

## **U3A Gardening group April 25 report for Forum**

In April our guest speaker was Sarah Hopps to talk about the All-Seasons Garden. Sarah Hopps has spoken to the group on 3 previous occasions and is always interesting and engaging as a speaker. She regularly presents sessions at the Harrogate Flower Show and is a tour guide for garden holidays and has run her own plant nursery.

Sarah brought along a large selection of suitable plants flowering at this time of year, she used these to illustrate her talk and many of us purchased plants at the end of the session.

Sarah likes to have deciduous plants which change throughout the year as this provides seasonal interest. She suggests that we consider the structure of the plant and think of the texture and smell. She suggested geraniums as a key plant which provides colour for a long flowering period but also to have peonies which have a short season but are star performers. When walking around our gardens look at the finer details of the plants for example how cobwebs light up in dew and frost. Sarah has 3 topiary chickens in her own garden but few of the group had created their own topiary shapes.

This was a fascinating talk which was well received by our group.

As the weather is improving and the days are longer in May we begin our coach trips.

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May we will have a coach trip to Burnby Hall Gardens, Pocklington for the tulip festival.

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June we have a visit to Wynyard Hall and Mount Grace Priory.

Julie, Fran and Kate