

u3a GARDEN GROUP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2021

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR NOTING IN YOUR DIARY

2021

1st December: Christmas Lunch at Pennells at 1 p.m. Pre-booking is essential (see below)

2022

19th January: Monthly Meeting. Ben Preston from Perennial the Gardener's charity - "York Gate through a Head Gardener's Eye".

16th February: Monthly Meeting. Neil Timm from the Fern Nursery in Binbrook

19th February: Meet at Brightwater Gardens, Saxby to see the snowdrops. (see below)

22nd February: Coach excursion to Angelsey Abbey in Cambridgeshire (see below)

22nd March: Monthly Meeting. Andrew Ward from Norwell Nursery. "Spring Perennials".

20th April: Monthly Meeting. Mark Schofield, the Conservation Officer from Lincolnshire Wild Life Trust - "Gardening for Wild Life"

25th May: Basic pruning workshop at The Fern Nursery in Binbrook. £3 p.p.

29th May Coach excursion to Helmingham Hall Gardens and Plant & Artisan Market. TBC.

24th/27th June: A four day holiday to The Lakes visiting gardens and staying in the Riverside Hotel in Kendal. (see below)



19th January. Ben Preston has had a wide range of garden on his gardening philosophy. After studying for a degree in horticulture and completing a year-long internship with the Historic and Botanic Garden Bursary, he spent the next year working in a team of 13 gardeners and over 50 volunteers at Great Dixter, absorbing the most important thing being that it's people and their working stints and holidays at Great Dixter, absorbing the knowledge. Recently Ben was head gardener at Goldsborough Hall and now as the head gardener at York Gate.

Perennial is the UK's only charity looking after people in need of flowers, plants, trees or grass, their friendly and experienced support.

Perennial manage a garden near us at York Gate near Leeds. They also manage Fullers Mill in Suffolk and more recently The Laskett in Herefordshire which was donated to them by Sir Roy Strong. One of our garden group members, Ruth Boundy, is a volunteer at York Gate.

OTHER GARDEN ITEMS OF INTEREST

Want to identify a plant? <https://www.rhs.org.uk/about-the-rhs/publications/plant-finder>.
Bring a flower/plant to any of our meetings which we can try to identify for you.

Facebook. If you are on Facebook you might like to visit The Gardening Bubble which gives lots of gardening tips.

THIS MONTH IN THE GARDEN

December is a month to start planning for the coming year. It has the shortest day of the year and there can be some very cold spells, so wrap yourself up well in the garden and protect your vulnerable plants with some glass or fleece. There are signs in my own garden already of bulbs appearing. The leaves of the snowdrops are up a couple of inches and muscari and daffodils are poking through. It gives me hope that things are as they should be when of course all around us they are not what they seem. It is uncertain times for us all, but in our gardens we can look ahead once again and long for better things to come. I will probably check my dahlia tubers, which I lifted last month, to ensure there are no nasties tucked away with them for the winter. I will also ensure that some of my plants which are staked are checked to make sure they are still secure as they hate wind rock. I always like to think about what seeds I might sow and try to restrict myself to just a few even though it never works! I always seem to overdo it and can't resist some new varieties. It isn't too late to plant fruit trees now and also to prune roses and wisteria. It is best not to remove the dead flowers on hydrangeas as they protect the buds underneath from the frost. These can be cut off in the early Spring. Please don't forget to feed the birds and put out fresh water for them too, especially if other water recepticals are frozen.

REPORT OF RECENT EVENTS

Dr. Peter Williams, a retired plant scientist, came to our November meeting and gave us a very interesting lecture about "Special Plants for Small Gardens" which was beautifully illustrated with slides of his most recommended plants. He also gave out a handout with a list of those plants. Following requests from some of you who were at the November meeting enthusing about Peter's presentation, I have booked him to come again next Autumn to give us a different talk.

WHAT'S COMING?

Christmas lunch:

I have reserved an area in the restaurant at Pennells for us to get together for a nice Christmas lunch. It will be waitress service. It is on the 1st December at 1 p.m. If you need a lift to Pennells please let Jane know and she will do her best to get you there. The cost is £16.95 for two courses or £19.95 for three courses. At the moment there are 21 of us meeting together and it is not too late to book if you want to get into the Christmas spirit. The meal choices are:-

Starters: Carpaccio of Melon with raspberry coulis, Classic Prawn Cocktail with malted bread and butter or Tomato & Basil soup with crusty white or brown roll

Mains: Hand carved turkey with stuffing, cranberry sauce, pigs in blankets & gravy or Roast Topside of Beef with Yorkshire pudding and horseradish sauce, or Salon en Croute with parsley sauce or Sweet Potato and Vegetable Caserole. All are served with potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

Desserts: Christmas pudding with brandy sauce, Lemon & Ginger Cheesecake, Chocolate & Jaffa Orange Cake or Raspberry Pavlova.

All are followed by coffee and mints. Pre-bookings with the fee is essential. All payments must be made immediately. Contact Jane.

Snowdrop visits

Our first and local snowdrop visit, will be to ***Brightwater Gardens in Saxby*** on Saturday, 19th February. The entrance is £5.00 and we will meet there at 11 a.m. The café will be open for light refreshments. If anyone wants a lift please contact Jane.

I have now arranged a coach excursion to ***Anglesey Abbey in Cambridgeshire*** which will be on Tuesday, 22nd February. The cost is £35.00 p.p. to cover the cost of hiring the coach and the driver's tip. This is a National Trust Property and some of you will be members. They of course have free entrance but everyone else will have to pay £9.50 which is a reduced group rate. If you want to make a booking please contact Jane.

Spring garden visit

I am now planning a visit to Helmingham Hall Gardens near Stowmarket on Sunday the 29th May. This is also the day of their Plant Fair & Artisan Market which offers a great day out for garden enthusiasts! Over eighty exhibitors including specialist nurseries and suppliers of garden accessories as well as National Collections of plants will be there. In the Garden Marquees there are talks and insider tips and tricks and a Problem Plant Clinic. There will be plenty of pop-up refreshment outlets and some music too. The Coach House Tearooms serve a fantastic range of light lunches and delicious afternoon tea treats and these can be pre-booked. The cost is £45 each to include coach, driver's tip and entrance to the Plant Fair, Artisan Market and lovely gardens. To make a booking contact Jane.

2022 Holiday to the Lakes

I have been busy putting together a garden holiday for us for next June. I have now booked a hotel and the coach! I am hoping you would like to join me on a four day adventure to The Lake District. We will leave Market Rasen on Friday 24th June and return home early evening on Monday 27th June staying in Kendal at the Riverside Hotel which is a converted 18th century tannery set on five floors, and situated on the banks of the River Kent in Kendal beneath the ruins of the town's 12th century castle. A short walk away is the centre of this famous market town with its bustling shops, galleries and museums.



All the bedrooms are spacious with en-suite bathrooms, most have river views and include a hospitality tray with drinks and biscuits, a television with Freeview, free WiFi, direct dial telephone, hairdryer and ironing facilities. Safes are available upon request. The Sanctuary Leisure Club is a state of the art facility offering the following facilities: heated swimming pool, sauna, steam room, hot tub, gymnasium and exercise studio.

There are a range of beautiful gardens I am hoping to take you.

Gresgarth Hall Garden (see above) is the home of Arabella Lennox-Boyd, the well known landscape and garden designer. The cultivated area is about 12 acres and the river Lune passes through the garden. There are a large number of garden rooms and terraces with water gardens, kitchen garden, wild garden and a large woodland area. The garden was featured recently on TV with Carol Klein over four weeks showing the four seasons in the garden. Confirmed.

Holehird Gardens, Windermere: These gardens are managed entirely by the volunteers of the Lakeland Horticultural Society which is a charity. They have the national collections of Astilbe, Daboecia, Meconopsis, Polystichum and Hydrangea and also Alpine houses, rock gardens, paddock frames, Gunnera pool and woodland walk. You can purchase plants here from the small nursery. Confirmed.

8 Oxenholme, Kendal: This is an artist and potters garden of approx. ½ area. John is a ceramic artist and Frances is a painter. There is mixed planting designed for all year interest. They are both regular volunteers at Holehird.

Abi & Tom's garden plants at Halecat Nurseries, Near Grange-over-Sands: A 1 acre garden nursery with specialist cottage garden plants which are displayed in small garden beds of

different types, e.g. woodland, wet, hot/dry, etc. They have a range of over 1,000 plants, some unusual which of course you can purchase here. Confirmed.

Yewbarrow, Grange-over-Sands: There are stunning views from this hillside garden overlooking Morecambe Bay with many tropical plants, reminiscent more of warmer climes. There are Japanese and Italian gardens, a sunken garden, trial beds and an Orangerie. Confirmed.

Matson Ground, Windermere: 2 acres of mature south facing gardens with both formal and informal planting, including topiary. There is a productive walled garden more than 150 years old with wide assortment of fruit, vegetables, cut flowers, cobnuts and herbs.

The cost is £498 per person sharing a twin or double room. A single room supplement is £70 and insurance which includes covid cover is £25. This includes travel by executive coach, bed, breakfast and dinner for 3 nights in the Riverside Hotel, 3 lunches and all garden entries. The holiday is dependent on a minimum of 31 persons.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

I am going on holiday abroad on the 4th December for two weeks, something I booked before Covid, so if you try to communicate with me during this time you will not receive a response until my return.

We meet every third Wednesday (unless otherwise stated) from 2 p.m./4 p.m. at the New Life Church in Serpentine Street, Market Rasen, LN8 3AR. Entrance fee is £3.00 which includes a cup of tea or coffee. There will also be a raffle.

To pay for one of our events you can pay by cheque and make it payable to West Wolds u3a and send your cheque to Jane Guy at 14 Jubilee Ave., Faldingworth, Nr. Market Rasen, LN8 3FF, or pay by BACS and quote 'garden' to Lloyds Bank; a/c West Wolds U3A, Sort code 30-96-09, account No 71220968. Jane is also available at the u3a general meeting on the second Thursday of every month as well as the Garden Group meetings.

It is crucial that you make an early booking for any coach excursion as we now have an arrangement with our neighbouring u3a in Welton to offer them unsold seats on our day excursions. You of course have first refusal for a short window.

If you no longer wish to belong to the Garden Group or receive this newsletter please let Jane know.

CONTACT DETAILS

To book an event or for any other garden enquiry please contact Jane Guy: telephone 0797 1277 482, or email gardening@westwoldsu3a.org