YORK u3a GARDENING FOR ALL

AUTUMN PROGRAMME 2026

Welcome to our Autumn Programme. We meet on alternate Tuesday mornings in the main hall at the Gateway Centre, Front Street, Acomb YO24 3BZ. Doors open at 9.30am and refreshments are served until 10 am. Talks start at 10.15am.

Subs for this term are £15.00 payable in advance by BACS, or in person at the first meeting,

29th September Working with Gardener's World: on the page and off the screen
We are pleased to welcome **Rich Heathcote** as our first speaker this session. Rich is a writer for *Gardener's World Magazine* and will be talking about his experiences with photoshoots in his garden and writing for the magazine, as well as his days as Adam Frost's gardener, preparing Adam's garden for the filming of the much loved television series.

13 October Apples and Pears
Tony Chalcraft and Jane Thurlow are well known locally for their wonderful organic nursery on Knapton Lane, as well as for Tony's monthly column in our *Local Link* magazine; we look forward to their expert advice and presentation about growing apples and pears.

27 October Gardening with wildlife at Shandy Hall
Chris Pearson is Lead Volunteer and Gardener at Shandy Hall. The two-acre gardens at Shandy Hall are managed to enable the maximum biodiversity of living creatures to share its space. Chris will share how she works throughout the year to make this happen. The garden won a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Wildlife Gardening Award in 2023.

10 November Alpines and their uses
Mark and Debbie Padgett have more than 25 years experience of growing alpines and in 2001 established Skerne Alpines Nursery, committed 'to providing versatile low maintenance and hardy alpines'. Their plants have won RHS awards and in 2026, a Platinum Award at Gardener's World Live. We look forward to learning how Alpines can be used and thrive in our gardens. Mark and Debbie will be bringing plants to sell.

24 November Gardening the World: the Horticulture of the CWGC
Paul Bennett will speak about the cemeteries in the care of the Commonwealth Graves Commission, looking at influences that shaped their original horticulture and how climate change and local circumstances can affect horticulture and maintenance in the present.

8 December Christmas Party (details to follow later)

For your diaries: *Our Spring programme will start on Tuesday 19 January 2027*