



WEST WOLDS u3a GARDEN GROUP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR NOTING IN YOUR DIARY

Meeting Programme from November 23/April 24

Meeting date	Speaker	Topic
15 th November	Peter Williams	Special Plants for Small gardens
20 th December	None	Gardeners Question Time, Quiz and Christmas tea
17 th January	Alan Mason	Life of a Gardener - Part 2
21 st February	Linda Heywood	Echiums – In the Land of the Giants
20 th March	Chris Davey	All about Irises
17 th April	Gail Harland	All about Peonies
30 th May	Coach Excursion	Littlethorpe Manor, Ripon
5 th June	Garden visit	Sudbrooke

Please note that the programme may change but I will give you notice if it does.

SOME EXTRAS FOR OUR MORE CREATIVE GARDEN MEMBERS

22nd November – Wreath Making workshop with Linda Clark. £35 which includes materials and you get to take a Christmas wreath home with you. **Confirmation has now been received** for this event but if you would like a place please contact Jane immediately.

13th March – Willow weaving. £25 which includes materials. Make an obelisk for your garden and surprise your neighbours and friends. Pre-book with Jane by end of January.



Open Gardens 2024

Wragby Road, Sudbrooke. Wednesday 5th June. **Hold this date.**

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

WHAT'S COMING?

November meeting with Peter Williams talking about “Special Plants for Small Gardens”.

Peter Williams is a retired plant scientist with specialist knowledge of plant ecology, physiology and soil microbiology. He is a lifelong gardener and for many years ran a small nursery that specialised in the propagation of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants, especially those for acid soils and woodland environments. He now writes

about gardening matters for the Hardy Plant Journal and gives talks both locally and nationally and occasionally opens his garden at Weathervane House for charitable organisations.

Having a small garden can be a real asset so long as the plants are well chosen. This talk looks briefly at aspects of small garden design and suggests plants that really earn their keep in a limited space. It covers small trees, shrubs, herbs and bulbs both for use in the soil and planters. It also contains a number of short diversions to look briefly at special people, plants and topical issues.

Peter has sent me a list of plants he is recommending as a handout. **This is attached to this newsletter.**

Yvonne Hathershaw and Steve Field will be doing the refreshments for us at the November meeting.

20th December monthly meeting.

I have not booked a speaker as we are so close to Christmas this year but we have a treat in store for you so please put the date in your diary now so you will be free on that afternoon. We will start off with a Panel who will answer your gardening questions. I would like each one of you to send me a quick e-mail with your question and then on the day the panel will answer your questions. After this David Oliver is going to give us a garden quiz and the prize will be a bottle of wine. Finally, as it is so near to Christmas I would like each one of you to bring a plate of food to share. So I am not inundated with crisps, I will bring a list of suggested items to bring and ask you to put your name against one of them or add one of your own if you have a signature dish to share with us.

A new coach excursion on 30th May, 2024.

I have now booked to take us all to Littlethorpe Manor which is near Ripon and is a magnificent estate owned by the man who first created a hip replacement for use by our health professionals. As with many gardens, this is a garden with many gardens within and there is one which is apothecary with a garden feature of a hip replacement! It is a garden with everything you could hope for. **Again hold this date.**

A coach excursion to RHS Bridgewater in late April.

At our October monthly meeting there was a general consensus that it would be good to return to RHS Bridgewater in the Spring when the thousands of Spring bulbs they have been busy planting over recent weeks will be at their best. When we last visited,

the gardens had not long been opened and were very new. It will be rather lovely to return and see how things have developed and matured. I do hope you will be able to join us then. Watch this space for more information.

A garden visit to the Bishop's Garden in Lincoln Cathedral grounds in July.

This is a rather special visit when we will visit the Bishop's Garden and also David Oliver, a member of our garden group and who is also a Cathedral Guide, will take us on a tour of the Cathedral. As agreed at our October meeting we will make our own way there, and those taking cars and who are willing to give lifts as well as those requiring lifts, please let Jane know and she will link you up. Watch this space for more information

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

Our October speaker was Martin Fish who brought his wife Jill with him. He did a demonstration for us of planting up containers which would be suitable for Autumn right through to Spring. It was a most interesting talk covering the range of pots available, choosing the right compost, and plants which complement each other and provide interest over a long period. Martin has a great sense of humour and it is great that he has moved back to Lincolnshire and hopefully will visit us again maybe next year.

Martin produces a monthly newsletter FOC and has offered it to our group. It contains a 'What to do now in the garden' so this would replace a similar article I have been producing – save me time and of course he knows so much more than me as well. I am very grateful to Martin for allowing us to have this too.

Thank you also to Shirley Fuller, Val Wright and Jo for doing the refreshments for us.

PICTURES OF THE MOMENT





Ginger Lily in Jane's Garden





Dahlia bed and silver birches which are underplanted with masses of snowdrops in February. Yeo Valley Organic Farm Garden. Visited on 27th October 2024.

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, organise coach excursions to gardens out of our county 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. Once we have paid your money over to pay for the coach and garden entrance we will be unable to make a refund. This is usually within two weeks of our departure, unless you can resell your place. 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



Seen in a garden visit in early September. Nice idea to copy if you have a sunny facing wall!