

Lorton Vale Gardening Club



Winter Programme 2024/25

Thurs 17th Oct 7.30 pm	AGM Steve Doyle Wild Flower and Pollinating insects in North and West Cumbria
Thurs 21st Nov 7.30 pm	Darryl Kelbrick Biochar in Gardens
Tues 10th Dec 1.30 pm	Sheila Todd Water Gardening
Thurs 16th Jan 6.30pm	Winter Social YTH
Wed 12th Feb 1.30 pm	Jack Gott Rainbow of Dahlias
Thurs 13th Mar 7.30 pm	Duncan & Lyn Wilder What to do in the spring garden
Thurs 10th April 7.30 pm	Alex Baines Pests, diseases in forestry

When attending meetings please park considerately.

Newsletter March 2024

After what has seemed like an endless winter the days are finally becoming longer and lighter, daffodils are coming into flower and it feels as though Spring is within reach despite the threat of occasional short returns to bad weather.

Our winter season began with the AGM in October when retiring committee members Elly Rowland, Lois Suckling and Dorothy Walker were thanked for their sterling work over the past many years. Chairman Liz reported on another thriving year for the club with great member support for both talks and visits.

This was followed by a talk, given at very short notice, by local bonsai expert Tony Robinson. Who knew bonsai could be such a fascinating topic? He explained how a chance gift led to his ongoing addiction to bonsai and enthused all by telling what an easy hobby this is to follow. Another subject slightly outside standard garden fare featured in the November meeting when Peter Barron covered the ongoing attempts to retain and re-establish the Arctic Flora of the Lake District. Few of us had realised what wonderful wild plants still exist in our montane habitats and how essential is the (partly voluntary) work going on to preserve and increase them. A return to the more down to earth matter of actually creating and maintaining a garden border was when Allan Gerrard, a long term volunteer at Holehird garden, outlined to our December meeting how this happens and the design and practical factors involved.

Our Winter Party in January was chance to catch up on gardening chat before attacking two interesting quizzes and the usual amazing buffet.

Although the weather was miserably wet and windy three practical sessions on pruning apple trees were well attended in January and February. Many thanks to Peter Battrick for demonstrating and to those who lent their gardens as venues. We hope to have more hands-on events in future.

In February an interesting talk provided thought as to how gardening can help wildlife and diversity and for the last talk of the winter Lyn Barnes gave an inspiring account of building up a veg-box scheme in the Eden valley. Starting from giving away or selling the produce of her allotment she had gradually expanded into a field and polytunnels and involved local farmers to form a co-operative which now supplies two hundred boxes a week saving many food miles and providing employment as well as super-fresh fruit and vegetables.

So now we can look forward to a new gardening season and the summer programme of attractive sounding garden visits, hopefully in better weather. In August the Summer Party will be at the Woodlands, Rogerscale garden of Mary and Adam Baker who have kindly offered to host the event. And don't forget the Coffee Morning and plant swap on 13th April at the Yew Tree Hall .

Happy Gardening!!