



WEST WOLDS u3a GARDEN GROUP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2022

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR NOTING IN YOUR DIARY

2022

21st December: Monthly meeting. Janette Merillion, garden designer “**The sensual garden**”. **PLEASE NOTE THIS WAS PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED AS THE 20TH BUT THIS WAS A TYPO ON MY PART.**

2023

18th January Monthly meeting. Peter Maxey owner of Scothern Nursery. “**How to prepare for Spring and Summer**”.

13th 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.

15th February Alan Mason “Life of a Gardener”.

28th February Snowdrop visit to Ashfield House, Lincoln Road, Near Branston, LN4 1NS.

15th 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.

19th 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.

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

This month brings the shortest day of the year and for most of us not a great deal of gardening, although it could be a useful time for planning any major changes to our garden for next year. I know I have several large clumps of perennials to dig up and split up, hopefully to make more plants for others. There are a couple of items on my Christmas 'wish list' for my family when they ask what I would like. I never seem to have enough stakes to grow my larger plants through and give them something to rest onto rather than to just flop wherever they wish, and I would like some tree ties and plant labels too. I will of course be going through the garden catalogues looking for those 'must have' plants and seeds. Some I have bought several times but never had success with and I probably won't learn from that either and try again. I know 'right plant, right place' but you still have to try, or at least I do.

In the meantime there are a few jobs I may try to do, if the sun ventures out and things dry out a bit. Some of my roses need a little more pruning and tying in, some perennial plants need cutting back hard and are looking very sad right now and those leaves, just everywhere! Don't throw them away, they are garden gold. Just put them in a thick black bin liner, pierce a few holes in the bottom and hide them behind something, preferably sitting on soil. They will probably be wet when put in the bag and that will be sufficient to turn them into lovely compost this time next year.

Now is also a good time to propagate fruit bushes, such as gooseberries, currants and figs, taking hardwood cuttings to make more plants or replace old ones. Talking of using the secateurs, it is also a good time to prune back any deciduous shrubs such as weigela, berberis, deutzia, etc. If you have any apples and pears, take out any dead, diseased or damaged wood while it is easy to see them.

Don't forget to feed the birds either.

WHAT'S COMING?

At our December meeting we are going to have a table for you to bring something interesting and colourful from your garden to show what we can grow to cheer us up on the dullest of days. You might have some early snowdrops, late roses, hellebores or some beautiful leaves, perhaps with berries. Bring them along to share their beauty.

Wednesday 21st December. Monthly meeting. Janette Marrillion "The Sensual Garden". A garden should be inviting, attracting you inside and appealing to all of your senses. Plants that are perfumed, sounds that are musical and even the spiritual feeling

of a garden can be created with the right design and imaginative planting. Janette will show us how.

After a career in marketing on the south coast of England, Janette returned to her roots, attending De Montfort University, where she studied horticulture and garden design. Janette has had a love affair with plants all of her life, as is evident in the knowledge and enthusiasm demonstrated in her work. She is a talented, innovative designer, who not only provides inspiration and practical advice, but has made a considerable name for herself as a professional speaker.

Monday, 13th 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. Dependent on numbers. We need 10 people to make this viable. You can use the attached booking form to make a booking and e-mail or post it to me, book at the next general meeting on the 8th December or at our next garden group meeting on the 21st December. I will then confirm places when I have enough numbers.

Tuesday 28th February at 2 p.m – Snowdrop visit. Many of you came on our visit last April to Ashfield House at Branston to see the cherry blossom. You will know how I have been opening up some of our events to other neighbouring garden groups and this is a visit organised by the u3a group in Welton and they have now invited us to join them. I have had the pleasure of visiting Ashfield House in February to see the snowdrops and much more and would highly recommend this second visit. The 10 acre garden has sweeping lawns, trees and shrubs. It features mass plantings of spring flowering bulbs and recent additions include a Magnolia collection in a newly constructed woodland garden. In the autumn the colours can be amazing. The cost is £6 per person including tea/coffee and biscuits. Book as usual through Jane.

Monday, 24th April, 2023. Coach excursion to RHS Harlow Carr, Near Harrogate. Cost is £30 to cover coach seat, driver's tip and entrance to Harlow Carr. Bookings can be submitted by post, at the next member's meeting on Thursday, 8th December or at our next Garden Group meeting on Wednesday, 20th December. See attached separate information and booking form. As our group now has affiliated membership of RHS it entitles us also to half price entry at any time. So if you are planning an independent trip of your own and want to use our 'company' card just let me know.

REFRESHMENT ROTA for this month

Val Wright and Ginny Beard. Thank you very much.

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

Garden Group meeting 16th November. Geoff Hodges “**Life and Times of a Garden Editor**”. Shirley Fuller said

‘Geoff Hodges really lit up the Garden Group’s November meeting with his illustrious and informative talk on the “Life and Times of a Garden Editor. His love of all things gardening began at age 7 when being given his first gardening tool kit which led to his choice of degree and career. Wow, what a varied career that followed, Garden Centre Manager, Web Site Developer, Garden writer and Editor for 2 well known gardening magazines. Broadcaster and free-lance horticultural consultant writing, 3 gardening books. Geoff thrilled the audience with his tales of working with celebrities and well - known gardeners. At the end of his excellent presentation Geoff undertook a short question and answer session.’

Thank you to David for hosting the meeting, to Shirley, Marilyn and Ruth for helping with the refreshments and to Anne for running the raffle and paying our bills.

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 to help cover the fee of the speaker and their travel costs. In the summer months we arrange visits to local lovely gardens, some private visits and some open under the National Garden Scheme. We occasionally run workshops and holidays too.

SMALL PRINT

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 and Horncastle 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. We do of course carry out a 'risk assessment' before each visit.

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

