

Lindsey U3A Garden Group

Visit to Sandringham House on Wednesday 18 June 2025. It was nice to join the members of West Wolds u3a garden group for this visit.

It was a glorious, summer's day for our coach excursion to Sandringham House in north Norfolk. Our visit started with refreshments before a self-guided walk through the house, where room guides gave us interesting information about the contents and history of the house.

On a hot day, we could not explore the 60 acres of gardens but saw the formal 'parterre' gardens, with topiary, which are located near to the house. Gravel paths are edged with low yew hedging which gives shape to the borders planted with flowering perennials, roses and herbs. The majority of beds contain a shaped tree or shrub. These beds can be viewed from the house as can the maze garden.

The North End Garden is informally planted in a cottage-garden style in beds surrounded by low hedging. The majority of plants are perennials that can be found in our own gardens eg delphiniums and phlox.

The planting is designed to increase biodiversity, featuring new species of plants and flowers that are able to withstand the impact of changing weather patterns.

It was only a short walk to see the two ornamental lakes, which are fed by natural springs and bordered by areas of rockwork, and diverse trees and shrubs.

The temperature continued to rise throughout the day, but undaunted, we enjoyed walking through the gardens. Members took home happy memories of an enjoyable visit to this royal house and its gardens, and maybe some ideas for their own little 'patch'.

Louise Kevill