



WEST WOLDS u3a GARDEN GROUP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2023

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR NOTING IN YOUR DIARY

2023

- 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. Just 2 places left!
- 15th February Monthly meeting. Alan Mason “**Life of a Gardener**”.
- 18th February **Snowdrop visit** to Brightwater Gardens, Saxby, LN8 2DQ. 11 a.m.
- 28th February **Snowdrop visit** to Ashfield House, Lincoln Road, Near Branston, LN4 1NS with Welton u3a.
- 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.
- 24th April **Coach excursion** to RHS Harlow Carr, Near Harrogate
- 24th May **Coach excursion** to Coton Manor Garden and Cottesbrooke Hall, **NEW**
- 25th July **Coach excursion** to Chatsworth House, Bakewell. **Welton u3a**

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



Even though it is still very cold, when the sun is out it is worthwhile getting out into the garden. In my own garden there are still too many leaves to clear up and doing this I have found lots budding already; bulbs are popping up, the penstemons are sprouting, the primroses are singing, etc. so lots of signs of Spring on the way. You can prolong the flowering of winter bedding (pansies, violas, and cyclamen) so they flower for longer by continually dead-heading.

I have just trimmed back some of the leaves on my hellebores and exposed some very pretty flowers. It was worth getting down on my hands and knees to see them!

It is a good time to prune your roses hard back now and prune your apple and pear trees if you are lucky enough to have them. We can also start to sow some seeds particularly peppers and chillies. Cutting back some of my shrubs, I have been saving some of the straight stems ready for plant supports later on. Finally remember to put out fresh water for the birds and some seeds and fat balls, if you can.

WHAT'S COMING?

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 are provided and you get to take your own rootstock home with you too. £25.00. Lift available from Middle and Market Rasen. Jane will send out the joining instructions to those who have booked by e-mail

a couple of days before the event. For anyone who has not yet booked there are still two places available?

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

Alan Mason is one of Europe's top garden designers. A founder member of the Professional Gardeners' Guild, he became Britain's youngest head gardener when he took charge of the French-style gardens at Bramham Park in Yorkshire. He then, as Gardens Manager, took nearby Harewood House into the top 10 most visited gardens in the country.

He has created and restored many gardens throughout Europe including Manoir du Hilguy, near Quimper, for Holiday Property Bond and Harlaxton Manor in Lincolnshire. The garden that Alan made in France at Manoir, Port de Roche was generally considered to be amongst the top private gardens in France. The Channel 4 series 'Le Manoir' on the making of this garden was a Top 10 rated programme.



Alan presented TV gardening programmes for 15 years, starting with Yorkshire Television as well as series on Central and Anglia TV. He presented on BBC 'Gardeners' World' and on C4 'Le Manoir,' the making of his garden in France and then a long running series on C4, 'Gardens without Borders' comparing the gardens of our European neighbours in France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Holland.

With this unique background of qualifications and experience, Alan has turned much of his attention to providing expert knowledge and help as a garden designer / improver.

18th February - Snowdrop visit to Brightwater Gardens, The Garden House, Saxby, LN8 2DQ. 11 a.m. £5.00 each.

This is my nearest open garden and might be yours too, in the pretty little village of Saxby and it is a beautiful garden. Parking is on the opposite side of the road and there is a Haybarn with help-yourself refreshments and probably a big log fire to warm us after our walk. Over the past 17 years, 190,000 snowdrops, 45,000 crocus, winter irises, and a selection of other bulbs have been planted to create a ¼ mile winter walk leading through the garden and woodland. There are banks of willows, dogwoods and

winter flowering shrubs, a grove of gleaming white Himalayan birch and pleached red-twigged limes to delight the visitor. Nearby St. Helen's church attributed to Capability Brown is well worth a visit. Please let me know if you intend to be there.

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 blossoms. 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. 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 or at our next Garden Group meeting. As our group now has affiliated membership of RHS it entitles any member 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. This excursion is nearly fully booked. For more information please ask for the marketing flyer.

24th May, 2024. Coach excursion to Coton Manor Garden and Cottesbrooke Hall. This is a lovely excursion to two beautiful but different gardens in Northamptonshire. I have already circulated the marketing flyer and booking form, but please book early if you don't want to be disappointed as I know the other local u3a groups will be eager to book. I will hold it for us until the end of February.

Tuesday, 25th July, 2023. Coach excursion to Chatsworth House, Bakewell, Derbyshire. This is on offer to us from Welton u3a group. The cost is £31.00 for entry to the garden, coach and driver's tip and an extra £4.00 if you also want to look around the house. The coach pick up is 8 a.m. from Welton Village Hall. A deposit of £10 is required to secure a place. Book through Jane.

REFRESHMENT ROTA for this month

Norman and Sylvia Harrison.

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

At the January meeting Paul Maxey, the owner of Scothern Nursery, was our guest speaker. He brought along a lot of plants from his nursery which he recommended to us to have something throughout the Spring and Summer. He also brought 100 pots of daffodils for £1 each and I think they all sold! I think we all enjoyed a talk on a more practical level.

Thank you to Vivienne Klockner and Rachel Telfer for sorting out the refreshments in January.

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 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 also with our neighbouring u3a's 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

