
WEARDALE FLOWER AND GARDEN CLUB

Welcome to our first meeting of 2017. We have a varied and exciting programme for 2017 which includes more gardening events and garden visits, and some new ventures, eg our Summer BBQ - Food and Flowers. We hope you enjoy it, and please encourage friends to join us. We'll be supporting the WI in a joint 'Green Hearts' venture on the 14th Feb., as well as the lonely bouquet day on 5th May, and generally getting more involved in supporting community and charity events, eg Wolsingham Show charity lunch, and the British Heart Foundation Red appeal.

Our demonstrator tonight is Katie-Jane Hermes, who visited us only last year but so many members asked for her to be invited back asap. Her last demonstration was amazing and I am sure tonight's will be too. Katie works as a wedding and event florist, and is also a NAFAS area demonstrator. She has won numerous prizes at national floristry competitions. Katie will be using £100 worth of flowers which will be raffled following the dem.

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2017

The Committee recommend that membership fees will be kept at £25 again year, and are now due. From these we have to pay over £7pp affiliation fee to NAFAS. The fee is reduced for anyone joining after 1 June. Visitors can attend two meetings a year at a cost of £5 per evening. There is now no charge for tea, and raffles remain at 50p per strip. All demonstrators now request a minimum of £100 of flowers and their fees are usually £100 plus travel costs, so with hall hire a club night costs in the region of min £250.

CHARITIES DONATIONS. Following the success of our Christmas demonstration the Committee recommend donating £150 to Teenage Cancer and £100 to Alzheimers Research, together with £120 to provide flowers for the next six months at the reception of Weardale Community Hospital, Stanhope. We have done this for the past year, and the flowers are for the benefit of all patients, hospice/clinic users and visitors. This totals £370 in charity donations. Remaining income assists in funding our programme, and this year hopefully the establishment of a website for the Club. £350 has been awarded to the club by CDCF to purchase a laptop to maintain and update the website. Quotes are being obtained for development, technical support and hosting, and a grant application made to the AAP for this work. The website will contain details of meetings, events, gallery, links to sites of interest, open garden information, contact details, map, etc., and will hopefully also assist in marketing and increasing membership.

BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION. We will be supporting the Red Campaign at our May birthday night and raising funds for the BHF.

OPEN GARDENS - SNOWDROP SEASON.

Kiplin Hall, Scorton, reopened from 4th Feb
 26 Feb, Longburn Arboretum, Edmondsley, £3
 26 Feb, Crook Hall, Durham, £7
 5 March, Breckon Hill, Westgate, £4.50

TULIP FIELDS TOUR. ECT are running a tour of the Dutch bulb fields, from £645, 24-26 April. Visit Keukenhof with its annual display of seven million flowering bulbs; visit the annual tulip exhibition at Frans Hals Museum; van der Berg Greenhouse and a dem by international florist Astrid van den Berg, incl lunch, and a Tulipmania dem by Jonathan Moseley. Flights from Leeds Bradford. Further details from floristrytours.com.

BRITISH FLOWERS. British Flowers Week is 19-25 June 2017. 2015 FIGURES - UK cut flower exports £29m; UK cut flower imports £739m. Flowers From the Farm is the national network of growers all over the UK working to promote British flowers.

FLOWER ARRANGER MAGAZINE. The magazine is published in January, April, July and October this year. See Pat for info. Please 're-cycle' any flower or garden related magazines you have finished with at any of our meetings.

NATIONAL GARDENING WEEK is 10-16 April.

PLANNED COURSES AT RHS HARLOW CARR

11 March, Introduction to floral linocuts; 14 March, Growing Cut Flowers;
3 April, Beginners Guide to Growing Vegetables; 4 April, How to Grow Herbs;
25 April, Flower Crowns, Buttonholes and Wrist Corsages; 5 May, Introduction to plant and flower photography;
6 May, Floral, felted, embroidered flowers; 9 May, Make a hand tied bouquet with garden flowers;
10 May, Herbalicious - herbs for health and happiness; 11 May, Willow Hares;
26 May, Growing micro greens. further details from www.rhs.org.uk

WYNYARD HALL GARDENS. Wynyard are offering lunch for two, a hot drink and entry to the gardens for £15. This offer is valid Monday to Sunday to 30th April, 10 am to 4pm. The offer code is GDN01 - just present this to a member of staff to obtain your discount. No booking required.

RHS SHOW DATES 2017

29-30 March, Spring Plant and Orchid Show, London
7-9 April, Cardiff
20-23 April, Harrogate Spring Show
11-14 May, Malvern Spring
23-27 May, Chelsea
7-11 June, Chatsworth
23-25 June, Harlow Carr Flower Show
4-9 July, Hampton Court Palace
12-13 July, Summer Urban Show, London
19-23 July, Tatton Park
3-6 August, Hyde Hall, Essex
18-20 August, Rosemoor
5-10 September, Wisley
23-24 Sept, Malvern Autumn
15-17 September, Autumn Show
25-26 October, Autumn Show, London
SH/2/2017