

## Upcoming events :

Thursday 25 to Sunday 28 April : 9.30am to 5.30pm

Harrogate Spring Flower Show, North of England  
Horticultural Society,

Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate, North  
Yorkshire, HG2 8NZ

Book before Tuesday 16 April to save £2.50 per ticket

<https://www.flowershow.org.uk/>



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## National Garden Scheme



The Yorkshire Booklet is available on the Admissions Table at tonight's meeting (we only have 20 copies so you may need to share). Further copies are available at local Garden Centres and Libraries. If you would like to travel further afield, the "Yellow Book" which lists all the gardens that will be opening can be

purchased at [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)

The National Garden Scheme gives visitors unique access to over 3,500 exceptional private gardens in England and Wales, and raises impressive amounts of money for nursing and health charities through admissions, teas and cake.

Thanks to the generosity of garden owners, volunteers and visitors they have donated a total of £55 million to nursing and health charities, and made a record annual donation of £3.1 million in 2018. Founded in 1927 to support district nurses, they are now the most significant charitable funder of nursing in the UK and their beneficiaries include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and The Queen's Nursing Institute.

The National Garden Scheme doesn't just open beautiful gardens for charity, they are passionate about the physical and mental health benefits of gardens too. They fund projects which promote gardens and gardening as therapy, and in 2017 they launched their annual Gardens and Health week to raise awareness of the topic.

**Signing In :** Please remember to sign in when you arrive at the meeting.

This is required for safety and record purposes.

# BLUEBELL GARDEN CLUB

[www.bluebellgardenclub.co.uk](http://www.bluebellgardenclub.co.uk)

## MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

**Next Month's Speaker : 2nd April 2019 : 7.30pm**

### Wonderful Weeds By Peter Williams

Peter is a retired plant scientist with specialist knowledge of plant ecology, physiology and soil microbiology.

He is a lifelong gardener and for many years ran a small

nursery that specialised in the propagation of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants, especially those for acid soils and woodland environments.

He now talks and writes about gardening matters and occasionally opens his garden at Weathervane House for charitable organisations and gardening club visits.



### Future Contributions

Please submit any comments or contributions for future newsletters to Mary Harrison at 73 Pavilion Way, Meltham, Huddersfield, HD9 5QN. Or by

E-mail - [me@thepigsty.me](mailto:me@thepigsty.me)

Telephone - 07912 513236



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## Pottering about ... by Edward Kilner

Hopefully, the worst of the winter weather is behind us and spring cannot be far behind. As I write the sun is shining and hundreds of the purple flowers of the early species *Crocus Tommasinia* are fully out.

Winter flowering shrubs – Hamamelis (Witch hazel); Winter honeysuckle, *Daphne odora* and a couple of *Cornus* (dogwood) are in flower. All are scented and a fragrant wafting breeze



across the garden. I am particularly excited with my Iron tree (*Parrotia Persicaria*) – member of the witch hazel family. It is flowering for the first time with clusters of spidery dark-red flowers. Its autumn colour is also spectacular.

Also looking good in the winter sun are the coloured barks of dogwoods – black, red, green and yellow. It will soon be time to cut these hard back to encourage the new shoots which have the most colourful bark next winter.

March is a good time to lift and divide herbaceous perennials – Phlox, *Hemerocallis* (day lily), Sedums, hardy Geraniums and the rest.

Lift the clump. Use a sharp spade or lawn edger, even a saw to produce reasonably sized portions with several growing points.

Discard any really woody central bits. Then pot up individual bits in reasonable compost or replant portions after adding a little fish, blood and bone to the planting hole.

I find it very satisfying growing new plants from seed, many of which I have collected from my own garden. March is a good time to start.

Things to remember:-

- Read the instructions on the packet.
- Use a good seed compost which should drain easily and contain little fertiliser.
- Sow thinly.
- Keep temperature moderate. Many herbaceous perennials, trees and shrubs need a really cold spell to promote germination.
- Water carefully.
- Cover seed trays with a thin layer of grit.
- Water with Fungicide solution.
- Bring into light after germination.
- Prick out when true leaves have been produced.

Half-hardy bedding plants need moderate heat to germinate.

All seedlings need to be potted on and hardened off when the weather improves.

Whilst you are dividing, growing from seed or cuttings, remember to do a few extra for the plant table at our meetings. You can keep half the cash at the same time as raising funds for the Club.

Keep up the good work!



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