



# WEST WOLDS u3a

## GARDEN GROUP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### JUNE 2024

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR NOTING IN YOUR DIARY

##### Spring and Summer events

5 <sup>th</sup> June	Garden visit	Wragby Road, Sudbrooke
17 <sup>th</sup> June	Afternoon tea	At Jane's. Bring a plate of nibbles!
4 <sup>th</sup> July	Garden visit	Ludney House Farm, Louth
30 <sup>TH</sup> July	Coach Excursion	Yeo Tree Farm, Gosberton, S.Lincs.

##### Meeting Programme from September 24 to April 25

Meeting date	Speaker	Topic
18 <sup>th</sup> September	Andrew Mikolajski	Pin me to the wall
16 <sup>th</sup> October	Peter Williams	Shady characters and shy maidens
20 <sup>th</sup> November	Rob Potterton	A labour of love
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Quiz perhaps!	Christmas celebrations and afternoon tea
15 <sup>th</sup> January	Alan Mason	More travels
19 <sup>th</sup> February	Andrew Ward	Gardening in a changing climate
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Martin Fish	Propagation – plants for free
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Hannah Sylvester	The medicine chest in your back garden

**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 as detailed above.**

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

## 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?

**Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

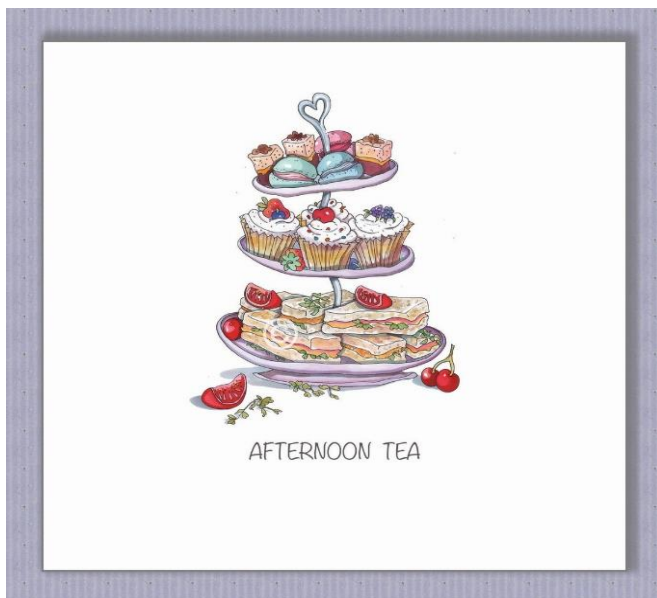
After a year we decided it needed a bit of an update and work commenced with the gravel garden, greenhouse and patio. Next we tamed the shrubbery on the right and planted a holly rondel to screen the garden from the house at the bottom. They all came home in the boot of my car and looked like sticks 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 hubbie's 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.



### **17<sup>th</sup> 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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#### **4<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### **30<sup>th</sup> 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 from 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2025 to Shropshire



The holiday is booked for three nights staying in the Telford Hotel and Golf Club (see above) with views over the Ironbridge & Gorge. The hotel has a spa and health club which we can enjoy while in the hotel. We will be visiting gardens on 4 days, and at least 6 of them!

I have booked to visit the area in the next few weeks for the usual pre-holiday reccy. I have been in touch with a friend who is part of the Hardy Plant Society in Shropshire who has given me a list of private gardens owned by their members who would be prepared to host a garden visit. I will also be visiting David Austin Roses, Wollerton Old Hall Gardens and a couple of nurseries, to assess whether they are worth a visit and if so carry out a risk assessment and negotiate terms with the owners.

It is still difficult to give you a price as until the gardens have been selected and entry fees agreed as well as sorting out lunches I won't know but I believe it will be around £550/£575 all in, i.e. hotel on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis for 3 nights, entrances to all gardens + some with refreshments, 3 lunches, coach and driver's tip. I have an allocation of single rooms but for one of these there is a supplement of £100 so if you can share a twin or double room that would keep the price down.



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.

I will give you more information as soon as I have it to hand.

## WHAT'S HAPPENED?

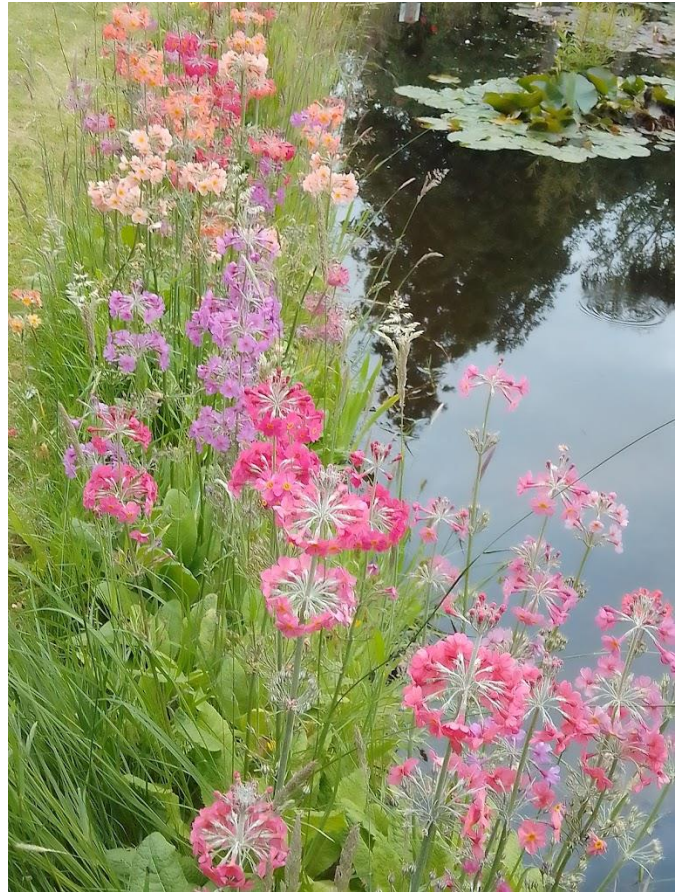
### Nursery/garden visit on 10<sup>th</sup> May to Andrew Ward's nursery in Norwell, Nottinghamshire



18 of us enjoyed a guided tour around Andrew's garden when he explained why he chooses particular plants (soil, temperatures, combinations with other plants, etc.) and especially introducing groups of plants where he is collecting and propagating a number of more unusual species. We were very interested in how he is successfully growing so many plants in sandy soil in anticipation of drier summers. (I am laughing as I write this, having just had such a wet Spring when everything is particularly green and lush and the slugs are having the best time ever!) We enjoyed some

home-made cake and hot drinks after the tour and then were free to wander at will. Most of us of course lingered around the nursery beds for plant sales and many purchases were made. It was a good day out.





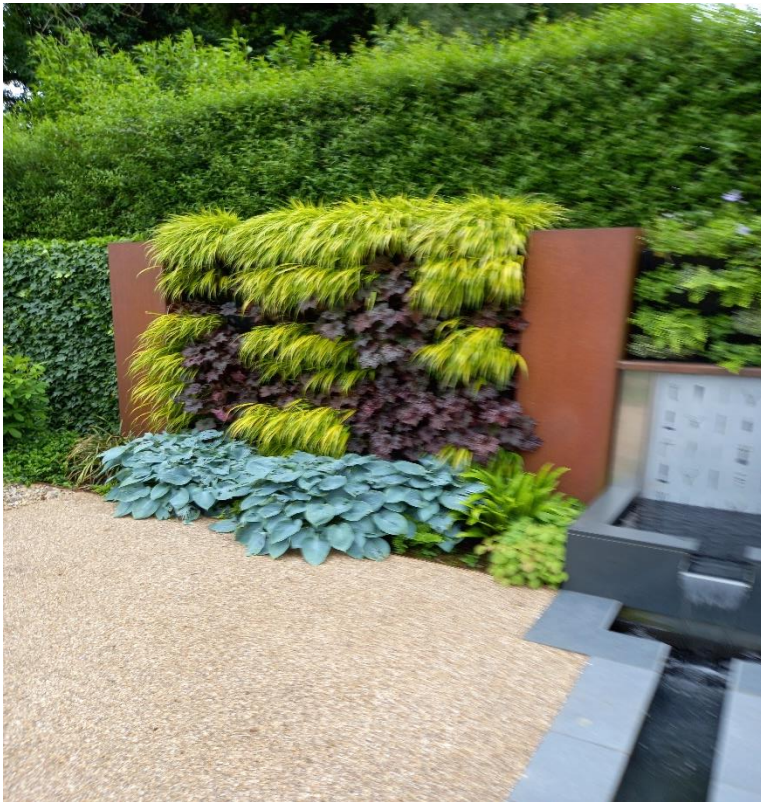
### **Coach excursion on 30<sup>th</sup> May to Littlethorpe Manor, Near Ripon, Yorkshire**



Oh dear, it was a very overcast day, blowing a gale and threatening rain, but undeterred we set off on the coach from Market Rasen travelling north towards Ripon to visit this most beautiful garden, or perhaps, series of gardens, but after-all, we are hardy gardeners! Eddie, the head gardener and his wife Michelle took us on a very interesting guided tour around the garden explaining what the owners had planned many years ago which he was tasked to create. Eddie clearly had great vision, time and above all, the budget required to make the owners dreams come true. This included a great deal of lighting for evening entertaining and Eddie enjoyed showing us how he could control these, the fountains and water features and of course



Hildegard his motorised mower who cuts the vast lawn area as long as it is daylight, all from his mobile phone.



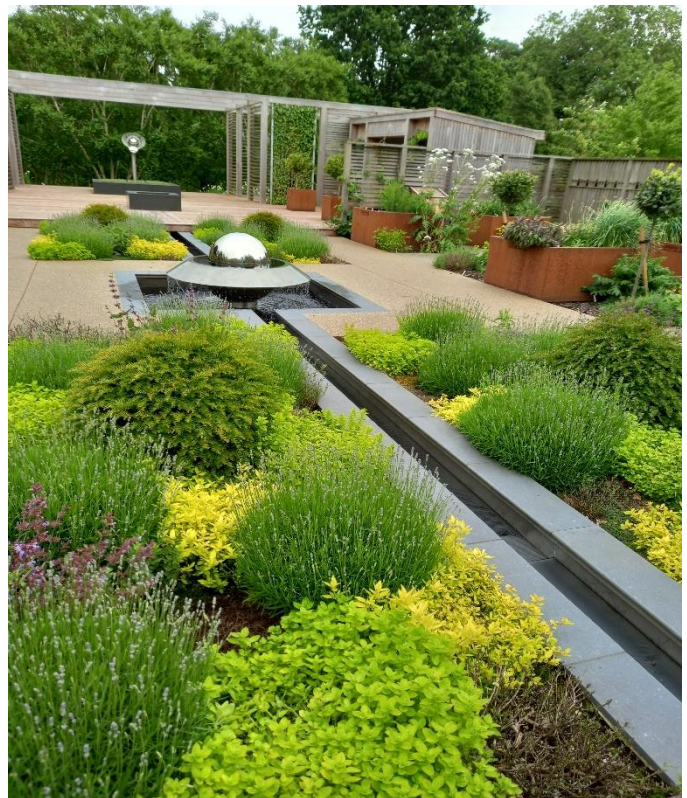
We began our tour of the 11 acre estate in the walled garden designed to follow the seasons so there is always something of interest and its centrepiece of the metal gazebo with a symbolic tree of life. We loved the sunken garden, the Fountain lawn with the classical Pavilion and lake at the end. In the physic garden with the walls of plants. See left.

However, there was much more to see and many of us would have loved a little more freedom to follow our noses as paths were winding to unexplored places throughout.

We enjoyed the customary cuppa on arrival and again on departure along with Michelle's home-made fruit cake or lemon drizzle. Some of our group purchased some plants there as a lasting memory of their visit.

Finally, on our journey home we visited Walkers Gardens and Nursery, near Doncaster for our comfort break, with some walking around the gardens and the rest buying yet more plants in the nursery.

This excursion will remain in our memory for a long time to come but will it be for the wonderful garden at Littlethorpe Manor or for the weather?





## CAN YOU HELP?

Thank you to those of you who have brought raffle prizes to our monthly meeting but we still need more. 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 their 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. Thank you to everyone for their contributions.



Can you name this plant? On the fringes of the lake in Littlethorpe Manor.

## 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 or how we may improve our group with an emphasis on gardening of course please do let me know!

## SMALL PRINT

**Paying for activities:** 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.

**Attending an event:** It is crucial that you make an early booking for any ***coach excursion or holiday*** because we have to make a decision on the financial viability of the excursion. If the event is not well enough supported it will have to be cancelled and your money refunded. 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.

For all ***other activities***, except our monthly meetings you do still need to make a booking as we have to confirm numbers with the garden owner or the workshop facilitator.



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](mailto:gardening@westwoldsu3a.org)



[Beautiful irises in the sunken garden at Littlethorpe Manor](#)