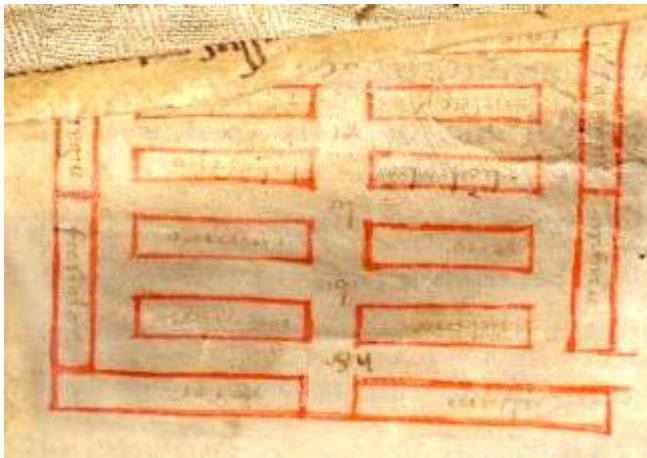


## Jarrow Hall Herb Garden

On a gloriously sunny and warm July day, Carol Burnett and I visited the Jarrow Hall Herb Garden which, unsurprisingly, is located a little to the east of Jarrow town. Jarrow Hall is part of the Anglo-Saxon farm, village and Bede Museum and the herb garden lies to the east of the Hall.

The garden was designed in 1978 by Professor Rosemary Cramp (Durham University) and Richard Kilburn and is now cared for by a team of dedicated and friendly volunteers. With its narrow, parallel rectangular beds this herb garden is based on the structure of a typical medieval physic garden and in accordance with the 9<sup>th</sup> century plan for the Benedictine monastery at St Gall in Switzerland.



(left) The Herb garden plan at St Gall monastery, measuring 38ft x 28ft and with 16 beds in total.

(below) The Jarrow Hall herb garden from the East, looking back to the Hall.



Although the design at Jarrow Hall echoes that of St Gall, the planting is not a simple replica as the plants here are based on Anglo-Saxon and medieval varieties suitable for the soil and climate. The location for the herb garden is challenging for a number of reasons:

- A number of mature sycamore trees crowd the South West boundary, casting considerable shade over half the garden during the summer. The trees have preservation orders on them so they cannot be removed.
- The herb garden has been built on top of a hard-standing tennis court. This has made digging a challenge and creates difficulty for the planting of herbs that are tall and need deep roots to maintain their stability.

Despite these difficulties, the garden is home to an incredible number and range of herbs – upwards of 160, from Agrimony and Angelica to Wormwood and Yarrow; from Betony and Bistort to Orris and Peony.

The majority of plants here are grown from seed, cuttings, or are a gift and each year seeds are collected for future use as well as being used to help other organisations which have or plant to have an herb garden.

The volunteers offer conducted tours of their garden as well as producing information sheets on medicinal, culinary, dyeing, poisons and legends associated with the different plants.

The garden is well worth a visit and was a blissful, peaceful and contemplative place to be on a hot summer's day.



View into the physic garden from the entrance, facing east.



A view of the north side of the herb garden.



Above: A view of the south side beds in the garden.

Below left: Orris root, *Iris germanica*



Below right: Milk Thistle, *Silybum marianum*

