



## u3a GARDEN GROUP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 22

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR NOTING IN YOUR DIARY

#### 2022

- 16<sup>th</sup> February: Monthly Meeting. Neil Timm from the Fern Nursery in Binbrook “World of Ferns”
- 19<sup>th</sup> February: Meet at Brightwater Gardens, Saxby to see the snowdrops. (see below)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> February: Coach excursion to Angelsey Abbey in Cambridgeshire (see below)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> March: Monthly Meeting. Andrew Ward from Norwell Nursery. “Spring Perennials”. **PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A TUESDAY.**
- 17<sup>th</sup> April: Visit to Ashfield House, Branston. Open under National Garden Scheme
- 20<sup>th</sup> April: Monthly Meeting. Mark Schofield, the Conservation Officer from Lincolnshire Wild Life Trust - “Gardening for Wild Life”
- 1<sup>st</sup> May: Visit to Dunholme Lodge, Dunholme. Open under National Garden Scheme.
- 25<sup>th</sup> May: Basic pruning workshop at The Fern Nursery in Binbrook. £3 p.p.
- 29<sup>th</sup> May: Coach excursion to Helmingham Hall Gardens and Plant & Artisan Market.
- 24<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> June: A four day holiday to The Lakes visiting 8 gardens and staying in the Riverside Hotel in Kendal. (See below)
- 19<sup>th</sup> October: Monthly meeting. Peter Williams People, Plants, Places.
- 20<sup>th</sup> December: Monthly meeting. Janette Merillion, garden designer “The sensual garden”.

### THE NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

16<sup>TH</sup> February with Neil Timm from the Fern Nursery in Binbrook. Neil has a wonderful small woodland garden and nursery in the Lincolnshire Wolds specialising in Hardy garden ferns. Neil will give a wide ranging talk about all aspects of ferns, their Natural History, Economic Uses, Folklore, where to see them, and of course all about growing them in the garden.

**Refreshment Rota:** Thank you this month to Shirley Fuller, Ginny Beard and Rita Dukes for arranging our refreshments.

## 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.

[Rhs.org.uk/sustainabilitytips](https://www.rhs.org.uk/sustainabilitytips)

## THIS MONTH IN THE GARDEN

**What I do in my garden in February by Afifa Sutherland.**

My garden is a south-facing, pocket-sized organic and wildlife garden with an 8' wall down its western side. It's design is based on a combination of old-fashioned cottage + Turkish informal; to others it probably appears disorganised. I let plants choose their favourite places as much as possible. My main delights are my Old Damascus Rose, saved from a ruined cottage in woodland years ago, a Jasmine arch, an Apricot tree and a fan Victoria Plum.

My main objective has been to produce food and to let everything be as natural as possible, but in recent years I have increased my flowers to help the bees. I encourage plants to self-seed and I keep my own seeds. I start very early seedlings on my window ledges ready to move out later in February. I am probably still tidying, but my main thought is preparation of the soil in my vege' patch. It's too early to compost but I will do my best to feed my soil with what I have. (eg: Blood Fish and Bone). I follow the "No Dig" policy; it works.

I have not got my fruit trees and bushes pruned yet, so I'll be doing that. I will move pots of bulbs from the back to their early position by my sunny kitchen door. I'll get my decorative mirrors back in place to help light certain areas. My son is coming to help cut my prolific Burgundy Hazel and other jobs which are beyond my capabilities.

### **In Memory of 'West Wold' by Paul Sutherland**

Where North-East storms trampled Chapel Hill  
and where a morning's hasty snow was melting  
snowdrops had broken from a beech-leaf bed  
above where the Rase's brown water gushed  
for the first time those flowers gave a perfume  
as an early lamb bleated from our lambing shed.

Above heaps of cropped sugar beet - the sun strong  
though cerise bands rested on tips of nervy trees -  
clouds took the shape of ancient men. More wild

and yearning in the freezing air, a thrush's song  
 inspired faith that winter's void would soon burst  
 with richness past understanding. Where the poet's  
 brook meandered at will, those flowers looked up  
 so real – if one was picked the whole would be gone.

## REPORT OF RECENT EVENTS

I was delighted and very grateful for all your attendance at the January meeting when we had Ben Preston from York Gate come to us and speak. When a speaker comes from some distance away there is nothing worse than only having about half a dozen people there. Thank you to everyone who attended, our best turn-out yet. I thought it was so worth it too. Ben is a great gardener and has huge potential. I think he is one to watch out for. Quite inspiring and I know many of us are looking forward to visiting the garden where he is head gardener at York Gate at the start of our annual holiday this June. For everyone else, following requests, I think next year our snowdrop excursion visit could well be to York Gate.

At our first garden group meeting for a long time, back in September, you may remember Gail and John Summerfield coming who run Westshores Nursery near Scunthorpe. They have come to our garden group meetings for many years. Gail gave us a very interesting talk as a botanist. They brought many plants for sale too. John, a retired headmaster, helped with her talk; they did a bit of a Pinky/Perky act. I was very saddened to learn that John died suddenly a couple of weeks ago.

## WHAT'S COMING?

### Snowdrop visits

Our first and local snowdrop visit, will be to ***Brightwater Gardens in Saxby*** on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> 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. There is no need to pre-book as the garden is open under the NGS.

The coach excursion to ***Anglesey Abbey in Cambridgeshire*** which will be on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February has enough bookings to make it financially viable. However, this did necessitate my offering it to another group too so there will be a pick up in Welton and also in North Hykeham. For all in this group I will assume you will use the Market Rasen pick up. 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. It is not too late to make a booking but please do so quickly. Contact Jane. I will be sending out the joining instructions by the end of this week.

## Spring garden visit

I am now planning a visit to ***Helmingham Hall Gardens near Stowmarket*** on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> 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

The holiday arrangements are all now complete. If you have made a booking already I have sent you out the marketing flyer. I am delighted to report that we have enough members who have committed to coming on the holiday to make it viable. I have therefore confirmed my provisional booking with the hotel and the coach. We will leave Market Rasen on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June and return home early evening on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June staying in Kendal at the Riverside Hotel which is a converted 18<sup>th</sup> century tannery set on five floors, and situated on the banks of the River Kent in Kendal beneath the ruins of the town's 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

Here is the itinerary:

## Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> June:



**York Gate, Nr. Leeds:** York Gate is a magical one-acre garden created by the Spencer family between 1951 and 1994. Frederick and Sybil Spencer along with their son Robin, laid out and nurtured what is now one of the finest small gardens in the country. The design of 'rooms' interlinked through a succession of vistas and executed with meticulous attention to detail owed much to the Arts and Crafts movement, complemented by Sybil's skills as a plantswoman. In accordance with Sybil's wishes, on her death in 1994, York Gate was given to Perennial. York Gate has been granted [Grade II national heritage status](#) in a list of post-war gardens and landscapes for England. **"It is an amazing garden, and it should be protected. It's not a stately home, it's a family home. It would have meant a lot to Sybil, to see the family name and legacy live on."** Ben Preston, Head Gardener.





**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.

## Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> June.



**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.



**Low Fell West, Kendal:** This 2 acre woodland garden in the tranquil Winster Valley has extensive views of the Pennines. The four season garden, restored since 2003, including expanses of rock planted sympathetically with grasses, unusual trees and shrubs, climaxing for autumn colour. There are native hedges and areas of plant rich meadows. Features and

attractions include a woodland area which houses a gypsy caravan and there is direct access to Cumbria Wildlife Trust's Barkbooth Reserve of Oak woodland, bluebells and open fellside.

## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June



**Winton Park Gardens just north of Kirkby Stephen:** On the upper reaches of the Eden Valley this private garden is situated on the banks of the River Eden. The garden enjoys far reaching views of Wild Boar Fell and Mallerstang Edge to the south. Over time, the owner, Anthony Kilvington, with the assistance of his wife, Janet, (and others too numerous to mention) have transformed five acres of farm land into a garden which enshrines long herbaceous borders, a rose garden, rhododendrons and azaleas, spring and autumn flowering heathers, acers, hostas, ferns, pines, clipped hornbeams, statuary, pillars, several ponds and a waterfall. The varying aspects of the garden are linked by a series of paths which culminate with the bridge over the stream on the highest part of the garden giving spectacular views of Wild Boar Fell and Mallerstang Edge.



**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.



## Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June



**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.



**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.

The cost of the all inclusive holiday 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.



## **FURTHER AHEAD**

I have started work on the programme for the monthly meetings from September 22/April 23 and several of our speakers are now confirmed. If you have any speaker to recommend please do let me know.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

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 and a biscuit. 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 will be offering these to other u3a members in Market Rasen and 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](mailto:gardening@westwoldsu3a.org)