



WEST WOLDS u3a

Garden Group

Newsletter

MARCH 2025

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR NOTING IN YOUR DIARY

Meeting Programme for March and April 25

Meeting date	Speaker	Topic
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.

At the general u3a meeting in May we have been asked to make a display, e.g. with some plants and perhaps our summer programme but I will not be able to attend. Is this something you would like to take responsibility for?

I wandered lonely as a cloud
 That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
 When all at once I saw a crowd,
 A host, of golden daffodils;
 Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
 Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.
 Continuous as the stars that shine
 And twinkle on the milky way,
 They stretched in never-ending line
 Along the margin of a bay:
 Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
 Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.
 The waves beside them danced, but they
 Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
 A poet could not be but gay,
 In such a jocund company:
 I gazed' and gazed' but little thought
 What wealth the show to me had brought:
 For oft, when on my couch I lie
 In vacant or in pensive mood,
 They flash upon that inward eye
 Which is the bliss of solitude;
 And then my heart with pleasure fills,
 And dances with the daffodils.

By William Wordsworth

Refreshment Rota from March 25/April 25

Meeting date	Helper	Helper
19 th March	Tom & Pam Leigh	Bess Scott-Gunn
16 th April	Merilyn Coombs	Jane Lloyd

Floaters – Pauline Perkins and Marguarite Hopkins

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](https://www.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

19th March: Martin Fish is our guest speaker "Propagation – plants for free"

Martin is a horticultural expert, garden writer and broadcaster with over 45 years of experience and is passionate about all things gardening. Having worked in horticulture for many years Martin has a wealth of practical knowledge and garden expertise he is able to share with us which he already does with his monthly newsletter giving us tips of what to do each month of the year. Please do let him know how you appreciate his newsletter!

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. There are amazing things happening at the Manor where new owners are reclaiming the old walled garden and bringing back heritage plants. It will be well worth a visit. The March Garden Group meeting is your last opportunity to make a booking.

**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. You can of course bring your own

packed lunch.

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

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.**

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

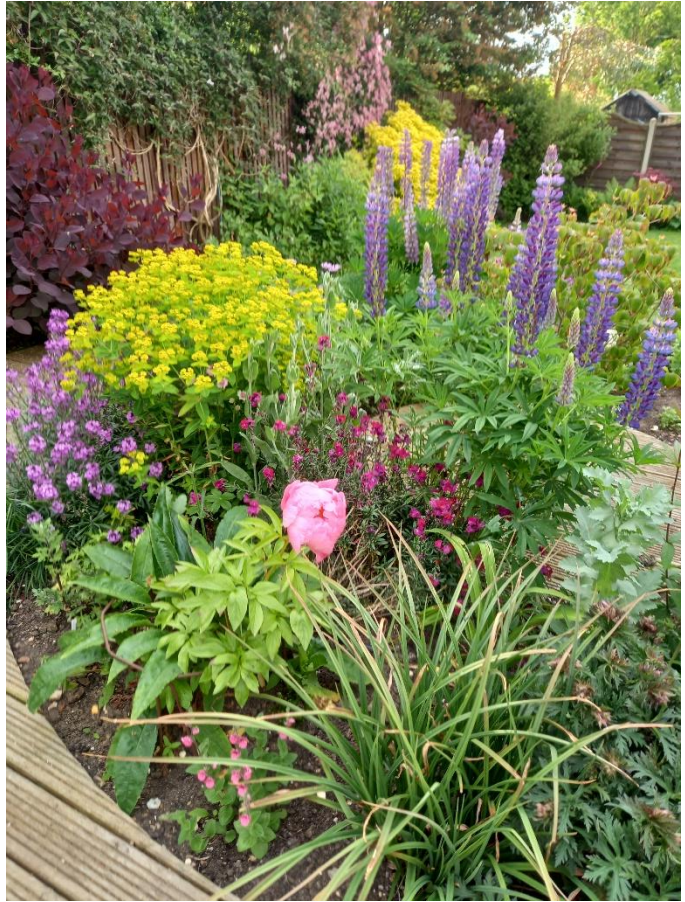


A labour of love since 1998 for Coral and her late husband. Their motto was “we can do it!” and we did! 60 tons of cobbles and 220 tons of earth later, Lismore has a gravel garden, secret woodland path and fernery, raised vegetable garden, greenhouses, hard landscaping, shrubbery and perennial planting, 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.



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

17th September

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

19th February. Speaker Andrew Ward. "Gardening in a changing climate".

As always, Andrew gave a most interesting lecture and gave lots of ideas for changing the way we garden to manage the change in our weather. His knowledge of plants is second to none. Some of us visited Andrew's nursery and garden last year and were amazed at how familiar plants were growing so well on nothing but sand and with no watering either. The meeting was memorable simply because Andrew was held up by a RTA and so David changed the timings around so we enjoyed our refreshments at the start of the meeting. Well done David for thinking on your feet and for covering for Jane.

Thank you also to Sue Boorman and Pam Ward for doing the refreshments and for the lovely cakes they made for the group. Tom Leigh dropped it to give a date and walnut cake but could not stay as Pam was unwell. We wish Pam a speedy recovery. We all really appreciate the cakes that members make. Who knew we had such talent amongst us?

WHAT ELSE?

Plant Hunters' Fairs 2025

NEW Sun 16 March Thoresby Park, Newark NG22 9EP 10am-4pm Plant Fair & Country Park Free Entry Normal Parking Charges Apply

Sun 23 March Arley Hall and Gardens, Northwich CW9 6NA 10am-4pm Gardens and Fair £5.00

Sat 29 March Bodenham Arboretum, Kidderminster DY11 5TB 10am-4pm Plant Fair Free Entry

Sun 30 March Sugnall Walled Garden, Eccleshall ST21 6NF 10am-4pm Gardens and Fair £1.00

Sat - Sun 5 - 6 April Weston Park, Shifnal TF11 8LE 10am-4pm Gardens and Fair £5.00 TICKET REQUIRED*

Sun 13 April Middleton Hall, Tamworth B78 2AE 9am-4pm Gardens and Fair £4.00 TICKET REQUIRED

Fri 18 April Whittington Castle, Oswestry SY11 4DF 10am-4pm Plant Fair and Grounds Free Entry Normal Parking Charges Apply

Sun - Mon 20 - 21 April Dorothy Clive Garden, Market Drayton TF9 4EU 10am-5pm Gardens and Fair £5.00

Sun 27 April Cholmondeley Castle Gardens, Malpas SY14 8ET 10am-5pm Gardens and Fair £5.00

Sun 4 May 1620s House, Donington Le Heath LE67 2FW 10am-4pm Gardens and Fair. £1.00 TICKET REQUIRED

Mon 5 May Chasewater Country Park, Brownhills WS8 7NL 10am-4pm Country Park & Fair Free Entry Normal Parking Charges Apply

Sun 11 May Capesthorpe Hall, Macclesfield SK11 9JY 10am-4pm Gardens and Fair £4.00

Sun 18 May Southwell Minster, NG25 0HD 11am-4pm Plant Fair £2.00

Sat 24 May Carsington Water, Ashbourne DE6 1ST 10am-4pm Plant Fair and Country Park Free Entry Normal Parking Charges Apply

Mon 26 May Arley Arboretum, Upper Arley Worcs DY12 1SQ 10am-4pm Plant Fair Free Entry

Sun 1 June Norton Priory, Runcorn WA7 1SX 10am-4pm Plant Fair £1.00

Sat - Sun 7 - 8 June Hodnet Hall Gardens, Market Drayton TF9 3NN 10am-5pm Gardens and Fair £5.00

Sun 22 June Middleton Hall, Tamworth B78 2AE 9am-4pm Gardens and Fair £4.00 TICKET REQUIRED

Sun 29 June Whittington Castle, Oswestry SY11 4DF 10am-4pm Plant Fair and Grounds Free Entry Normal Parking Charges Apply

Sun 6 July Thoresby Park, Newark NG22 9EP 10am-4pm Plant Fair and Country Park Free Entry Normal Parking Charges Apply

Wed 23 July Cholmondeley Castle Gardens, Malpas SY14 8ET 10am-5pm Gardens and Fair £5.00 SPECIAL MIDWEEK DATE

Sun 27 July 1620s House, Donington Le Heath LE67 2FW 10am-4pm Gardens and Fair. £1.00 TICKET REQUIRED

Sun 3 August Southwell Minster, NG25 0HD 11am-4pm Plant Fair £2.00

Sat 9 August Carsington Water, Ashbourne DE6 1ST 10am-4pm Plant Fair & Country Park Free Entry Normal Parking Charges Apply

Sun 10 August Capesthorpe Hall, Macclesfield SK11 9JY 10am-4pm Gardens and Fair £4.00 **NEW Sun 17 August** Middleton Hall, Tamworth B78 2AE 9am-4pm Gardens and Fair. £4.00 TICKET REQUIRED

Sun - Mon 24 - 25 August Dorothy Clive Garden, Market Drayton TF9 4EU 10am-5pm Gardens and Fair £5.00

Sat 30 August Bodenham Arboretum, Kidderminster DY11 5TB 10am-4pm Plant Fair Free Entry

NEW Sun 31 August Chasewater Country Park, Brownhills WS8 7NL 10am-4pm Country Park & Fair Free Entry Normal Parking Charges Apply

Sun 7 September Weston Park, Shifnal TF11 8LE 10am-4pm Gardens and Fair £5.00 TICKET REQUIRED*

NEW Sun 14 September Arley Hall and Gardens, Northwich CW9 6NA 10am-4pm Gardens and Fair £5.00

*** For Weston Park advance purchase tickets are at the special discounted price of £5.00 (plus 25p booking fee). Tickets not on sale after 9am on the day of the fair. Without a ticket, full entry price of £10.00 applies.**

Always check event status before travelling at www.planthuntersfairs.co.uk

If you want more information about a particular plant fair, please contact janet@planthuntersfairs.co.uk

LINCOLNSHIRE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY ANNUAL PLANT SALE

**SATURDAY 10TH MAY
DUNHOLME LODGE LN2 3QA
10 a.m. – 12 noon**

Highly recommended by Jane

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 gardening@westwoldsu3a.org

