

News from the Gardens...

It has been a bit of an odd growing season, but then isn't it always! Some of the trees planted last year didn't make it probably due to the heat and drought last year and then the very dry period this year. We plan to replace them with trees absent from the gardens such as Black Poplar and Service Tree.

The Woodland Trust have carried out a tree survey and discovered more unusual American walnut trees, such as Butternut, Purple, Cut Leaf and Manchurian Walnut. As the tree walk leaflets have now run out, they will be redone, with the new trees added.

We welcome two new gardening staff, Jen and George, to join Stuart. The gardens are looking tidier, especially with the new tarmac on the drives.



Jen preparing the fountain beds

Volunteer Gardening for the Hall gardens on Wednesday (0114 283 0056 for details). Visit us on www.friendsofwortleyhallgardens.co.uk
Barry Tylee, FoWHG's chairman

...and from the Walled Garden

*As you may know, at the beginning of the year Heeley City Farm gave up the management of the Walled Garden. Those of us who had volunteered with them for years asked if we could stay and continue to garden it as a kitchen garden. There are around 20 of us and we are now a constituted group and beginning to raise funds for what needs to be done to continue. We are always there on Tuesdays and Fridays and also try to open Wednesdays and some weekends. We recently had a successful stall and open day at the South Yorkshire Festival. It would be great to see any of your members in the Walled Garden any time. Our next big event is Apple Day, Sunday 15th October. Updates about opening can be found on our website: wortleywalledgardengrowers.co.uk
We look forward to seeing you. Bridget Lewis WWGG*

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Friends of Wortley Hall Gardens



Trilliums – seen growing in Nurturenature garden on our visit

2023/4 Programme of Events

All talks at 7.30 pm at Wortley Hall

September 19th - Start of year social/tea/cakes

October 17th - Talk by Barry Tylee - 'Recent Local Archaeological Excavations'

November 21st - Talk by Will Tomson – 'Wildlife Gardening'

December 12th - Xmas social; mince pies and quiz

January 16th - Talk by Jheri Bryant – 'Local brick making'

February 20th - Joint meeting with Wortley Hall Walled Gardeners' (to be confirmed)

March 19th - Talk by Kristofer Swaine 'Growing an Exotic Garden in Yorkshire'

April 16th - Talk by Melanie Fitzgerald 'Local Packhorse routes'

May, June and July will be walks and garden visits announced later.

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Garden Visits

This year, we revisited the Nurturenature Garden at Wortley Station and Will's garden at Berrywell, Oxspring. Both were great visits and well attended, with the weather kind to us. Helena, the owner of Nurturenature and Matt, the gardener were great hosts and were full of useful information about the plants. There were some jewels in the woodland area, especially the Trilliums (pictured on the front page).



Nurturenature garden



Berryfields (looking towards the swimming pond)

Will's garden has come on a lot since we last saw it. In particular, the swimming pond is finished and the beds around it much more mature. The wooden pavilion, which is the main living area, looks great, maybe too attractive, as a family of stoats had moved in last year and had to be encouraged to leave.

Great Cliff Exotic Garden, Crigglestone, Near Wakefield.

One garden that we had planned to visit, but was cancelled by Covid, was Great Cliff Exotic Garden, Crigglestone. I visited recently when it was open under the National Garden Scheme. Although only about 10 years old, this typical semi-

detached sized garden is packed with tropical plants. Palm trees and tropical vines line the boundaries and a path weaves through, first to a 'jungle hut' and then under an archway hanging with pods from the chocolate vine, to a 'jungle stream', where pitcher plants lie in wait for flies. Colour is provided by dahlias and more typical English garden plants at the front of the borders. It really is impressive, with many of the plants raised by Kris himself. His favourite plant at present is the cigar plant with impressive flowers. Kris will give a talk on the development of his garden and love of exotics at Wortley Hall in March.



Lots of palm trees



Jungle hut..



..and stream

Mushroom Survey

Recently Barnsley Nats carried out a fungi survey (below) in the gardens - a very impressive list!

Entoloma corvinum,
Marasmius oreades - fairy ring champion
Boletus luridiformis
Clavaria fumosa - smoky spindles
Lascaria amethystea - amethyst deceiver
Hygrocybe intermedia - fibrous waxcap
Xerosomus chrysenteron - red cracking bolete
Chaloiponus piperatus - peppery bolete



amethyst deceiver

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