

# U3A PEGASUS GARDENING GROUP

## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Greetings to everyone

Finally, summer has arrived, with several days in a row with temperatures over 22deg. Lovely to have the warmth but it is back to watering. The fruit season is in full swing, and pears and plums are wonderful – I have to beat the birds to my pears.

I wandered around the property this weekend and made a list of jobs to do – 25 ended up on that list – pruning, spraying and repotting – unfortunately they are all multiples - the first one was “repot hippeastrums” - there are six of them, and repotting orchids is similar – there are five of them - so it is going to be a bit slow going working my way down the jobs; especially now various organisations are back into their meeting programmes e.g. Horticultural Society and the U3A groups. Oh well, Rome wasn't built in a day.

Has anybody else spotted the leaves turning an autumnal colour in their neighbourhood? It is always a surprise when the process starts!

### ***Subscription***

A quick reminder regarding the Garden Group's \$10 subscription 1 February-31 January. If you have not already done so, could you please pay this amount by the end of March. Please ensure you put your name and “garden grp sub” in the details section so that we can identify you. Our banking details are:

U3A Garden Group  
03-1599-0133823-00

### ***FEBRUARY Meeting***

This month we are visiting Ribblesdale Gardens, Barracks Road, just outside of Oxford. There are four acres of gardens featuring a wide variety of landscape settings: Hosta haven, Native garden, Stumpery, Railway woodland track, Butterfly boudoir (summer and autumn), Parkland garden, Woodland memories walk, Fragrant garden, Moonlight garden, Secret room, and an azalea and rhododendron garden - plus there is a boutique nursery. The cost of the garden visit is \$10. If you wish to purchase plants please bring cash, or you can make the transaction on your phone at the time of buying. There is plenty of parking and there are toilets on site.

We will meet in the MPCC car park to car pool at the usual time of 9.15 to leave at 9.30am or for those who wish to meet at the Gardens we will expect to start the tour at 10.30. (Don't forget \$5 to the driver.) Directions: If you come down Tram Road, turn left onto Oxford Road (HW72), travel along this road (passing Starvation Hill Road) and Barracks Road is the next road on your right, turn here at the Garden entrance is not far from the corner. There is an entrance on the Oxford Road but the other entrance is less busy.

## **JANUARY Meeting**



Our first stop was Adrienne Pavalka's retirement complex - the Amberley Country Estate Retirement Village - first for morning tea, then a chat with the complex Manager and then a wander around the village talking to the other residents about their gardens. We then had an early lunch at Adrienne's – some of us out on the patio and others inside out of the strong sunshine.

Adrienne was delighted to see us all again and sent this note:

*A most heartfelt thank you for your most enjoyable visit today.*

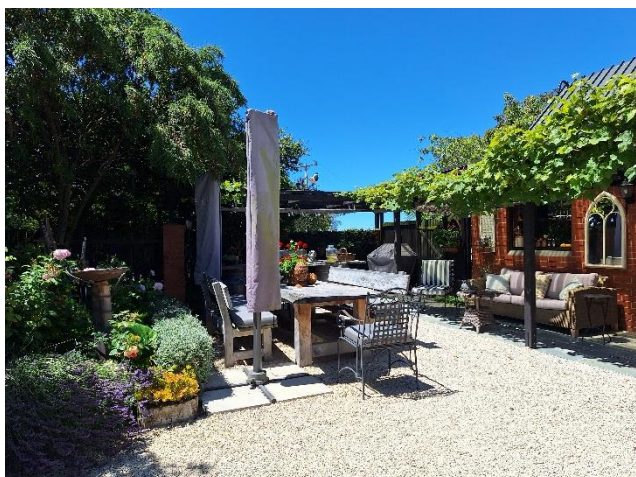
*I am missing the Pegasus U3A Garden Club and the camaraderie of "freedom gardeners." As you will have noticed, the landscaping in our village is boring (in my opinion) but there has been a degree of civil disobedience and some folks have just done their own planting.*

*I hope you enjoyed the rest of your day and hopefully you will make a visit to Amberley an annual event.*

*As I wasn't able to answer questions regarding the ownership and management of our Village, I hope that you didn't mind that I asked the Village Manager to supply you with answers. Adrienne*



Our next port of call was a visit to Rose Shier's "Corner Garden" in Bankview Place, Amberley. A small property which was full of interesting areas, so much packed into the gardens – both ornamental and vegetable, with welcoming outdoor areas for entertaining.



Some of our number, who had not visited before, added an impromptu extra visit to the Blue House. A really lovely day with great weather and good company.

## ***PROGRAMME UPDATE***

Below is the **draft** programme for 2025

February 24 <sup>th</sup>	Ribblesdale Garden, Oxford followed by lunch at one of the Oxford cafes and a look at some of their great little shops (optional)
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Casa Rosa garden visit, West Melton
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Tips & Cuttings – Ali Dewsbury – plus a session on starting a worm farm
May 26 <sup>th</sup>	Visit to a commercial grower – TBC
June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Tips & Cuttings – TBC
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	Carolyn Collins – interactive photography demo
August 25 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Gain – hanging basket demonstration
September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Jo McGirr – taking cuttings and seed raising demo
October 27 <sup>th</sup>	Visit to Stoneycrop garden and Rhodo Direct garden, West Melton
November 24 <sup>th</sup>	End of year lunch at “Ambrosia”, Strathlachlan Gardens, Doyleston