

BLUEBELL GARDEN CLUB FEBRUARY 2026

NEWSLETTER

Celebrating 30 years in 2025/2026

February meeting:

Tuesday, 3rd February 2026: 7.30pm

St John's Church Hall, Lepton: 1st Tuesday in the month

Michael Myers – “Trees and shrubs for the smaller garden”

Michael D. Myers is a full-time lecturer (further education) in horticulture at Craven College where he teaches a range of qualifications in horticulture from Entry level to Level 3. He also acts as a horticultural advisor for the RHS at their flower shows and as a consultant (question setter and examiner) for City & Guilds. Prior to this, from 1992, he ran a small landscaping business which was involved in variety of projects including the renovation of Aysgarth Edwardian Rock Garden, which was filmed by Tyne Tees for a two part programme called 'The Secret Garden' in 2003.



Michael enjoys travelling to look at gardens and plants in the wild and has visited Corfu, Crete, The Czech Republic, Cyprus, France (Maritime Alps), Madeira, The Philippines, Poland, Romania (Transylvania), Slovenia and elsewhere.

March meeting:

Tuesday, 3rd March 2026: 7.30pm

St John's Church Hall, Lepton: 1st Tuesday in the month

Steohen Chippendale – “RSPB – Places for Birds & other wildlife”



Stephen Chippendale is 78 years old and retired. He has always been interested in wildlife but started birdwatching seriously in 1974 and subsequently joined the RSPB of which he is still a member. He later joined the local RSPB members group in Huddersfield and enjoyed going on the field outings to various places and attending evening meetings. In 2004 he met and married Heather who is also a keen birdwatcher. They are now both on the committee of the local RSPB group and book speakers for the indoor meetings. On retirement they started volunteering at RSPB Old Moor, where they show people the wildlife and tell them about the reserve.

Heather bought him a bridge camera in 2005, and he has enjoyed taking pictures of wildlife ever since. It has become an enjoyable hobby. He started doing the occasional programme for the RSPB group and because of this whenever our group leader gets enquiries about doing talks, he passes them on to Stephen. They have a nice garden where they feed the birds and look after other wildlife, he spends quite a lot of time in the spring and summer here with his camera.

Membership offer

As you are probably aware, our membership year runs from September. We realise sometimes committing to a year's membership can be a problem. However, the good news is that as well as offering a visitor rate, from our March meeting, it is possible to buy a “half year” membership at £12.50

Trip to Keukenhof Gardens, Amsterdam Tuesday 21 April to Thursday 23 April 2026



We still have a limited number of places that have become available. Please contact Diane Holroyd on 07779 393134 or email at: enquiries@bluebellgardenclub.co.uk if you want further details



Sweet Pea competition



This month is the final time to enter our Sweet Pea competition. For a £1 you will be given a pot and three Sweet Pea seeds. You just have to try and grow the Sweet Peas ready for judging at our June meeting. Kits will be sold at the February meeting.

There will be three prizes for the best vases.

Dates for your diary

Visit to Breezy Knees Gardens, York - Friday, 5 June 2026 - £28.50 pp.

Includes coach travel and entry to Breezy Knees Gardens

Departing St John's Church, Green Balk Lane, Lepton HD8 0EW at 9.30 am

Leaving Breezy Knees at 4 pm (arrival Lepton approx. 5.30pm)

Described by Monty Don as "a beautiful modern garden created on the grandest possible scale",

Vibrant borders, sparkling fountains and a myriad of blossom awaits you at Breezy Knees Gardens. Now covering over 20 acres they are one of the largest gardens in the North of England and with over 10,000 different varieties of plants to discover, there's always lots to see, with the extensive borders that form the heart of the gardens giving a succession of flowers all the way through from May to the end of September.

Please feel free to invite friends and family. Bookings are now being taken, please pay in full to secure your place.

Snowdrops



Yorkgate - Open for Friends of Perennial from Thursday 5th – Sunday 8th February 2026 and open for General Public from Wednesday 11th – Sunday 15th February 2026. Timings 10am–3:30pm. **Dates correct as 30th January, however, we recommend you check the website before travelling as sometimes the Snowdrops appear early or later and Yorkgate then change these dates.**

www.perennial.org.uk/gardens/gardens-menu/york-gate-garden

Rhubarb Festival – Wakefield Friday 20th February till Sunday 22nd February

Full details at <https://experiencewakefield.co.uk/event/rhubarb-festival>

Willow Garden Club event

Mushroom Workshop with Adrian Rose from the Pendle Mushroom Company Thursday, 19th March 2026, 1.30 to 4.30pm – Venue: The Community Room, The Carlile Institute. Cost £41

Learn the history, basic science and modern application of fungi as well as a delicious taste-testing session. End the day by making your own "grow-at-home" mushroom kit in a reusable bucket that you can harvest multiple flushes of beautiful oyster mushrooms from. Both of us have experienced this workshop and highly recommend it. There are only 10 places available so if you are interested, please let Mary know or email mary@willowgardenclub.co.uk A deposit of £10 will be required to secure your place.

NGS Open Gardens



Further information on all these gardens, and others further afield, can be found on www.ngs.org.uk Information correct as at 30 January 2026 but please check before travelling.

Please submit any comments or contributions for future newsletters to enquiries@bluebellgardenclub.co.uk

