



WEST WOLDS u3a GARDEN GROUP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2024

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR NOTING IN YOUR DIARY

Meeting Programme for April 24

Meeting date	Speaker	Topic
17 th April	Gail Harland	All about Peonies & Plant sales

NB The Garden group does not meet from May/August for our main monthly meeting with a guest speaker (usually) but instead we have a garden visits programme during these months.

Spring and Summer events

10 th May	Nursery visit	Andrew Ward, Norwell, NG23 6JX
30 th May	Coach Excursion	Littlethorpe Manor, Ripon, Yorks.
5 th June	Garden visit	Wragby Road, Sudbrooke
17 th June	Afternoon tea	At Jane's. Bring a plate of nibbles!
4 th July	Garden visit	Ludney House Farm, Louth
30 th July	Coach Excursion	Yeo Tree Farm, Gosberton, S.Lincs.

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

Our own annual plant fair. Save your cuttings and split plants now ready for our Plant Fair which we will hold after our next speaker, so we will extend our time until 4.30 p.m. when the days will be longer. I am asking every member to donate one plant and label it with its name. I have labels if you want any. If you then want to sell some

plants bring them along, clearly labelled (your and the plant's name) and with the price you want. You must take home unsold plants. We will collect in the money and pay you afterwards.

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?

Middle Rasen Gardening Club would like to invite U3A members to their open meeting when Martin Fish will talk about Easy Gardening on **Wednesday, May 1** at Middle Rasen Village Hall, Wilkinson Drive, LN8 3LD. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. £5 entry charge. If you would like to attend please email the secretary at kelvin.hallen999@gmail.com, or speak to Anne Wilkinson (numbers needed for catering).

On the **10th May** we have a planned visit to Norwell Nurseries at 2 p.m. You will recall nurseryman Andrew Ward has visited our group and brought an array of plants for sale. As a result of this you told me you wanted to visit and it is certainly worth it. In my opinion it is the best cottage garden nursery in the area.

In the last newsletter I mentioned Floral Media to possibly combine with this visit but have discarded this as there was no interest.

Entrance to Norwell is £10.50 p.p. You have to make your own way there and I will provide directions to all those who pre-book with me. This is essential. I am arranging car share so if you can offer a lift or need a lift please do let me know.

LINCOLNSHIRE
Hardy Plant Society
PLANT FAIR
May 11 10 till 12
Dunholme Lodge
LN2 3QA
Refreshments available

adm.
£2



30th May, 2024. A coach excursion.

I am now making final plans 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. For all those who have made a booking I will be sending you an e-mail a few days before with the final information.



5th June. A garden visit to Wragby Road, Sudbrooke. 2 p.m.



This garden has not been opened before so a new one to explore for our group. It is imperative that you book with me before attending when I will give you all the directions. This is what Coral says of her garden:

"I moved here in 1998 and the garden was in two halves, a tennis court, a long line of pear trees that blocked the view down the garden and a very large veg plot with a grass cross path.

After a year we decided it needed a bit of an update and work commenced with the gravel garden, greenhouse and patio. Next we tamed the shrubbery on the right and planted a holly rondel to screen the garden from the house at the bottom. They all came home in the boot of my car and looked like sticks in the ground when first planted! The planting has been a little trial and error and I have learned a lot over the years.

The ground is a silty soil and not that deep. I thought it would be dry but turns out that parts of the garden live up to the nickname “Soggy Sudbrooke”. Lots of home compost has gradually improved it. We raised the bottom of the garden with 220 tons of soil as it dipped down and was a bit boggy. We added the log cabin and after a bargain railings find on eBay, we built raised beds for a veg garden and added another greenhouse.

The woodland walk happened by accident after my dog kept cutting through the bushes to get to the bottom. I thought I would make a wider path through and then got carried away. The cobbled paths were all put down by me. I sold my motorbike and bought a gas works yard from Preston. Three articulated lorries later and my husband said “what have you done woman?”. It took me 8 years to lay them all. All the statues are from eBay. I like things to look at....so the garden has lots of areas with bits and bobs from eBay; including the newly renovated bird table.

Whenever I found something on eBay, my hubbies first words were always “where is it?” I made the Auricula theatres for £30 after finding they were silly money to buy during lockdown. I already had the tiles in my building supply leftovers. In 2021 I planted the rose garden in memory of my husband who died of MND in 2020. There are 45 David Austin roses that are coming along nicely and smell lovely when the weather is right.

All gardens are ever changing and my most recent change is in front of the white greenhouse where I dug up a large miscanthus grass. I could not face struggling with it every few years, so I replaced it with some topiary and pots and the area is now called the chimpottery. My other hobby is carving. You will see my house sign by the front hedge and other carvings on the veg plot railings and around the garden. I look forward to seeing you in June. I am good rain or shine as I have 3 verandahs you can shelter under.



17th June. Afternoon tea at Jane's.

Pre-booking essential. Please bring a plate of nibbles and we will have a lovely spread. 2 p.m.:

Please bring your diaries so we can plan the refreshment rota for meetings starting in September.

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4th July. A visit to Ludney House Farm, Louth. 2 p.m.

The Louth mini-group of Lincs Hardy Plant Society have invited us to join them on a special private opening starting at 2 p.m. £7 to include tea and cakes.

This is a beautiful, large garden lovingly developed over the last twenty years with several areas of formal and informal planting including a pond which attracts a wonderful variety of wildlife. There is an excellent mix of trees, shrubs, perennials, a rose garden and flower areas. There are plenty of seats positioned around to sit and enjoy a cuppa and piece of cake. There is wheelchair access to most of the garden.



Make your own way there but it is essential that you let Jane know you are visiting so the owner knows how many to accommodate. If you can offer a lift or you want a lift please contact Jane.

30th July. A coach visit to Yeo Tree Farm, Gosberton, Near Boston.

£35 to include coach, garden entrance, tea and cake and the driver's tip. Leave at 11 a.m. Return 4 p.m.



This is a lovely country garden of 1½ acres. There are large herbaceous and mixed borders surrounding the well-kept lawns. There is a wildlife pond with two bog gardens, a woodland garden and shaded borders containing many unusual plants. A mulberry tree forms the centre piece of one lawn. There is also a picturesque annual flower meadow, wild flower meadow and large vegetable plot.

A 3 night/4 day holiday in 2025.

It will be in and around the county of Shropshire. I am thinking we could visit David Austin roses for our stop on the outward journey, which is near Albrighton, where we can sit in the lovely rose garden and eat our pack-ups. On the second day we will visit Wollerton Old Hall Garden and then The Dorothy Clive Garden, both in Market Drayton. Then on our last full day we would use our free entry (RHS membership) to visit RHS Bridgewater, near Oldham. We should see a big difference since our last visit in September 2021 when it was open for the first year. I hope on one of the evenings we may be able to visit a small local private garden. On our return journey we will visit the Cascades Garden near Matlock where there is a strong Japanese influence and a draw for those wanting to do meditation and also the Wilde Goose Nursery and garden where we might find some plants to buy. I do anticipate a lot of interest in this holiday so please give me an expression of your interest early so you won't be disappointed.

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

13th March – Willow weaving workshop.

Twelve of our members thoroughly enjoyed a pleasant afternoon making obelisks for our gardens. Our tutor, Alison Walling, turned up with armfuls of willow whips of various sizes, along with oblong boxes to use as holders for our creations. She advised us on which whips to select, depending on the intended size of our structure, and then showed us how to weave the willow to hold the upright canes in place. We were all delighted with the outcome and the final challenge was getting them home! Please let me have any pictures of your obelisks in situ with plants climbing up them.



March meeting, 20th March at The New Life Church in Market Rasen. Speaker: Chris Davey. All about Irises. My thanks to Bess Scott-Gunn for this report.



We had a really good number of members at the Garden Club meeting on 20th March. This just goes to show how clever Jane is at finding interesting speakers. Members made a beeline to purchase plants and irises. David called us to order in the absence of Jane and introduced the speaker. Chris, who gave a very interesting talk on how he and his wife became involved with the nursery.

Basically, Chris wanted to purchase a plant from the nursery. However, fate intervened and he got into conversation with the elderly owner who said he and his wife had been trying to sell the business for a long time and the owner explained that they were finally closing the doors that day. After a couple of hours chat (his wife, Kate, was still in their car!), Chris made the decision to put in an offer. He did not tell us how he explained his purchase to Kate having gone in to buy a plant and came out having bought the nursery. He used to work as a tree surgeon and in agriculture and is a father of two small children!

This was back in May 2018 and obviously after many years of hard work they now have a very thriving business. They were unable to find plants in peat free compost in the Spalding area, so they started raising their own seedlings. The plants continue in the peat free compost and are sold when big enough. Chris explained the different groups of iris cultivars and explained their pros and cons, needs and flowering seasons. He also brought many slides showing how they have transformed the original nursery into the success it is today. Kate was in charge of selling a number of iris rhizomes as well as a number of their own perennial plants, while Chris answered questions on irises and other plants.

Thanks go to Liz Ingram and Sally Harman for refreshments and their lovely cake and biscuits. Also to Steve Field who organised the raffle and to David who was generally in charge. A really good afternoon was enjoyed by all.

A FREE OFFER

One of our members has recently moved into a new home and has a smaller garden now but with some quite large shrubs that she wants to replace. Is there anyone interested in having a mature and quite large Viburnum Tinus, Cherry Laurels and Holly? They will be dug up for you but will need collecting from Market Rasen.

CAN YOU HELP?

We have run out of raffle prizes! The raffle is very important for us. We are now paying approx. £50 to hire the meeting room and approx. £100 for our speaker's fee and then another £30 on average for petrol costs. There is also the cost of the refreshments. We charge £3 p.p. for door entry and recently have been getting about 40 members attending. If you work that out we are not covering our costs. We really don't want to put the entry fee up and have an opportunity to make up the difference with a monthly raffle. Therefore if you have any unwanted gifts which are suitable for a raffle please do bring them along. In the past we have had some great prizes.

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 gardens open under the National Garden Scheme. We occasionally run workshops, organise coach excursions to gardens out of our county and holidays too.

If you have any ideas for a speaker at one of our meetings, know of a local garden we may visit, perhaps your own, or a garden you would like to visit out of the county when we can hire a coach. please do let me know. Or, indeed, if you have any ideas for introducing something new for our group with an emphasis on gardening of course please do let me know!

SMALL PRINT

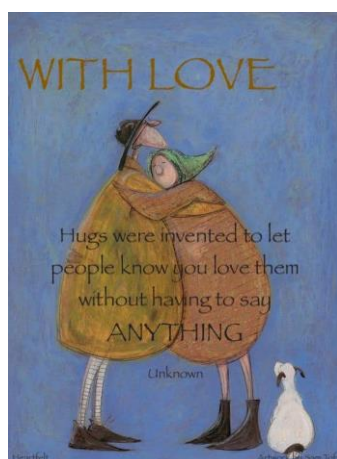
To pay for one of our events you can pay by cheque and make it payable to West Wolds u3a and send your cheque to Jane Guy at 14 Jubilee Ave., Faldingworth, Nr. Market Rasen, LN8 3FF, or pay by BACS and quote 'garden' to Lloyds Bank; a/c West Wolds U3A, Sort code 30-96-09, account No 71220968. Jane is 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



**A VERY HAPPY EASTER
TO
ALL OUR GARDENERS**