

## U3A Gardening group January report for February Forum

2023 launches a new era for the Gardening Group as the new Convenors Julie Archer and Kate Keen lay out the programme of events for the year. The group will continue to meet at Stainton Village Hall on the first Friday of the month in the autumn and winter. Then from May to September coach trips to gardens are being arranged.

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> Speaker Jim Moody gave us an interesting talk– “The Birds and the Bees, Wildlife Friendly Gardening”. The key aspects to having a wild life friendly garden are having food and water for the wildlife. We can have trees and shrubs with red berries to feed the birds. Jim lives in Stokesley and was surprised at the types of birds which are frequently seen here in Teesdale. We can plant flowers to have pollen all year round for the bees and for the butterflies in summer. Leaving the foliage on perennial plants through the winter provides ladybirds and other insects with nesting sites and seeds for the birds. The other key issue was not to use any pesticides.

Our next meeting is on March 3<sup>rd</sup> Speaker Louise Wickham – Thomas White – the Capability Brown of the North East. Louise has recently published a book Thomas White, redesigning the northern British Landscape.

Our April meeting date falls on Good Friday so an alternative date is being considered.

Kate Keen