

COTSWOLD GROUP COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY TEATIME TALK



DATE: THURSDAY 2nd MARCH 2023

TIME: 4PM

**PLACE: SUDELEY ROOM, ABBEYFIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE,
WINCHCOMBE GL54 5QJ**

ENTRY: £3 CGS / CCGS MEMBERS; £5 VISITORS AND GUESTS (includes refreshments).

You are invited to join us to hear Vanessa Berridge, an enthusiast of the wonderful gardens in the Cotswolds, talk from her experience as county organiser, about the history of the National Garden Scheme and its work in Gloucestershire. (<https://ngs.org.uk>)

Vanessa is a writer for national and international magazines, and national newspapers and has written several books, including a history of Kiftsgate Court Gardens and Great British Gardeners: From Early Plantsmen to Chelsea Medal Winners. She launched The English Garden in 1997 and gives talks on gardens and garden history at literary festivals, and garden clubs.

Join us then for a special afternoon to get inspiration for the coming gardening season!

OUR FIRST TEATIME TALK WAS JANUARY'S WILDLIFE AND YOUR GARDEN:



At our January meeting, Jo Worthy-Jones of Haven4Wildlife spoke to us enthusiastically from her extensive experience, both of wildlife and gardening, having spent 14 years working for Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. She described gardens as nature reserves, especially in this time of climate change and loss of habitats. She reminded us of the days when a car journey meant windscreens covered in dead insects and how rare that was now in what she called 'the insect apocalypse'.

To make your garden wildlife friendly she outlined some key tips:

Have water in your garden – for drinking, bathing and living in.. If a pond is out, any container with an edge on which creatures can perch and from which they can get in and out will do just fine. Marbles or stones in a shallow dish allow for this. One of gardeners' friends, hoverflies spend part of their lifecycle in stagnant water as rat-tailed maggots, so a pot with leaves and stagnant water in can be an excellent nursery.

Support insect life – plant for a long flowering season and include simple flowers which more insects can access and night-scented flowers for moths.

Feed - Plants provide a natural food at flower and seed stages, so don't deadhead too ferociously and include native species. Those caterpillars who don't make it to adulthood have often been excellent food for birds – a pair of nesting blue tits can take 3000 caterpillars in 2 weeks!

Provide homes and shelter– eg. simple log or leaf piles, insect "hotels", home made or bought. Remember that most animals and birds prefer to follow a hedge or tree line, rather than cross open spaces where they are more vulnerable.

Don't use chemicals!

Jo is very happy to visit individual gardens to assess their wildlife friendliness and can also provide gift vouchers for that service. She also runs nature journaling sessions (Flier attached)

Jo Worthy-Jones [Haven 4 Wildlife](http://www.haven4wildlife.com) 0794 0064345 www.haven4wildlife.com

DON'T FORGET WILDLIFE EVENTS ELSEWHERE OF INTEREST:

- ❖ **Visit Nature in Art** to marvel at the **Wildlife Photographer of the Year** competition winners from **7th February to 2nd April 2023**. **Open Tues – Sun 10am – 5pm** 2m north of Gloucester on A38 at Twigworth. SatNav Postcode: GL2 9PG. Follow the official Nature in Art brown tourism signs.

- ❖ **Watch the NGS talk** by Charlie Harpur on Rewilding at Knepp Castle, Sussex. Tuesday 21st March at 7pm, price £10 <https://ngs.org.uk/shop/online-events/online-talks/rewilding-at-knepp-castle-sussex-tuesday-21st-march-7-00pm/>

SOME GLOUCESTERSHIRE GARDENS OPEN IN FEBRUARY:

- ❖ **Downton House, Gloucester Street, Painswick GL6 6QN**

6th and 7th February 10.30 – 3pm £5 adults; children free. Refreshments available.

The owner is co-author of 'The Galanthophiles : 160 Years of Snowdrop Devotees' The walled 1/3 acre garden in the centre of Painswick provides the perfect setting for her collection of Galanthus cultivars. In addition, naturalised drifts of Galanthus nivalis and Galanthus atkinsii flourish amongst winter-flowering shrubs, cyclamen, Iris reticulata and Polystichum ferns.

- ❖ **Trench Hill, Sheepscombe GL6 6TZ**

Sundays 12th and 19th February 11 – 4 £5 adults; children free. Refreshments available.

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.

- ❖ **Home Farm, Newent Lane, Huntley GL19 3HQ**

12th Feb 11- 4 £4 adults; children free. Refreshments available at local garden centre.

Set in an elevated position with exceptional views. 1 mile 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.