

WEARDALE FLOWER AND GARDEN CLUB - FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our February 2019 meeting. For 40 years we have been members of NAFAS, paying over £8 per head annual affiliation fees to national office. Members overwhelmingly agreed last year that we would not renew our membership in 2019, and we subsequently wrote to the Northumberland and Durham Area Chairman, Treasurer and Flower Arranger Magazine Distributor with our decision and wishing them well in the future. To date we have had no response.

We have now become an affiliated club of the RHS, Royal Horticultural Society. The RHS club membership fee is £35 per year, irrespective of the number of members we have. There are nearly 3,000 gardening clubs and societies throughout the UK and overseas. Affiliation entitles us to:
One free copy of the monthly 'The Garden' magazine - which will be made available to everyone at our monthly meetings.

A free annual visit to any RHS Garden for up to 55 members.

A medal and certificate to award at a club show or competition.

Free gardening advice from RHS experts.

Quarterly magazine and E-newsletter with the latest community gardening news and information.

List of speakers and judges available to Clubs.

Logo to use on stationery and promotion materials.

Discounted RHS garden entry all year round for up to six members.

Special group rates for RHS flower shows (excluding Chelsea).

The RHS also offered us Public Liability Insurance for £75 per annum, which we have confirmed. Our Constitution will be updated to reflect these changes.

PROGRAMME Please take a copy of your 2019 programme; spare copies are available if you wish to pass one to anyone you think may be interested in joining. Again we have tried to mix both flower and gardening topics which we hope will appeal to everyone. There are some interesting speakers and visits. Our Christmas event has had to be moved to earlier in November to accommodate our demonstrator, Nick Grounds from Peterborough, and also to fit in with availability of the school hall. It is now very difficult to book demonstrators to do large scale events, and Jonathan Moseley was able to help us book Nick Grounds.

Our annual membership fee remains at £25, but we do of course rely on monthly income from our raffles and our annual fund raising to enable us to pay for the programme of events. Most speakers/florists cost between £200-300, and the Christmas evening is well over £1200. We will report back each month on costs. Visitors are most welcome and are charged £5, which is deducted from their membership fee if they subsequently join.

WILLOW WEAVING WORKSHOP If you would like a place at the weaving workshop on Sat. 6th April (10 am to 1pm at St Annes Centre) to make garden supports with Jo Anne Bolton, please let Barbara have your name asap. We have spaces for max 12 people, at £25 pp, including all materials, instruction, use of tools, coffee and scones.

FRIENDS OF THE BOTANIC GARDEN, DURHAM Monthly meetings, garden walks and activities, visits, and longer breaks. Meetings are held at the Botanic Garden. The annual programme has now been published with the March meeting on the 20th, at 7.30pm - Vera Batey will be talking about the Gardens of Cornwall. Membership is £14. www.friendsofdurhambotanicgarden.co.uk

CROOK HALL, DURHAM Mother's Day sparkling afternoon tea, 12-3pm, 31st March, including entry to hall and gardens. Pre booking essential 0191 3848028. £24.50.

WYNYARD GARDENS Annual pass available giving unlimited visits for one person, valid for 12 months from date of booking. £15. A standard day pass is £5.50. Afternoon tea served in the Spa Conservatory, and 2 hr use of spa facilities £45. www.wynyardhall.co.uk

HARROGATE SPRING FLOWER SHOW 25-28 April, Great Yorkshire Showground. Save £2.50 on tickets purchased before 16 April. Jonathan Moseley is President of the show, and will be presenting

a series of demonstrations throughout the four days, and showcasing a wide selection of UK grown flowers. Demonstrations are at 11am and 3pm each day. www.flowershow.org.uk

HARLOW CARR, MARCH COURSES

8 March, Designing a Kitchen Garden

16-17 March, Botanical Drawing, Spring Plants

22 March, Starting from Scratch: A Beginners guide to growing vegetables

www.harlowcarr.org.uk

SARAH RAVEN - REGIONAL SPRING COURSES

Grow Your Own Cut Flowers, Sleightholmedale Lodge, N Yorks, 16th May; and at Holker Hall, Cumbria on 13th May. £150

Magnificent Pots, Sleightholmedale Lodge 17th May; and at Holker Hall, on 14th May. £150

40TH ANNIVERSARY DAFFODILS Planting was completed at the beginning of November in Demenses Mill, rear of Churchyard, and alongside the Wheelchair Walk at the bottom of the recreation ground. Many thanks to members and friends who helped.

WEARDALE MOTOR SERVICES Kent's Gardens, Wines and Railway Lines - 29 July to 2 August, 5 days, 4 nights dinner/b&b at Chatsworth Hotel, Hastings. £321 includes luxury coach travel, visit to Canterbury, steam train Rother valley, entry to Great Dixter, Leeds Castle, Sissinghurst, Vineyard Tour and Tasting. Chatsworth Hotel is three star, and situated on the sea front promenade in Hastings.