



# WEST WOLDS u3a GARDEN GROUP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MAY 22

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR NOTING IN YOUR DIARY

### 2022

- 1<sup>st</sup> May: Visit to Dunholme Lodge, Dunholme. Open under National Garden Scheme. (See below)
- 11<sup>th</sup> May: OUR OWN PLANT FAIR. (See below)
- 25<sup>th</sup> May: Basic pruning workshop at The Fern Nursery in Binbrook. £3 p.p. Pre-booking with Jane is essential
- 29<sup>th</sup> May: Coach excursion to Helmingham Hall Gardens and Plant & Artisan Market. Now fully booked. (See below)
- 21<sup>st</sup> June: Visit to Overbeck, Scothern. Private garden of John & Joyce Good (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)
- 21<sup>st</sup> September: Monthly meeting. Don Whitton “**Late Herbaceous Perennials**”.
- 19<sup>th</sup> October: Monthly meeting. Peter Williams “**People, Plants, Places**”.
- 16<sup>th</sup> November: Monthly meeting. Geoff Hodges 'Life and Times of a Garden Editor'. Geoff Is a Garden writer, broadcaster & horticultural consultant. **NEW**
- 20<sup>th</sup> December: Monthly meeting. Janette Merillion, garden designer “The sensual garden”.

### 2023

- 18<sup>th</sup> January: TBC
- 1<sup>st</sup> February: 10 a.m./1 p.m. Workshop on apple grafting to be held at Snitterby Carr Farm run by Patty Phillips. All materials provided and you get to take your own rootstock home with you too. £25.00. Pre-booking is essential with Jane. **NEW**
- 15<sup>th</sup> February: TBC
- 15<sup>th</sup> March: Monthly meeting. Steffie Shields “**Impressions of Lincs**” sharing aspects and stories of Lincolnshire gardens both historic or contemporary, and places you might like to visit. **NEW**
- 19<sup>th</sup> April: Monthly meeting. Linda Clark from the Spotted Dog Flower Company will make up a bouquet of flowers and then donate them as one of our raffle prizes. **NEW**

## 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

May is one of the busiest months of the year with so much to do. Where to start? My garden is especially dry at the moment so I am already watering pretty frequently. All our perennial plants are growing so fast now I can almost see the difference day to day, so it is a good plan to stake those that might fall over or break if left unsupported. This is particularly important for heavy flowers like peonies or tall ones like delphiniums. I have been deadheading my daffodils and tulips to ensure all the goodness goes back into the bulbs for next year's flowering season.

I am trying hard to stay on top of the weeds, especially before they set seed. Towards the end of the month I will plant out my dahlias when all chances of a frost are diminished. I am now tying in my sweet peas regularly. I will soon be potting up my bedding plants into baskets and tubs hoping for a nice summer display. Some of my seedlings are still quite small so I am still thinning them out before planting out later this month. If your lawn is looking a bit patchy, now is the time to rake those areas over and sow some lawn seed. Water well and regularly until it is growing well.

## REPORT OF RECENT EVENTS

**Last Monthly Meeting.** At our April meeting we were given a talk by Mary Porter about gardening for wild life. Mary stood in at short notice to come out of retirement and replace Mark Schofield who had recently left the Wildlife Trust. However, Mary was certainly no 'second-best'. She showed us lovely pictures of her own garden, how she has created a wildlife haven and gave us many tips as to how to bring insects and birds into our garden. Basically we have to create shelter, water and food such as a nectar bar, but importantly to feed the birds all the year round.

Mary was very enthusiastic and inspiring and I think many of us will now want to copy some of her ideas such as leaving flower heads on long after they have finished flowering so the birds can enjoy them too. We also learned about the slugs that are good in our garden and especially for birds like thrushes, but it is the little black ones that live just under the soil that do the real damage. Mary continues with her work inspiring children to appreciate wild life. We all wish her well.

## Spring garden visits

**Visit to Ashfield House on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> April.** Memories by Stephanie Heywood.



This was the most perfect way to spend a Sunday morning. It was such an informal arrangement, that we would be at the garden at 11.00am but with no fixed notion of actually meeting up. It was lovely to see so many members of the group there; some people whom I already knew and others whom I had seen before but never had the opportunity to speak to. We sat in the courtyard outside the old stable building, enjoying coffee, cake and good company in pleasant Spring sunshine.

I had no idea what to expect at Ashfield House and the garden was a complete surprise. I think I was anticipating the formality of borders and beds, all laid out in pristine fashion and properly labelled. Instead there was the most wonderful relaxed feeling of space,

and room to wander amongst beautiful trees. The first area we came across was the cherry trees, 150 of them in 40 different varieties, standing in beautifully mown grass and surrounded by swathes of white daffodils. The blossom was beautiful, and even more so on a lovely morning with enough sunshine and blue sky to show it off. There were so many shades of white, pink and cream and even one where the blossom was a delicate shade of green. And the colour of the bark was amazing too. There were some which glowed smooth and red; absolutely irresistible. I just had to touch them.

Then on to the magnolias. Again there were so many varieties in so many colours – from deep purples and pinks, through to cream and yellow (as pictured above). And just beyond the magnolias, the garden could be seen in a natural wild state towards its border, plainly a home to so much wildlife. The further reaches of the garden were clearly a haven for birds and wildlife of all descriptions.

Apart from the drifts of white daffodils, there were other areas dedicated to bluebells and fritillaries. The bluebells were promising but not yet in bloom. Fritillaries are always a joy to see. Another patch was full of primroses. Or perhaps they were primulas? By now I didn't mind what they were. The informality of the garden was getting to me. I was just at ease, walking beneath the trees and alongside the lake, watching a mallard with three fluffy ducklings. It was all so beautiful.

Photograph courtesy of Tom Leigh.

## WHAT'S COMING?

**DUNHOLME LODGE on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> May from 12 mid-day**



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 3QA. 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.

Unfortunately I am unable to be there on this occasion as I will be visiting my sister in Cornwall for a few days, but Jane Lloyd will be hoping to meet with you there. Jane is working closely with me now and has agreed to deputise any time I can't be with you – as long as she is free at that time! Many thanks Jane.

**OUR OWN PLANT FAIR on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> May at 2 p.m.** Every year we organise our own Plant Fair which this year is to be held at our usual meeting place, the New Life Church. If the weather is fine we will be outside in the little back garden but otherwise in our usual room. It would be good if each one of you brought at least one plant, more if you have spares, of cuttings, seedlings or plants you have potted up. You can start to do this now.

This is a great way to choose some new plants for your garden at an affordable price and just the right time to replant them too. There may well be some unusual ones too. Small plants will be sold for 50p and the larger ones for £1.00. Your first offering is a gift to the group and will pay towards the hire of the premises that day but after that please put a label in the plant with your name on so we can make sure you get your money back afterwards. All plants should otherwise be labelled with the name of the plant if you can! If you don't have a plant to bring then we will ask you to pay £1 to attend. Hope that is ok? Tea and cake will be on sale too.

**PRUNING WORKSHOP on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> May at 2 p.m. at The Fern Nursery, Binbrook.** Several of our garden group members have asked me to arrange some workshops, although the only topic I have been given so far has been 'pruning'. You will recall Neil Timm, who came to our meeting in February and gave us an interesting talk about ferns. He has also written several gardening books and is an expert when it comes to all things gardening. He is opening up his garden to us on the 25<sup>th</sup> May. Like myself, Neil is also a bowler and has a large bowling green in his garden along with pavilion which his village are pleased to use. On the pruning day we will be in the pavilion for the workshop where he will also serve us tea and cake. This workshop is only £3 per person so do come and join us for what I know will be an interesting and entertaining session. First, though, you need to make a booking with me but bring your money on the day. I hope to see you there.

**Plant Fair in Walesby on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> May from 10 a.m./4 p.m. outside Yew Tree Cottage on Hall Drive.**

In aid of the Friends of the Old Church Walesby aka The Ramblers Church and outside of Yew Tree Cottage on the Hall Drive, which is the start of the Viking Way path leading up to the Old Church. We have several local plant-lovers so most of our plants are locally grown. We would also welcome donations of plants to sell and Trish Braithwaite can be contacted on 01673 838352 or 07768684588 if you have plants to donate.

**N.B.** Alongside the Plant Stall, there will also be a number of Craft Stalls outside of the Village Hall and Drinks, Cakes and Scones will be available (until they run out). Please come along and join us.

**COACH EXCURSION TO HELMINGHAM HALL GARDENS, NEAR STOWMARKET on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May.**

As well as lovely gardens 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. This is now fully booked. All those going on the excursion will receive an e-mail from Jane with the joining instructions approx.. 2 weeks before departure.

**Pottertons Nursery's Plant Fair also on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> May from 9 a.m./4 p.m.**

For those unable to make the coach excursion why not visit Pottertons when there will be 10 visiting nurseries with an extensive selection of quality plants and cream teas and light refreshments will also be available. Pottertons Nursery and Gardens is on Moortown Road, Nettleton, LN7 6HX. £3 entrance fee for the NGS.

**Visit to Overbeck, Scothern. John & Joyce Good's garden on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> June at 2.30 p.m.**

"Overbeck" is at 46 Main Street, Scothern, LN2 2UW. More dear friends of mine but with one of the most colourful and well-kept gardens I know! They are opening just for us! 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.

## **u3a GARDEN GROUP HOLIDAY TO THE LAKE DISTRICT on 24<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> 2022 (Friday-Monday)**

The holiday arrangements are all now complete and there is a marketing flyer with more information about what we will be doing each day. We will leave Market Rasen at Tesco's car park staying in Kendal at the Riverside Hotel.

The cost of the all-inclusive holiday is £498 per person sharing a twin or double room. Insurance, which includes covid cover, is £25. The all-inclusive cost covers 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! There are still a couple of places sharing a room left if you hurry!

## **VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

I am now looking to get up a rota again to organise the refreshments for the meetings starting again in the Autumn. If you would like to put your name down I would be very grateful. If everyone does this then it will probably only be necessary once a year!

## **HOW ARE WE DOING?**

We don't have a committee as such to organise the activities of the Garden Group like the previous group did when Mary was running it, but the same few people have met a couple of times now. The first time it was to set this new group up and the second time was in April to review where we are now. We did decide that we would ask our members for their comments and ideas so at the Plant Fair David Oliver has kindly offered to manage this process and will be handing out an evaluation form and asking you to complete it and return it anonymously. He will then analyse it and see where we need to make some improvements or introduce new ideas. If you can't come to the Plant Fair but would like to complete the form please e-mail or phone me and I will let you have a copy.

## **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 from September to April. Entrance fee is £3.00 which includes a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. There will also be a raffle. In the summer months we arrange visits to local beautiful gardens, some private visits and some open under the National Garden Scheme.

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 at 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.

## **DISCLAIMER**

All our garden events, except the annual holiday, are NOT covered by any insurance. For the holiday we are covered by ABTA, e.g. if the holiday is cancelled because of Covid, any payments made will be recoverable, and individuals are offered personal cover, e.g. if cancelling the holiday because of ill-health or if you have an accident on the holiday. This personal insurance is optional.

## **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)