

## COTSWOLD GROUP COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY MARCH 2023



Our March talk was given by Vanessa Berridge, County Organiser for the NGS scheme in Gloucestershire. Vanessa outlined the history of the scheme, going back to its Victorian roots with wealthy philanthropists keen to establish better nursing care and setting up training and support services for nurses. The status and wealth of its early advocates gradually secured support across the country with the idea of opening private gardens to fund the nursing services. All the money raised by these open gardens goes not to the garden owners, but to the charity to distribute.

Recognition of the mental and physical health benefits of access to fresh air and gardens has now led to a broadening of focus with tailor-made gardens set up at various hospitals and special units, such as cancer care and spinal injury clinics. The open gardens scheme continues to grow and is able to fund a number of charities with such aims.

Vanessa's own Winchcombe garden will be open this April and a private visit for our members and their friends has been organised. Vanessa's lovely photographs of some of Gloucestershire's gardens open under the NGS scheme had us furiously marking their details in the free Gloucester yellow booklet!

We are currently booking a number of private visits to gardens and confirming speakers for the next couple of months, which we will email you about shortly. Meanwhile, here are some general openings for you to consider.

## National Garden Scheme Open Gardens Near Us:

### **Trench Hill**, Sheepscombe, Gloucestershire, GL6 6TZ

Approx 3 acres set in a small woodland with panoramic views. Variety of herbaceous and mixed borders, rose garden, extensive vegetable plots, wildflower areas, plantings of spring bulbs with thousands of snowdrops and hellebores, woodland walk, two small ponds, waterfall and larger conservation pond. Interesting wooden sculptures, many within the garden. Cultivated using organic principles.

**11 – 6 Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March; Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> and Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April** £5 Adult; child free  
Home-made teas

### **Sheepehouse Cottage**, Stepping Stone Lane, Painswick, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 6RX

Lovely country, hillside garden with outstanding views across the Cotswolds. Variety of mixed borders and garden 'rooms' inc perennials, herbaceous and evergreens. Cottage garden with formal pond and arbour. Wildflower orchard with mown paths and many spring bulbs. Greenhouse and raised vegetable beds. Wildlife pond. A lovely mixed country garden with stunning views and year-round interest

**11 – 5 Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March** Adult £5; child free  
Light refreshments

### **Home Farm** Newent Lane, Huntley, Gloucestershire, GL19 3HQ

Set in elevated position with exceptional views. 1m walk through woods and fields to show carpets of spring flowers. Enclosed garden with fern border, sundial and heather bed. White and mixed shrub borders. Stout footwear advisable in winter.

**11-4 Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April** £4 Adult; child free  
2 good cafes nearby

### **South Lodge**, Church Road, Clearwell, Coleford, Gloucestershire, GL16 8LG

Peaceful country garden in 2 acres with stunning views of surrounding countryside. High walls provide a backdrop for rambling roses, clematis, and honeysuckles. Organic garden with large variety of perennials, annuals, shrubs and specimen trees with year-round colour. Vegetable garden, wildlife and formal ponds. Rustic pergola planted with English climbing roses and willow arbour in gravel garden.

**1<sup>st</sup> April 1 – 5** £4.50 Adult; child free  
Home-made teas

### **Brockworth Court**, Court Road, Brockworth, Gloucestershire, GL3 4QU

This intense yet informal tapestry style garden beautifully complements the period manor house which it surrounds. Organic, naturalistic, with informal cottage-style planting areas that seamlessly blend together. Natural fish pond, with Monet bridge leading to small island with thatched Fiji house. Kitchen garden once cultivated by monks. Views to Crickley and Coopers Hill.

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2 – 6** £6 Adult; child free  
Home-made teas

## And on the border!

### **Whitcombe House**, Overbury, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, GL20 7NZ

Cotswold stone walled shrub and herbaceous garden flanked by mature Beech, Birch, Acer and Catalpa. Spring fed gravel brook bordered by primula, hosta, hydrangea, lavender and rose. Pastel colours merge with cool white and blue and later hot colours turn to mellow yellow. Nooks, arches, vine, fig, vegetable parterre over bridges with terrace and benches on island for peaceful reflection. Plant store open.



**11 – 4 Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April** Adult £5; child free  
Light refreshments in village hall

**Overbury Court, Overbury**, Worcestershire, GL20 7NPA

10 acre historic garden, at the centre of a picturesque Cotswold village, nestled amongst Capability Brown inspired Parkland. The Garden comprises vast formal lawns skirted by a series of rills and ponds which reflect the ancient plane trees that are dotted throughout the garden. The south side of the house has a formal terrace with mixed borders and yew hedging, overlooking a formal lawn with a reflection pool and yew topiary. Running parallel to the pool is a long mixed border which repeats its colours of silver and gold down to the pool house.

**11 – 4 Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April** Adult £5; child free

### **And just over the border!**

**Winchester House**, Abbey Manor Park, The Squires, Evesham WR11 4HQ

A one acre garden developed over 20 years, divided into two areas by an original Victorian wall, which formed part of Abbey Manor grounds. Formal planting surrounds the house with a landscaped wood beyond the wall. A wide variety of shrubs, perennials, native and ornamental trees are on display designed around two ponds, a stream and a striking tiered water feature.

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March; Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April** 1 – 5  
£5 Adult; child free

**The Alpine Garden Society**, Avon Bank, Wick, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 3JP

Inspirational small garden next to the Alpine Garden Society office. The garden shows a wide range of alpine plants that are easy to grow in contemporary gardens over a long season. Visitors can see different settings to grow alpines, inc rock and tufa, scree, a dry Mediterranean bed, shade and sunny areas, also a dedicated alpine house, and many pots and troughs with alpines and small bulbs.

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April** 11- 4 Adult £4; child free

