

Garden Group Report Monday, 10th August 2026

On Monday 10 August 2026, our u3a garden group enjoyed a delightful visit to Farm Lodge in Hildersham, near Cambridge, an NGS garden with a wonderfully relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

We were greeted by the owner, Athene Hunt, who was ably assisted by her sister, Daphne, and a friend. From the moment we arrived, we were made to feel very welcome.

Although the house was built as recently as 2015, it has been designed in the local vernacular style and sits so naturally in its surroundings that it looks as though it has stood there for several centuries.

Because the property lies on the flood plain of the nearby River Granta, which floods annually, the house has been built on a raised platform. This creates a broad terrace around the building and gives lovely views across the garden.

Below the terrace is a beautiful, richly planted border, where plants are allowed to ramble, mingle and self-seed to charming effect. The result is informal, generous and full of interest.

Mature trees surround the property and, in places, form a delightful woodland walk. The composting area was also impressive and a real lesson in how to do it properly. Throughout the garden, the borders were thriving with interesting and unusual plants, including many different and less familiar hydrangeas.

The visit ended in the most enjoyable way, with tea served in the garden room and taken out on the terrace overlooking the garden. There was a choice of teas, accompanied by homemade cakes as well as one or two treats from Betty's of Harrogate, all beautifully presented on china tea services. It was a memorable and very enjoyable afternoon, and we are grateful to Athene and her helpers for such generous hospitality.

Susan Sedgebeer



