

COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY COTSWOLD GROUP FEBRUARY 2024



MALVERN SPRING SHOW MAY 2024

The national CGS has been successful in its application for a stand in the Floral Marquee at the 2024 Malvern Show in May. They have asked if we have members who would like to be involved. This could be in a range of ways: devising and setting up the stand; growing plants for display and/or sale; or staffing the stand. This comes with free entry to the show, of course.

If you would like to take part or for more information, contact our local chairperson Robert Stone on 01242 602384 or email robert@lestones.co.uk

ZOOM?

The national Cottage Garden Society has written to us to see if our members would be happy to use Zoom for any prospective future talks and, if so, what percentage. They are on a fact-finding mission and looking at options for groups.

Zoom might be especially good for less mobile members – but there again, we don't all have smart phones or laptops! Zoom meetings are generally free for 2 or 3 friends, but larger numbers are generally time-limited, unless you buy into a professional agreement.

We have said to the CGS that it would be interesting if they could host some talks which groups could buy into and advertise to local members, especially in less clement months. It would also be much more affordable for groups, being more cost effective than actual meetings with a speaker, room hire etc. Other societies do use Zoom or similar systems successfully, often with recordings of the talks available after the events too.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

WINCHCOMBE SEED SWAP is at the museum on Saturday 3rd February 10 - lunchtime.

GROUP VISIT?

Natalie is currently drawing up a visit programme for later in the season, but meanwhile members might like to go as a group to **Downton House, Painswick on 5th or 6th February**. Phone Natalie 01242602384 or email Natalie@lestones.plus.com who will co-ordinate. It is a lovely small town garden, very cottagey in style. *See below for details.*

NGS GARDENS (<https://ngs.org.uk/>) Last year the National Gardens Scheme raised a record £3,403,960 for the health charities it supports. You can see how it allocates these funds and how they are used in its Impact Report:

<https://bit.ly/NGSImpactReport2023>

THREE GLOUCESTERSHIRE GARDENS OPEN FOR NGS IN FEBRUARY:

Downton House, Gloucester St, Painswick, Gloucestershire, GL6 6QN

Monday and Tuesday 5th and 6th February 10.30 – 3pm Adult £6; child free. Light refreshments available.

The owner is co-author of 'The Galanthophiles : 160 Years of Snowdrop Devotees' and 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, Gloucestershire, GL6 6TZ

Sunday 11th and 18th February 11 – 4pm. Adults £5; child free. Home-made teas.

An organic garden of about 3 acres set in a small woodland with panoramic views, enjoyable throughout the year, but visit now especially to see the spring bulbs with thousands of snowdrops and hellebores.

Home Farm, Newent Lane, Huntley, Gloucestershire, GL19 3HQ Sunday 28th February 11 - 4. Adult £4; child free.

Set in an elevated position with exceptional views, Home Farm offers a 1-mile walk through woods and fields to admire carpets of spring flowers. The enclosed garden has a fern border, sundial and heather bed with white and mixed shrub borders.

COTSWOLD GARDEN TOURS

This is a new company founded by Ben Knight, a local garden consultant and designer, which aims to provide informative and interactive garden tours with an emphasis on plants, design, and great hospitality. www.cotswoldgardentours.com

February tours include a 'Meet & Greet' by the owner; light refreshments; a tour led by the Head Gardener; and plenty of time to explore gardens and grounds at your leisure.

13th February 10.30 am, meeting at **Cerney House**, North Cerney GL7 7BX £30 per person. <https://www.cerneygardens.com/>

20th February 10.30 am, meeting at **Rodmarton Manor**, Rodmarton, Cirencester GL7 6PF £30 per person. <https://rodmarton-manor.co.uk/>

For more information, or to book places, contact Michelle Flint on 01608 532176 or email michelle@cotswoldgardentours.com

DAY TRIP TO THE ORCHID FESTIVAL AT KEW GARDENS

14TH FEBRUARY 2024

Some spaces are still available on a private 19-seater coach going from Temple Guiting village car park at 8am to arrive at Kew for 10.25. Leaves Kew at 4pm to arrive back at Temple Guiting for 6.20pm.

All inclusive cost £48 (if all seats sold). If interested, contact Yvonne Everest at info@chocolategenie.co.uk or ring 01386 576111.

SPECIAL OPEN DAYS FOR THORNCROFT CLEMATIS

17th AND 18TH FEBRUARY 2024 10am – 4pm. Free pruning demonstrations at 10:30am and 2pm.

N.B. Owing to the amount of interest in this, it will now be held at the bigger premises of New Leaf Plants Ltd., Sandfield Lane, Evesham WR11 7QS

Tel. [01953 850407](tel:01953850407) **Email:** sales@thorncroftclematis.co.uk

Website: <https://www.thorncroftclematis.co.uk/>

WINCHCOMBE GARDENING CLUB

Vanessa Berridge will be talking about her new book '**Garden Heaven - Inspiration and Escapism For Every Gardener**'.

Wednesday 21st February 7 for 7.30 at the Abbeyfield Community Centre, Winchcombe. Visitors £3.

PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS AT STANLEY FLOWERS

Grow your own cut flowers with Gill Badger

<https://www.stanleyhillflowers.co.uk/copy-of-buy-flowers>

Tel.07875 150007 Email: gill@stanleyflowers.co.uk

Stanley Hill Flowers, The Lodge, Stanley Pontlarge, Cheltenham GL54 5HE

3 Wednesday mornings from 9:30am to 1:00pm, the 21st February, 10th April, and 12th June.

Learn how to turn your growing space into a cutting garden, with flowers to cut and arrange throughout the British growing season:

- How to plan and create your growing area,
- Decide what to grow and how to grow it,
- Understand the growing year and seasonal jobs to do, including the correct stage to harvest,
- How to condition flowers for the longest vase life; and create your own arrangement to take home.

Peat-free compost, reusable seed trays and a selection of seeds and cuttings etc will be provided, as well as notes to refer back to. Home-made cakes and refreshments will be provided. Cost for the package of all three sessions is £165.

ONLINE FLOWER WORKSHOPS

Common Farm Flowers in Somerset (Common Farm, Barrow Lane, Charlton Musgrove, BA9 8HN) offer a range of in person and online workshops.

In February offers include:

- Design a Cut Flower Patch Workshop on **7th**
- Sowing Hardy Annuals Demo on **9th**
- Perennials for Cutting Workshop on **28th**.

Most online events are £35 each and can be viewed live or as recordings on a later date. For more information, contact Georgie at Common Farm Flowers:
georgie@commonfarmflowers.com Tel. 01963 32883

Website: <https://www.commonfarmflowers.com/>

EXHIBITIONS AT NATURE IN ART:

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR until April 7th 2024 Tues – Sun
10am – 5pm

This is the Natural History Museum's annual competition and exhibition highlighting the unique and beautiful relationship between photography, science and art.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE SOCIETY OF BOTANICAL ARTISTS

February 13th – 15th

Enjoy the annual exhibition by GSBI, whose membership includes RHS Gold, Silver Gilt and Silver medallists. Some items are available to buy, and every day you can meet some of the artists.

Nature in Art, A38 Twigworth Gloucester GL2 9PA (2 miles north of Gloucester on A38. SatNav Postcode: GL2 9PG.)

<https://natureinart.org.uk/> Tel. 01452 731422

COMING SOON

VAL BOURNE: GROWING ORGANIC VEG

7.00pm Saturday 16th March (a Friends of Northleach Church event)

£12 / £15 including a free drink. Buy tickets via the website or at Northleach Post Office. <https://www.northleachevents.co.uk/val-bourne-growing-organic-veg>

Val Bourne is an award-winning garden writer, organic gardener and lecturer. She is a columnist for the Daily Telegraph and gardens on the wind-swept Cotswolds at Spring Cottage in Cold Aston. Her third of an acre garden is managed without using chemicals – something Val has always believed in. In this talk, Val shares her successful strategies for growing organic veg in the Cotswolds which makes her talk especially pertinent for other Cotswold gardeners.

All their events are held at the Church of St Peter & St Paul, Northleach which can be accessed through two gates:

- from the Market Place - follow the pathway on the left hand side of the post office - postcode GL54 3EE
- from Church Walk, which brings you to the church gates - postcode GL54 3HL.

There is no parking at the church so, if you are travelling by car, please park in the market square or on the roads around the church.

If Blue Badge holders email northleachevents@gmail.com with their parking request, the organisers will seek permission for parking near the church gates.



Let us know of events and topics of interest to you. Remember friends and visitors are always welcome.

Website: <https://cotswoldcgs.org.uk/>

Tel. 01242 602384