

## **Visit to North Cerney House Gardens.**

The u3a gardening group made their way by car to North Cerney House which was hidden away up a narrow winding track. We met at 10.30 in the car park where we were welcomed by Richard a member of the household. He gave us a potted history of the old house and gardens which went back to 1600s. It so happened that a group of gardeners were in duty and we could ask about plants that interested us as we wandered through the different sections.

Richard then led us along a path at the back of the house through to the gardens explaining that they were laid out informally. He invited us to walk around and when we felt like it to call in at the Bothy for tea and cakes. They had laid out a selection of homemade cakes – more than most of us could manage. It was delightfully informal.

The deep, colourful, herbaceous borders were full of interest, providing a corridor for the bees, butterflies, dragonflies and moths. Apparently this area is known for the very large Roman snails, we saw a few of them.

In the walled garden rambling roses were supported by the old stone walls and arches. Many of them with small blooms of unusual colours and full of scent. Several members were Googling plants they did not recognise. This area had been divided into sections, the scented garden, heritage vegetables, soft fruit, fruit trees and the knot garden. The box in the knot garden had suffered badly from a fungus which was being treated. Behind the walled garden the owners had created a medicinal garden. We followed a path through the rose walk under arches of white heavily scented roses. This led us to the front of the house and a large open lawn. At the side was an enclosure for ducks, a pond and an ancient ice house. Some of the group wandered through the woodland walk.

There was so much to see in this picturesque part of our beautiful county. This garden is a hidden gem. Thanks go to our group leader for finding it.

<https://www.cerneygardens.com/>

Open seven days a week 10 am to 7 pm.