



WEST WOLDS u3a GARDEN GROUP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR NOTING IN YOUR DIARY

Meeting Programme from December 24 to April 25

Meeting date	Speaker	Topic
18 th December	Alan Bolt	Christmas songs 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 December 24/April 25

Meeting date	Helper	Helper
18 th December	Christine Pearce	Mary Kerr & Vera Brisbane
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 – 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 have prepared 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)

One of our members, John Murphy, is seeking volunteers who would help to plant tree saplings from Monday 2nd to Wednesday 4th December at his home in Middle Rasen. You would need to take your own spade and gloves and wear a pair of strong boots. If interested let me know and I will pass over John's details.

WHAT'S COMING

Wednesday, 18th December 2 p.m.

Christmas! Last year at this time, when we all brought a plate of food to share, was very successful and many of our members asked if we could do the same this year and so we are. Before we share our food I have invited Alan Bolt, a guitarist to entertain and sing for us. I hope this will make for a good start to our meeting. I hope to see as many of you as possible with a plate of nibbles.



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

See marketing flyer and booking form for all details. Lots of places still available.

I have now booked our final visit on our homeward journey. We will be visiting Thornbridge Estate Gardens in the Derbyshire Dales. One of their gardeners will start by giving us an introductory talk and we will be taking lunch in their restaurant. This is already included in the price.

Workshop news.

I have booked Wednesday, 9th April at 2 p.m. for a workshop at Bardney Manor, (make your own way there, but I will try to organise lifts from Market Rasen) when we will make our own dried flower arrangement. The cost is £10 p.p. to include the usual tea and cake. Bookings to Jane as usual.

Coach Excursions next year.

West Wolds u3a Garden Group excursion to Sandringham, Kings Estate, Norfolk on Wednesday, 18th June, 2025



This coach excursion costs £55 per person which includes travel, driver's tip, entrance to the house, garden and church. Since inheriting the garden following the passing of the late Queen, King Charles III is further developing the garden.

Sandringham is the much-loved country retreat of Their Majesties, The King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Including an organic farm, sawmill, residential and commercial properties, local parishes and communities, the estate is nestled in the heart of The Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There are 600 acres of parkland, much open to the public to explore.



A range of facilities in the Courtyard cater for everything from a light bite to a sweet treat or ice cream. The Courtyard is also home to a Shop which stocks an extensive range of Estate products. The relaxed Sandringham Restaurant serves a range of tasty dishes and drinks, many featuring produce from the Estate.

To make a booking contact Jane Guy by e-mail jane.m.guy@gmail.com or mobile on 0797 1277 482.

u3a

EXCURSION BOOKING FORM

**Wednesday, 18th June, Kings Estate,
Sandringham, Norfolk**

Name(s):No. of places required:

Main contact address:

.....Postcode.....

Email:.....Tel:.....Mobile.....

Special requests (mobility, etc) :

Next of kin.....Their mobile.....

U3a Membership Number.....

**PICK UP POINT: Lorry car park, behind Tesco, Market
Rasen @ 8.30 a.m. Return 6.00 p.m.**

**COST: £55.00 PER PERSON WHICH INCLUDES TRAVEL, DRIVER'S TIP & ENTRANCE TO
THE HOUSE AND GARDEN. NO REFUND WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF DEPARTURE.**

To confirm your reservation please complete this booking form with your payment as soon as possible to secure your place. Cheques to be made payable to West Wolds u3a and posted to: **Mrs Jane Guy, 14 Jubilee Avenue, Faldingworth, Lincs., LN8 3FF.**

To make an online payment (BACS) pay Lloyds Bank; a/c The West Wolds University of the Third Age (Sort code 30-96-09, account No 71220968) Ref. GG Sand

**More booking forms and any enquiries please contact Jane. 0797 1277 482 or
jane.m.guy@gmail.com**

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

At our November meeting, local nurseryman Rob Potterton visited and told us all about his family and their dear friend's journey is starting off what has become a success story about a nursery specialising in Alpine and dwarf bulbs and plants. It has been a journey of many challenges, mainly very wet winters, but despite this they have survived and flourished. I do hope when the nursery opens again next Spring you will take some time out to visit and admire the wonderful selection of plants. Many of you have told me how much you enjoyed Rob's talk so I have invited him back for another talk next winter season.

Thanks to Bess Scott-Gunn and Marguarite Hopkins for making the refreshments for us and to Bess (again) and Tom for the chocolate cake and fruity biscuits.

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. Tickets are on sale at £1 a strip and available from Margaret Foster or Val Wright. Many thanks to them for organising.

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