

Trip to Lady Farm and Kilver Court 19th September 2013

Arriving at Lady Farm mid morning we received a warm welcome from the owner Judy Pearce and her adorable border terrier "Chester". After having a much appreciated hot drink and homemade cake, Judy kindly gave us an introductory talk on the history of Lady Farm right up to the present day. Lady Farm was initially a farm and home to 150 cows which were milked right up to 1992 before being transferred to another farm. The farm buildings were demolished, topsoil spread and seed and trees planted around the 12-acre perimeter. An accidental discovery 2 years later of spring water gave the gardens waterfalls that run diagonally through the garden.

The beautiful striking colours of the garden in all directions using grasses, stems and colour themed perennials reminded me of an artist's palette, blended to perfection. Various Greek mythology statues carefully placed around the garden combined with the waterfalls, gave this garden a sense of tranquillity.

On leaving, Roy our coach driver informed me we had an extra passenger; "Chester" had boarded the coach hoping to share our member's sandwiches!

The next garden, Kilver Court, was very different. The first thing you notice is the 19th century viaduct forming a dramatic backdrop to the beautiful millpond and gardens. This 3.5 acre garden has many herbaceous borders with beautiful slate and stone pathways with trickles of running water running alongside them. A lovely rockery and organic vegetable garden added to this stunning garden.

Kilver Court also had a Designer Village attached to it, which was very handy to shelter from the rain. The restaurant here offered delicious home cooked food and had beautifully designed cups and saucers.

This was a lovely trip combining two very different gardens, but equally enjoyable.

Christina Higgs