

COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY COTSWOLD GROUP NEWSLETTER

MARCH 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 and we now have more details of the kind of stand proposed. If you would like to be involved, whether in devising and setting up the stand; growing plants for display and/or sale; or staffing the stand - with free entry to the show, of course - contact our local chairperson Robert Stone on 01242 602384 or email robert@lestones.co.uk

NATURE IN ART

COURSES: Nature in Art is not just worth going to for the great exhibitions (and the very good cafe!) but it also runs art and craft courses. These are taught in their purpose-built education centre with class sizes of 8 –12 people.

In March they include ***Flowers, Foliage and Windows*** with Jean Lee and in April ***Hedgerow Baskets*** with Helen Lomberg. Helen then tackles ***Willow and Hazel Garden Structures*** in May. For full details of the programme of some 40 courses throughout the year and to book go to www.natureinart.org.uk

EXHIBITION: WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR on till 7th April . Images selected from nearly 50,000 entries from 95 countries.

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

WILDFOWL AND WETLAND TRUST SLIMBRIDGE

16th March 10am – 4pm Introduction to Botanical Illustration, a painting workshop aimed at students of all levels. £60 per person. Details from www.wwt.org.uk

FEBRUARY VISIT TO DOWNTON HOUSE, PAINSWICK



No wonder our Natalie was taken with this Painswick snowdrop – “Natalie Garton”, shortly to feature in her own garden now!

Natalie writes:

“It was a rather greyer day than of late with a touch of drizzle in the air, but as soon as we arrived at Downton House in Painswick, the spirits lifted. This charming cottage garden in the centre of Painswick is owned by Jane Kilpatrick, who has co-written a book on snowdrops, Clumps of different varieties of snowdrops form a carpet beneath the structural winter flowering shrubs in the mulched beds.

Jane particularly likes large snowdrops and, although the clumps are not labelled, it is clear to see the myriad of different forms - single, double, semi-double; from slim, it is clear to see the myriad of different forms - single, double, semi-double, from slim, elegant petals, which hold themselves open to dance in the breeze, to tight, rounded, snowy globes.

We finished off with a lovely light lunch at the Painswick Centre and headed home determined to add more to our own garden!"

SMALL GROUP VISITS

Natalie was away at a wedding in India in February, so details of our visit programme are now being confirmed and will be sent out to you very shortly.



NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

Not many local gardens open under the NGS in March, but you could stock up on lovely plants from **Cotswold Garden Flowers** which has a March Open Day on Thursday 21st from 11 – 4. £5 Adult; child free. Light refreshments available.

Cotswold Garden Flowers, Sands Lane, Badsey, Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 7EZ

The new **2024 NGS book and the free county booklets** are out now and in many garden centres and tourist information spots or go to <https://ngs.org.uk/>

COMING SOON

CHELTENHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL SPRING SHOW

7TH April 12.30 – 4pm Pittville School, Albert Road, Cheltenham GL52 3JD. £2.50 adults; children free. Refreshments available.

Beautiful displays of spring bulbs, plants and vegetables, as well as stalls selling local plants, home-made cakes, books and handicrafts.

COTSWOLD GARDEN TOURS

We included local business venture, Cotswold Garden Tours, in our February newsletter. 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. 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

Their programme for the next few months is now out:

Tuesday 23rd April 10.30am

Daglingworth House Gardens, Daglingworth, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 7AG.

Wednesday 15th May 10.30am

Sezincote Gardens, Sezincote House, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire GL56 9AW

Monday 3rd June 10.30am

Upton Wold, Upton Wold, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire GL56 9TR

Tuesday 11h June 10.30am

Dean Manor Gardens, Dean Manor, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 3LD

Wednesday 12th June 10.30am

Packington Hall, Packington Park, Meriden, Warwickshire CV7 7HF

Tuesday 18th June 10.30am

Cerney House and Gardens, North Cerney, Cirencester Glos. GL7 7BX

For more information, visit www.cotswoldgardentours.com or contact Michelle at michelle@cotswoldgardentours.com or telephone 01608 532176.

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT GLOUCESTER'S HUGE GREEN WALL?

Work is set to begin this month on a green wall aimed at reducing both noise and air pollution and increasing biodiversity in Gloucester city. The green wall, at the Forum, on the £107 million pound development's multi-storey car park, will cover an area of about 600 sq m with plants. Green walls help to cool and insulate buildings; attract pollinators; and help absorb sound.

The building itself has been built with eco credentials in mind, and aims to be net-zero carbon, with electricity produced through renewable methods such as rooftop solar panels.

Work will also start now on the next phase of work to revamp Westgate Street, funded by Historic England and Gloucester City Council. This will include trees and planters for shade - the temperature beneath trees can be up to 12 degrees cooler. The planting of bio-diverse varieties is designed to attract pollinators and help address air quality.

