden; long, winding herbaceous borders; a topiary garden; an orchard and small meadows.

The whole garden is carefully managed with cut lawns, trimmed edges, clipped yew hedges and topiary. The borders contain many unusual and rare plants so members took their time walking round the garden so as not to miss anything they had not seen before. The on-site garden centre is a treasure-trove of the same plants in the garden, so members could buy a plant they had seen. It was a joy to walk past the scented roses, colourful herbaceous borders and admire the variety of topiary.

Our second visit was to The Old Vicarage, Halam which opens for the NGS. Our hostess and owner, Mrs Beverley Perks gave us an enthusiastic welcome to her garden, which she and her husband had developed over 30 years. This 2 acre, hillside garden has sloping paths which follow the contours of the hill. Mature trees dominate the garden, interspersed with mature shrubs and rambling roses woven into some trees. The garden gave us different aspects at every turn of the many paths.

Members enjoyed seeing the contrast between the two gardening styles; the formal, open aspect of the gardens at Felley Priory and the informal, shady hillside garden of The Old Vicarage.

Our thanks to Jane for organising the visits.

Louise Kevill