



WEST WOLDS u3a
Garden Group
Newsletter

APRIL 2025

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR NOTING IN YOUR DIARY

9 th April	Workshop	Bardney	Dried flower arrangement
16 th April	Monthly meeting with Hannah Sylvester & Plant Swap	New Life Church	The Medicine Chest in your back garden
7 th May	Open Garden	Walesby	Local Garden visit
3 rd June	Open Garden	Sudbrooke	Local Garden Visit
11 th June	Open Garden	Faldingworth	Local Garden Visit/bring & share
18 th June	Coach excursion	Sandringham	House and garden
9 th July	Open Garden	Spalding	Local Garden visit
18 th /21 st July	Coach holiday	The Golf Hotel, Telford	Visiting 7 gardens
6 th August	Open Garden	Boston	Local Garden visit
17 th September	Meeting with Edward Cook	New Life Church	Native rewilding

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 March 25/April 25

Meeting date	Helper	Helper
16 th April	Merilyn Coombs	Jane Lloyd

OTHER GARDEN ITEMS OF INTEREST

Want to identify a plant? <https://www.rhs.org.uk/about-the-rhs/publications/plantfinder>.

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

We have agreed to pay The New Life Church to put out our chairs and tables for each garden group meeting which will be a great help.

WHAT'S COMING

16th April with Hannah Sylvester as our guest speaker "The medicine chest in your back garden".

Herbal medicine and spending time in nature, helped Hannah physically and emotionally, through one of the toughest and challenging times of her life, and she has since dedicated her life to sharing her professional clinical expertise and deep knowledge of the plant world with others, for the last 14 years.

Hannah fully qualified with a first class BSc (Hons) Herbal Medicine degree from the University of Lincoln, and is a registered Member of the National Institute of Medical Herbalists and has also been a part time lecturer, educating the next generation of Medical Herbalists at degree level. As a consulting medical herbalist, Hannah works as a general herbal practitioner, but has areas of special interest. She really loves sharing her knowledge and passion for wild nature with others, and has taken hundreds of people, from all walks of life, out on interactive, guided plant medicine walks with her, to reconnect people with the wonders of the wild flowers at our feet and trees that we pass by every day, as well as helping people learn from plants using sensory and embodied methods.

Plant Swap

This is our annual exchange of plants we have created in our gardens. All around at this time of the year are seeds from last summer which have germinated and are probably far too many in one place. It is also an ideal time to take cuttings such as penstemons and salvias. So please pot a few up and bring them along to our April meeting. Please put a label in each pot with the plant name. I would ask that you donate one plant to our group for our funds. The rest you can put on another table for selling, but for these you will need an extra label with your name on so we can make sure you get your money for them. We will charge 50p. for a small pot and £1 for large pots. Thank you.

Workshop news.

Wednesday, 9th April at 2 p.m. for a workshop at Bardney Manor when we will make our own dried flower arrangement. The cost is £10 p.p. to include the usual tea and cake. For those who have made bookings Jane will send out an e-mail to you with the final instructions a few days before.

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

This coach excursion is now fully booked. Jane will be sending you final instructions by e-mail a few days before the event.

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

We have enough members who have made a booking for this holiday to be financially viable. See marketing flyer and booking form for all details. **However, there are still some places available so if interested please see Jane.**

For those who have made a booking Jane will be sending you a request for your balance of payment in the next few days.

INTO THE FUTURE

LOCAL SUMMER GARDEN VISITS 2025

7th May – Walesby
3rd June – Sudbrooke
11th June - Faldingworth
9th July - Spalding
6th August - Boston

We have put together a summer programme of interesting gardens to visit and includes two where we have been before but were so popular members asked for another visit and we have obliged.

The success of these visits depends on you attending as it is disappointing to the owners who have worked hard to get their gardens looking their best and also often busy making cakes too, so please do make the effort and enjoy a lovely afternoon out with garden friends.

7th May: Judith Sweny and David Miles. Private garden in Walesby.



This is a large mature garden of 2 acres in the AONB on the edge of the Wolds with wonderful views and space to social distance. There is a large lawn with a lovely pond in the centre and probably the most twisted ancient oak you will ever see! There are many places to sit, a large herbaceous border, enclosed flower garden, areas of rough grass with wild flowers and orchard, a conservatory with swimming pool and huge walled plumbago. They have just had the kitchen garden redone so it will probably be rather bare but hopefully show an interesting design!

3rd June: Coral Evans. Private garden in Sudbrooke



A labour of love since 1998 for Coral and her late husband. Their motto was “we can do it!” and they did! 60 tons of cobbles and 220 tons of earth later, Lismore has a gravel garden, secret woodland path and fernery, raised vegetable garden, greenhouses, hard landscaping, shrubbery and perennial planting, David Austin rose garden, chimneys and pots with alpines, small orchard and woodland, all adorned by features from Coral’s

years of hunting on eBay and wood-carvings, which is her other hobby.



11th June. 14 Jubilee Ave., Faldingworth.

This is our annual summer social at Jane's. It is an opportunity to review what our group has been doing and think about what we might change to make it better and to put forward ideas for future events. It would be good if all those attending could bring a plate of food to share too and we can enjoy a real 'afternoon tea'.

9th July. Inley Drove Farm, Spalding

This garden has been developed over the last 27 years for colour, scent and wild life, including moths, butterflies and dragonflies. There are three acres of mainly flower gardens to explore with formal and informal areas all framed by hornbeam hedges. There is a wide variety of traditional and unusual plants, shrubs and trees, including black poplars. There is a meadow garden, vegetable garden and orchard. There is also a lovely walk through seven acres of woods. Mostly accessible for wheelchairs.



6th August. Boston Exotic Garden, Boston



This is a fairly new garden, started in 2017 and has been transformed into an exotic garden, full of interesting tropical plants with huge lush foliage. Various forms of banana plants, Canna and Brugmansia. Many of the plants are tender so need winter protection. There is a small wildlife pond and many paths to explore.

All at 2 p.m and at £8 per person which includes entrance to the garden, tea and cake. These are drive-yourself visits but I have two offers from car drivers to take passengers. Please make a small donation to the cost of their fuel.

To make a booking contact Jane.

NEXT SEASON'S SPEAKER PROGRAMME

Meeting date	Speaker	Topic
17 th September	Edward Cook	Native Rewilding
15 th October	Jane Hickling	Gardening for mental health & wellbeing
19 th November	Mark Lane	Royal Gardens of the World
17 th December	Christmas tea	Bring & share
21 st January	Peter Williams	Propagation for grown up gardeners
18 th February	Colin Hickman	Cultivation and Propagation of agapanthus Nerines, etc.
18 th March	Rob Potterton	Alpine plants and bulbs
15 th April	Martin Fish	Ten top tips for Gardeners & plant sale

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

Meeting on 19th March. Speaker Martin Fish on Propagation.

This was undoubtedly one of our best and most interesting presentations of our speaker season. I think we all were surprised at the huge number of methods of propagation that Martin demonstrated for us and I for one will be trying some of them in the coming weeks. He showed us how to take cuttings, (root, stem and basal), layering, dividing, budding, grafting, collecting seed and sowing. He is always so clear and keeps things simple but at the same time inspiring us to have a go. Thank you Martin.

Tom Leigh and Bess Scott Gunn served our teas and cakes again. How lucky is our group that we have such wonderful bakers amongst us. Thank you again for all your cake donations.

WHAT ELSE?

LINCOLNSHIRE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

SATURDAY 10TH MAY

DUNHOLME LODGE LN2 3QA

10 a.m. – 12 noon

Highly recommended by Jane

Market Rasen Gardening Club Programme.

Coach visits to:-

Thornbridge Hall and Gardens in the Derbyshire Dales on Wednesday, 11th June. £44.50

Downtown Grantham and Tresillian House, NGS Gardens Melton Mowbray on Wednesday 2nd July. £35.50

Burnby Hall Gardens and Welton NGS garden near Brough on Wednesday 30th July. £42.00

Sewerby Hall and Gardens near Bridlington on Wednesday 20th August. £37.00

For more information Call 07923450563 or derekandjanetanderson@btinternet.com

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. £55 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 between 40/45 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. It is your responsibility to take care of your own health and safety when participating in any of our garden activities.

CONTACT DETAILS



To book an event or for any other garden enquiry please contact Jane Guy: telephone 0797 1277 482, or email

jane.m.guy@gmail.com