

WEARDALE FLOWER AND GARDEN CLUB

www.weardaleflowerandgardenclub.org.uk

FEBRUARY 2025 MEETING

Welcome back everyone, and welcome to new members joining this year. Our membership fee has again been kept at £25 (visitors £5 - max of 2 meetings; these payments are deducted from membership if visitors subsequently join). We rely on our monthly raffles, and fund raising, to supplement our membership income to pay for our programme of meetings for the year. The maximum we are allowed in the hall is 80, and our membership limit has been set at 90. After that, as in previous years, we will have a membership waiting list.

Thank you for your support, and we hope you enjoy the 2025 programme in which we have tried to cover a range of floristry, gardening and related craft interests.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING We will receive reports from the Chair and Treasurer.

SPEAKER We are delighted to welcome Victoria Conner of the Willow Barn. The Willow Barn is based on Teesside and the company specialises in hand-crafted willow sculptures for the home and garden. Victoria also runs workshops -
Feb 16th Obelisk; 22nd Asymmetric Foraging Basket;
March 1st Obelisk; 8th Duck or Chicken; 16th Obelisk; 22nd Piglet;
April 8th Highland Cow; 13th Hedgehog; 19th Hare; 27th Framed Basket.
Victoria has been asked to provide several items for our raffle.
Further info at www.thewillowbarn.co.uk

FLOWERS FROM NO 21 Flowers From No 21 will be at the WI Spring Fair at St Annes Centre on Saturday 22nd March, from 10 am to 1 pm with a selection of Spring plants. Contact Sara-Jane direct on 07977 295265 to make any orders for collection or delivery.

FINANCE We start the year with a balance of £2804.60 (as at 20th January) which is a very similar financial position to that of February 2024. This year we are grateful to Jeanette Kelly for the opportunity to raise funds by providing teas for the NGS Open Gardens in June. In December we were delighted to receive a donation of £200 from Durham County Council via Councillor Anita Savory, but at the moment there are no other opportunities to apply for grant funding.

RHS We pay affiliate club membership of the RHS (£47 per annum). As part of our membership we receive:-

- An annual free visit to one of five RHS Gardens for up to 55 members (excluding RHS Glow and RHS Flower Shows)
- A 50% discount card for entry to RHS Gardens for use by up to two members at a time (available from Susan)
- Free gardening advice from dedicated RHS plant specialists
- Access to a group Facebook page, information pack and judges and speakers lists
- A monthly magazine (The Garden - available at our meetings).
- Access to competitive rates for Insurance

HARLOW CARR

There is a current offer of RHS annual membership for £52, instead of £78 This gives free entry for a member and guest to all RHS gardens; access to members' day tickets at RHS Shows and reduced price tickets; free entry to RHS partner gardens; monthly magazine.

Harlow Carr Garden Opening Hours currently Monday to Sunday, 9.30 am to 4 pm, with last entry at 3 pm. These will alter 1st March.

March workshops - Introduction to Growing Vegetables on 7th March; Talk - Wild about Herbs on 15th March; The Art of Photography to Art on 16th March; Make a Willow Dragonfly on 28th March, and Willow Harlequin in 28th March; Create Paper Daffodils on 29th March; Indigo Dye Lampshades on 30th March.

Full details from rhs.org.uk

TENNANTS, LEYBURN Spring Wreath Making Workshop, Thursday 3rd April and Saturday 5th April with florist Felicity Cook from Briar House Flowers. All materials and equipment provided, tea, coffee and buffet lunch. Details from tennantsgardenrooms.com

AUCKLAND PALACE GARDENS The walled garden and glasshouse are both open to the public, along with the Faith Garden designed to reflect the footprint of Bishop Anthony Bek's medieval chapel which once stood on the site. The Wilderness Garden, opened in 2024, overlooks the Deer Park. The next phase of development is a landscaped garden in the grounds of Auckland Palace which is due to open in Spring 2025.

bishopaucklandregeneration.com

SHOW DATES

Harrogate Spring Flower Show,, 24-27 April. Weardale Motor Services are running a coach to Harrogate and the Show on Saturday 26th April - £20 (excluding show entry fee).

Weardale MS also have trips to

Great Yorkshire Show, 9th July

Southport Flower Show, 16th Augusti

Harrogate Autumn Show at Newby Hall, 20th September

Preston and Barton Garden Grange Garden Centre, 15th November

KIPLIN HALL, SCORTON, SNOWDROP STROLLS

1-31 March, 10 am to 5 pm.