



## u3a GARDEN GROUP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – MARCH 22

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR NOTING IN YOUR DIARY

#### 2022

- 22<sup>nd</sup> March: Monthly Meeting. Andrew Ward from Norwell Nursery. “Spring Perennials”. (See below) **PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A TUESDAY.**
- 17<sup>th</sup> April: Visit to Ashfield House, Branston. Open under National Garden Scheme at 11 a.m. (See below)
- 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. (See below)
- 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. **NEW.** (See below)
- 21<sup>st</sup> June: Visit to Overbeck, Scothern. Private garden of John & Joyce Good **NEW** (See below)
- 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

Andrew Ward, our guest speaker in March, trained as a plant breeder and started Norwell Nurseries and Gardens 24 years ago with his wife Helen. The garden holds over 2,500 different varieties of plants and has featured in many magazines and is included in the prestigious publication 'Great Gardens to Visit'. They hold the national collection of Astartias. Andrew lectures widely and has given key note talks to the national body of the The Hardy Plant Society. Appropriately for the time of year, Andrew will be talking about Spring Perennials with a passion! His garden and nursery is just off the A1 north of Newark.

**Refreshment Rota:** Thank you this month to Ruth Boundy, Margaret Foster and Jan Hart 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



For me, this is one of the busiest and most exciting months, watching little clumps of plants budding and popping up all over the place; some forgotten in the winter gloom and making a very welcome appearance, like a long lost friend.

I am now busy sowing seeds in trays in my greenhouse but hope later this month to start sowing hardy annuals outdoors too. My tomato and pepper seedlings are just coming to life now. I have just potted up my dahlia tubers,

watered them and tucked them away in the greenhouse.

I will be digging over some soil and enriching as well and planting some early potatoes towards the end of this month, turning my compost and making sure it is still moist, tidying up garden debris and cutting the grass. If time allows I will divide my small clumps of snowdrops and the crocuses that are looking wonderful now in small pots will be put into the garden. Like my plants I will be enjoying longer and warmer days and if I am lucky find time to sit with a cuppa and enjoy watching a pair of blackbirds chasing each other everywhere.

## REPORT OF RECENT EVENTS

At our February meeting Neil Timm from the Fern Nursery in Binbrook gave us a very interesting talk on the “World of Ferns”. He is an encyclopaedia of horticultural knowledge and is an expert on ferns – and it certainly showed. Neil was well received by the group and I have booked for us to visit his garden and nursery on the 25<sup>th</sup> May for a workshop on basic pruning. This is a very reasonable cost of just £3.00 but it is essential to pre-book this with Jane.

As many of you know, I am also a bowler, and I was delighted on my first visit to Neil’s garden and nursery to find a full-sized bowling green in his garden along with a pavilion. Wow! So if the weather is not good we can shelter in the pavilion and continue our pruning workshop there.

Neil will also provide us with tea and cake of course!

## Snowdrop visits

Our first and local snowdrop visit, was to ***Brightwater Gardens in Saxby*** on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> February. It was a bitterly cold day but 13 of our members turned up and decided to visit the garden first as worse weather was threatening and this proved to be a good call. This is a lovely garden at any time of the year but the snowdrops in the woodland walk were delightful. We then met up in the café with a large log fire to warm us up. We settled for hot drinks and cakes and lots of friendly chatter.

The coach excursion to ***Anglesey Abbey in Cambridgeshire*** which took place on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February was the day after the three storms and we very nearly did not go as the garden closed the previous day because of storm damage and health and safety issues. However, 33 of us were able to go and although we did have a very heavy downpour it was not cold and we did get some sunshine too. The winter garden was a joy to behold with vivid colour, varied texture, sweet scent and exquisite planting. There were over 300 different varieties of snowdrops there but we also liked the facilities; the restaurant, shop and plant sales. Judging from the e-mails and cards of thanks received it was another very successful excursion.

## WHAT’S COMING?

### Spring garden visit

***Visit to Ashfield House on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> April.*** This is the garden of John & Judi Tinsley on Lincoln Road, Branston, LN4 1NS. It is on the B1188 and signed ‘Tinsley Farms’. We will make our own way there but if you need a lift just let Jane know. This is yet another garden which is worth a visit to see the snowdrops but we are going this time to see the blossoms. There are 140 cherry trees which should be in flower then and 30 magnolias, but also lots of



Spring bulbs. There are sweeping lawns, a lake and a very interesting arboretum. You can take your dog on a lead and refreshments will be on sale. £4.00 entry fee. I hope to see you there.

***A day at Dunholme Lodge on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> May.*** Lesley and Hugh Wykes, friends of mine, own this lovely 5 acre garden, which was an airfield in WW2 and has a museum in memory of the part it played. This will be open as well but it is really the garden we will be visiting. Dunholme Lodge is just off the A46 at the Welton turnoff and then first on the left. LN2 3 QA. There are a variety of garden areas with natural pond, shrub border, Spring bulbs, fern garden, wildflower area, orchard, vegetable area and a new arboretum. On this particular day there will also be music, stalls and a range of refreshments on sale by St. Chad's Church – and they are very good. £4.50 entry fee.

I have planned another coach excursion 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.

### **Early-summer garden visit**

John & Joyce Good's garden, "Overbeck", 46 Main Street, Scothern, LN2 2UW. More dear friends of mine but with one of the most colourful and well kept gardens I know! Situated in this attractive village this 2/3 acre garden is jam-packed with flowers everywhere but also a large hidden vegetable plot which is John's pride and joy. There are very large herbaceous borders, some in themed colours, with many unusual plants. There is a hosta bed, gravel bed with grasses, fernery, stumpery, interesting range of trees and many lovely climbers. I highly recommend this garden. Please let me know if you want a lift. Meet at 2 p.m. Entry fee is £5.00

### **2022 Holiday to the Lakes**



The holiday arrangements are all now complete and there is a marketing flyer with more information. 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.

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. You won't find better value for money!

## Itinerary:

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

**York Gate, Nr. Leeds** now owned by Perennial the gardener's charity  
**Gresgarth Hall Garden** is the home of Arabella Lennox-Boyd, the well known landscape and garden designer

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

**Holehird Gardens, Windermere:** These gardens are managed entirely by the volunteers of the Lakeland Horticultural Society  
**Low Fell West, Kendal:** This is a 2 acre woodland garden in the tranquil Winster Valley.

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

**Winton Park Gardens just north of Kirkby Stephen:**  
**8 Oxenholme, Kendal:** This is an artist and potters garden of approx. ½ area.

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

**Abi & Tom's garden plants at Halecat Nurseries, Near Grange-over-Sands:** Bring some pocket money as the plants are so good here.  
**Yewbarrow, Grange-over-Sands:** There are stunning views from this tropical hillside garden overlooking Morecambe Bay.

## 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)