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## CHAIRMAN'S SPRING MESSAGE

Dear members

Hope you are all keeping well as we have had some very cold days just recently. I missed our last demonstration meeting as I was away on my annual vacation with my sisters. This year it was Filey and it was very cold walking on that beach. I've noticed the garden is beginning to sprout nice new shoots and my tulips have been wonderful again.

See you all soon

Diane

Friendship  
Flowers and Fun

# Joyce's Musings

## COLOUR MY WORLD



With the seemingly endless rain and grey overcast days we have all been experiencing, some colour in our lives is so important for our wellbeing. Although not previously a fan of the bedding primrose I decided those bright yellows and blues were just the thing to put into troughs immediately outside of my patio doors last month. With the emergence now of a pink clematis Montana and the light blue Myostis forget-me-not the garden is taking on new life once again. Baskets are awash with the happy face of violas and the greenhouse has had a spring clean, recycling the many plastic pots we accumulate to our local junior school for their garden activities.

In this month's Flower Arranger magazine there is an in-depth feature on colour and how we experience flowers. One of my favourite things to see are vibrant colourful borders at many of the gardens open to the public and I regret that my own heavy clay soil, shaded by woodland, does not give me the opportunity to grow some of the amazing summer perennials which love the sunshine. Not to be thwarted, however, I supplement with containers and don't discount the subtle hues of red foliage and the bright golden greens of choisya ternata and Japanese acer.

Spring shows are underway and if you had the chance to attend the Harrogate show you would have seen the way colour plays a big part in the interpretation of the class titles.

Well we are now on the way to the Summer months with the promise of more garden plants emerging to colour our world.



Forsythia, botanical name *Forsythia suspensa* x *viridissima*, is a deciduous shrub that belongs to the olive family. It is native to China and is widely cultivated for ornamental purposes. The shrub is named after William Forsyth, a Scottish horticulturist who served as the head gardener to King George III and was one of the founders of the RHS.

Forsythia is a fast-growing shrub that can reach up to 10 feet in height and spread up to 12 feet wide. It has an upright, arching growth habit and is well-known for its bright yellow flowers that appear in early spring. The flowers are bell-shaped and occur in clusters along the length of the branches. The leaves of Forsythia are dark green, ovate, and serrated.

Forsythia is a hardy plant that is relatively easy to care for. It prefers full sun to partial shade and well-draining soil. It is tolerant of a wide range of soil types, including loamy, sandy, and clay soils.

One of the most attractive features of Forsythia is its early blooming period. The shrub is one of the first plants to flower in the spring, often blooming before the leaves appear. This makes it an excellent choice for adding colour to a garden that may still be dormant. The bright yellow flowers are also attractive to bees, butterflies, and other pollinators, making Forsythia an excellent plant for supporting local environment.

Forsythia is often used as a hedge or border plant because of its fast growth rate and dense foliage. It can also be trained as a small tree by removing lower branches and allowing a central leader to grow. The flowering stems can be cut to use for display in vases to bring some welcome colours indoors. An interesting fact is that the meaning of Forsythia in Victorian flower language is “Anticipation” very apt for these first flowers of spring.

## CLUB NEWS

Members and guests tackled a fiddly task turning bear grass into a plaited cone. Great fun was had along with the frustration but most of us got there in the end.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July 17th 2024 – Trip To Newby Hall & Gardens, North Yorkshire

This year we are planning a trip to Newby Hall which is a country house beside the river Ure, North Yorkshire. The day will include return coach trip from Huddersfield and a group tour of the magnificent house and full access to the award winning gardens. The trip is open to all so if you are interested contact us via e mail at [huddersfieldflowerclub@gmail.com](mailto:huddersfieldflowerclub@gmail.com). Tickets are £40 per person, payable in advance.

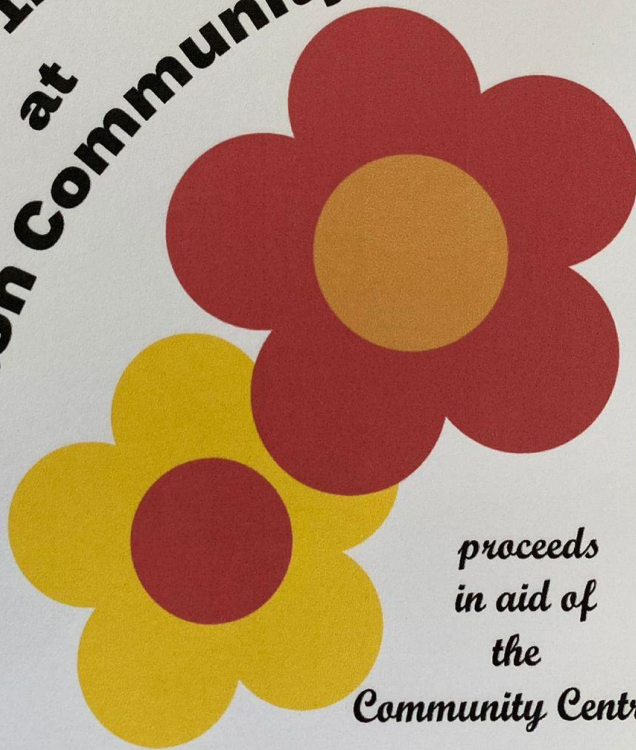
Have a look at the Newby Hall website for more details: <https://www.newbyhall.com/>



# PLANT SALE

**Saturday  
11th May 2024**

**from 11am  
at  
Kirkheaton Community Centre**



*proceeds  
in aid of  
the  
Community Centre*

9 - 12 May 2024

RHS Malvern Show

21 - 25 May 2024

RHS Chelsea Flower Show

8 June 2024

Francine Thomas demonstration - Joseph Rowntree Theatre, York