

WEARDALE FLOWER AND GARDEN CLUB

www.weardaleflowerandgardenclub.com

AUGUST 2026

LITTLETHORPE MANOR GARDENS, RIPON, HG4 3LP

We should arrive by 11am, and have ordered coffee and cake on arrival, this is served in the catering marquee. Refreshments are already paid for and included in the entry fee of £15.50 pp. There will be plant sales, and toilets are available. Littlethorpe allow around half an hour for refreshments, and then Eddie Harland, Head Gardener, will take us on a tour of the grounds (this will last approx one and three quarter hours, but you do not have to do the whole tour if you find this too much).

The 18th century manor house is on the banks of Ripon canal. The earliest part of the house is c1700, with later additions. When the Thackray family bought the estate in 1985, they laid out the garden in an English Arcadia style, with the retaining wall forming a ha-ha leading down to parkland. Eddie Harland, head gardener, was appointed in 1998 and embarked on an ambitious programme of garden development. The garden is maintained by a team of three, plus one volunteer.

We will leave Littlethorpe around 1pm to travel to nearby Thirsk for free time for shopping and refreshments. We should arrive by 1.30pm. We plan to have around one and a half to two hours in Thirsk, arriving back to Wolsingham by no later than 5pm.

15TH SEPTEMBER, VISIT TO HALLS OF HEDDON

We have planned our visit to arrive at Halls for 1pm. Transport will leave the Market Place at 12 noon. Because of the narrow entrance road, we cannot take a large coach, and have therefore booked two mini buses from The Hub at Stanhope.

Some members are choosing to take their own cars. Please note we are going to the West Heddon nursery, not Ovington. This is about a mile north west of Heddon on the Wall, and the postcode is NE15 OJX.

After the visit to the flower fields and the extensive nursery, we will go to Brockbushes for approx 3pm for shopping and refreshments, staying approx an hour and a half.

Please add your name to the list asap if you have not already booked (msg Barbara on 07785 551934; or Susan on 07814 498281). There is no charge to members.

FRIDAY 4th SEPTEMBER, WOLSINGHAM SHOW LADIES LUNCH

Tickets are being distributed; we have 41 attending. Everyone is invited to 58 West End for pre-lunch drinks from 11am - park straight opposite in St Anne's. We have tried to

accommodate everyone's requests, and have reserved five tables. You will have a reserved seat.

The lunch is 12 for 12.30pm in the catering marquee. Car park passes have been distributed with tickets. The Club is providing table centres, as a contribution to the charity. We hope for a dry day, and that you enjoy this annual celebration.

CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA

We have made enquiries at several venues re festive afternoon tea, and all appear to be around the same price. We have opted for Headlam Hall, but cannot make a booking until we have confirmed numbers. We will take names at the next meeting (or please text Barbara or Susan).

The proposal is for 8th December. The tea will be in the Coach House, followed by Christmas Carols performed by a local choir. The cost is £37.50 pp, and members will need to use their own cars.

TEESDALE FLOWER CLUB

Wednesday 26th November at 7.30pm (refreshments from. 6.30), in Cotherstone Village Hall. Christmas demonstration by Val Guest. Tickets £8.

CASTLE HOWARD

A Dickens Christmas - from 13 November to 3 January. Tickets from £24.

SOFIA BLOOMS STUDIO

Sofia Blooms, who are giving our October demonstration, have recently opened a flower and homeware/gift store at 158 Newgate Street, Bishop Auckland. There is workshop space above the shop, where a programme of floristry programmes will start very shortly.

Please use our website to check our latest news, any last minute changes re meetings, bus times etc.