



WEST WOLDS u3a

GARDEN GROUP

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR NOTING IN YOUR DIARY

Meeting Programme from September 24 to April 25

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

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

Refreshment Rota from September 24/April 25

Meeting date	Helper	Helper
18 th September	Christine Pearce	Vera Brisbane
16 th October	David Oliver	Mary Barr
20 th November	Val Bowles	Hilma Moore
18 th December (Christmas party)	Sylvia & Norman Harrison	Mary Kerr
15 th January	Val Wright	Eileen Bedford
19 th February	Sue Boorman	Pamela Ward
19 th March	Tom & Pam Leigh	Bess Scott-Gunn
16 th April	Merilyn Coombs	Jane Lloyd

Floaters – Jan Hart, Pauline Perkins and Marguarite Hopkins

Thank you to all of the above garden group members who have kindly agreed to be on our refreshment rota. I am preparing instructions of what is required to help those new to helping. If for any reason you are unable to do your session please let Jane know.

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)

WHO WANTED DOUBLE RED POPPY SEEDS? Ready to distribute at the next meeting.

WHAT'S COMING

18th September **Andrew Mikolajski “Pin me to the wall”**

Andrew Mikolajski (author) is a gardening author, lecturer and speaker. He has written a wide range of books including Encyclopedia of Apples, 1001 Garden Questions Answered and An Encyclopedia of Garden Plants and has contributed to several RHS reference works.

“Pin me to the wall – and do what you want with me”. This talk will be about how to choose and manage climbers and wall shrubs.

3 night/4 day HOLIDAY from 18th July, 2025 to Shropshire

The holiday is booked for three nights staying in the Telford Hotel and Golf Club (see below) with panoramic 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 8 of them!



The gardens selected are:- Ashwood Nursery with tour of John's Garden, Ruthall Manor near Bridgnorth, Moat Hall, Shrewsbury, David Austin Roses, Telford, Grooms Cottage, Telford, Hodnet Hall and Wollerton Old Hall both near Market Drayton.

I will have a flyer and the price for you at the September meeting but bookings are open now. I anticipate the price will be between £550 and £575 p.p. if sharing a room, but another £100 if you want a single room. To secure a place I will need a deposit of £75 p.p. made payable to West Wolds u3a.

Coach Excursions next year. Any suggestions?

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

15th August to Baumber Walled Garden

Just a few of us enjoyed a visit to Baumber. What an improvement has been made here! They have added a new Event Centre for weddings, parties, etc. and it is very lovely. There is a new Japanese garden and lots more intimate seating areas around the garden. Several areas have been re-landscaped to depict a little stream running through the garden. There are a number of unusual plants like brugmansias and unusual coloured coleus and heucheras. There is a wild flower meadow, which is much more where annual seeds such as cornflowers and poppies have been thrown in and the centre piece is an old carriage for a horse to pull and just outside is a beautiful horse made of wire and wool. The lake is now surrounded by grasses and masses of verbena bonariensis. It looked very lovely. There are two full time and one part time gardeners doing a great job here. I would encourage you to visit if you have not done so for some time. The best bit it is FREE.

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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



We meet on the third Wednesday of each month (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 open 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