



WEST WOLDS u3a GARDEN GROUP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR NOTING IN YOUR DIARY

2023

- 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
- 10th May **Our own plant fair.**
- 24th May **Coach excursion** to Coton Manor Garden and Cottesbrooke Hall
- 24th June Open garden visit to Aubourn Hall and Gardens with a garden tour with the Head Gardener followed by tea and cake. Make your own way there. £13.50 p.p. but pre-booking is essential.
- 5th July Open garden visit to Overbeck in Scothern, John & Joyce Good's garden. £5. To include tea/coffee and cookies.
- 6th September **Coach excursion** to Gunby Hall.

The May Newsletter will include our programme for meeting up from September 23 – April 24.

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

April is yet another busy month and time invested now will cut down on hours needed in the summer when of course we should be sitting down and enjoying our garden.



There is so much to do now it is difficult to know what to do first.

You may be planning a big job or new project in your garden which you have been mulling over during the winter months. Perhaps that bed you planted five years ago has over-grown and needs refreshing? That can be hard work and back-breaking too, so do it in small stages. Perhaps all the plants need taking out and splitting up and maybe rearranging. I can see many mistakes in my

garden with small plants totally hidden by large clumps of taller plants. Now is the perfect time to change them around. Or maybe you can see a better combination of plants?

Jobs to do now:-

- ✓ Plant out your sweet peas that you planted in the Autumn if they have been in the greenhouse or conservatory
- ✓ Mulch where you can. I have found a large bag of leaf mould behind my shed which I had forgotten about and the magic has happened; no leaves just lovely soil.
- ✓ Cut back those hardy perennials, e.g. penstemons, salvias, sedums, etc.
- ✓ Sow seeds such as cosmos, poppies, lettuce, carrots, beans, etc.
- ✓ Take out your dahlia tubers and plant them up in pots but keep them inside for the time being
- ✓ Clean your bird bath and keep refreshing the water. Put up nest boxes
- ✓ Prune buddleja, sambucus, hydrangea, viburnum (if flowering has finished)
- ✓ Weed continuously

WHAT'S COMING?

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. This excursion is nearly fully booked.

For more information please ask for the marketing flyer. For those who have made a booking I will be sending an e-mail a few days before the event giving you the final instructions.

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.



Wednesday, 10th May, 2023. Our own Plant Fair. Start taking your cuttings soon now and/or planting seeds to bring to our plant fair to sell to each other. If splitting up plants and there are spares pot them up for us please.

Wednesday, 24th May, 2023. 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 are eager to book and I have just sent them the information.

I have arranged one final coach excursion for this year, on **Wednesday 6th September to Gunby Hall** which was requested after we had a speaker at our general meeting back last August, on growing fruits, from Gunby Hall. The cost will be £25 to include coach seat, driver's gratuity and entrance to Gunby Hall Gardens. You can also pay on arrival if you want to go round the Hall. I am attaching the marketing flyer with more information and a booking form to this Newsletter.

We will **not** be having any monthly meetings during the summer months.

You will recall at the February meeting we had Alan Mason, who we all loved. I am pleased to say I have booked him for Part 2 of his garden adventures for our next season's programme.

REFRESHMENT ROTA for this month

Val Bowles and Hilma Moore.

If you are able, we would appreciate any donations of prizes for the raffle.

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING in the world around us?

As you are aware we are now co-operating with East Lindsey, Horncastle and Louth u3a's in terms of sharing gardening information. So, if we or they have spare seats on coaches, we will open up the booking to each other. I have also been recommending some of our better speakers to them. In addition some of our members belong to other local garden groups, or their villages put on an event they believe our group members may enjoy and ask me to include it. Below are some of those events.

Saturday, 13th May, 2023. 10 a.m./noon. Lincolnshire Group of the Hardy Plant Society are holding their annual plant fair at Dunholme Lodge, LN2 3QA. Entrance £1. Refreshments are available. No prior booking needed

Wednesday, 14th June, 2023. Coach excursion to Wentworth Historic Garden and Garden Centre, near Rotherham. Market Rasen Gardening Club & Middle Rasen & District Horticultural Society. £24.50 p.p. Phone Derek or Janet on 01522 595840 or e.mail:

derekandjanetanderson@btinternet.com



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.

Wednesday, 12th July, 2023. Coach excursion to Clumber Park Walled Garden, Nottinghamshire and Morton Nurseries, near Retford. Phone Derek or Janet 01522 595840 or e.mail: derekandjanetanderson@btinternet.com £27.50 p.p.

Wednesday, 2nd August, 2023. Brodsworth Hall and Gardens, South Yorkshire. Phone Derek or Janet 01522 595840 or e.mail: derekandjanetanderson@btinternet.com £29.50 p.p.

Sunday 1st October, 2023. Apple day 11 a.m./4 p.m. at Wragby Town Hall, Wragby. 150 apples on display.

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

At the March Monthly meeting. Steffie Shields “**Impressions of Lincs**” shared aspects and stories of Lincolnshire gardens, both historic and contemporary, and places you might like to visit. I think we were all bowled over by Steffie’s knowledge of Lincolnshire and some of the hidden gems she introduced us to. She had well-rehearsed her history of the county and has travelled the area extensively. She had taken some beautiful photographs and gave us many anecdotes of her life and times in Lincolnshire.

I will try a bit harder to persuade our speakers to keep to our time-table in future!



Our thanks to Marilyn Combes and David Oliver for serving the refreshments last month.

11 of our members have received a large clump of snowdrops to split up and plant to enjoy in the years to come. 5 of our members took away large corms of flag irises given to me by another friend. Vivienne brought in some tayberry plants which were quickly snapped up.

Don't forget to look at our give-away table each meeting. There are often packets of seeds, magazines, books, calendars, etc. on offer. If you can afford it, a small donation for our funds is always welcome.

A WARNING!

One of our members has contacted me and is concerned at the demise of two of her local nurseries; The Cottage Garden Nursery at Thoresthorpe, Alford, and Kenwick Farmhouse Nursery. I share her concerns. Many people today aren't very interested in their gardens other than to sit in them and perhaps entertain friends with a barbecue supper. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that. To make their garden look good they will have an outing to a garden centre to choose the plants that are in fashion and look good on that day. They enjoy the experience of the garden centre with easy parking, the temptation of lunch and opportunities to buy shoes, clothes, bird planters, etc.



As we get to retirement age many of us become more interested in plants and the challenges that go with them. We find the joys of being in the garden and with nature and some of us become quite obsessed with gardening and perhaps particular types of plants. The more experience we gain the more we appreciate that the best source of the plants we want are in local-run nurseries with their wider range and more unusual plants. However, if we do not support our local nurseries which are usually family run and dare I say, a bit scruffy compared to the garden centres with only the best plants on sale, we are going

to lose them. When you next think of plant shopping please, please, think first of one of your local nurseries. Will you let me know which ones you use so we can put a list in this newsletter?

Pottertons Nursery on Moortown Road, Nettleton, LN7 6HX are open Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m./3 p.m. Events this year:-

Spring Open Day: Friday 7th April. May Open Day: Saturday 20th May

Summer Open Day: Saturday 15th July. Bulb Day: Saturday 16th September

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 covered by u3a group 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