



WEST WOLDS u3a GARDEN GROUP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

To all our garden group members, I wish you a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year, with peace and happiness.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR NOTING IN YOUR DIARY

Meeting Programme from December 23/April 24

Meeting date	Speaker	Topic
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

Spring and Summer events

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.

FOR OUR MORE CREATIVE GARDEN MEMBERS

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](https://www.rhs.org.uk/sustainabilitytips)

WHAT'S COMING?

20th December monthly meeting.

We will start off with a Panel of local garden experts who will answer your gardening questions. Please would each one of you send me a quick e-mail with your question and then on the day the panel comprising Elizabeth Holmes and Pat Spolton both from Claxby 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. Most of you have added your name and your choice of what you will bring. If you haven't, it is certainly not too late and as we have a wide range of treats already on the list just bring your own choice.

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?

You may recall at our November meeting we did not have a sound system as the New Life Church have recently introduced a charge to use their microphone. I suggested we were intending to purchase one for our own use. Since then one of our members, Vera Brisbane, has offered to let us borrow one she has access to and it is just the type we really wanted, i.e. one that goes around your head to leave your hands free, e.g. when we had Martin Fish with this hands in the soil showing us how to make beautiful Autumn planters for our patios. We will try this out at the December gathering!

15th November. Speaker Peter Williams "Special Plants for Small Gardens". Peter always makes an interesting lecture with excellent slides to illustrate. He provided us

all with a list of plants he recommends for our garden which are good 'doers'. It will be useful to us later when we plan our gardens next year and want a plant to fill a gap.

Thank you to Marilyn Coombs and Steve Field for doing the refreshments for us and also David Oliver for holding the fort for me as I was late arriving.

22nd November. Wreath-making workshop with Linda Clark. Although this could have been better supported, those who did attend had a very enjoyable afternoon. Linda brought a large amount of plant materials for us to choose what we wanted to include in our wreath. See the picture below with all the greenery and choices of decorations and the second picture showing what we achieved at the end of two hours.





Do you remember when Martin Fish came to us in October and showed us how to make winter displays in pots? His lovely wife Jill took some photos for their new website and she has sent me the two below for us to remember yet another nice afternoon's entertainment.



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