



## Myerscough College's Trip to Bodnant

I have fond memories of Audrey from when she was a student at Myerscough. I taught her Garden History, a subject that she had a great passion for. She went on to join the Lancashire Gardens Trust. It is to this group and Audrey Dawson's generous bursary that we owe a special debt of thanks for our trip to Bodnant this year, as well as last year's trips to Trentham, Chatsworth and Bodnant.

*Audrey Dawson*

This year, the students were very eager to go on trips. News had spread of last year's adventures, and we were able to take nearly 40 students to Bodnant. When asked which gardens they would most like to visit, Bodnant topped the list, with some students keen to make a return visit to see the bits they'd missed previously.



The RHS Level 2 groups, our Horticulture, Landscape Architecture and Floristry degree students, and a large and enthusiastic group of photography students who took some amazing shots of the flowers and landscapes of the garden participated. The RHS group had recently studied the Arts and Crafts movement, so it was an excellent opportunity for them to apply their knowledge to identify the features of the style.

The weather was glorious. The laburnum arch was just about to come into full bloom, held back a little by the cooler spring weather.

The Head Gardener, Ned Lomax, has been in post for just over a year. Speaking to him last year, it had been a tough start due to storm damage bringing down some of the larger trees.



On this visit, the damaged areas had already been replanted with tree ferns and other foliage plants. It would have been a dramatic addition to the garden if at least some of the fallen timber could have remained in-situ – perhaps carved into a bench or worked into the landscape as a feature. Last years' students really appreciated the immense scale of these trees when seen on the ground.

*Contractors working on the fallen Sequoia sempervirens. Image from ed-trees.co.uk*



An area on the top terrace has had some controversial additions. The Landscape Architecture and Garden Design students were questioning the logic of these as they will eventually obscure the magnificent view to the mountains unless they are topiarised.



*Photography student Lola Gorsts' image of Wisteria*

*Controversial planting*



*RHS students enjoying the gardens*



*Image by Sophia Murphy, photography student*

Some of our students have never visited gardens before. Seeing the positive effects of beauty and nature uplift them was a highlight of the trip for the staff. Ice cream and cakes at the teashops were a well-earned necessity!

Thank you again for supporting Myerscough's students on their garden adventures.