



SMALL GROUP VISITS

Here is our programme for this year. All visits will be in the afternoon; exact times will be notified nearer the dates. Please book your place with Natalie so we can confirm numbers in advance with the garden owner. Email: natalie@lestones.plus.com or telephone 01242 602384. (Your friends and visitors are welcome at all events.)

Tuesday 23rd April Whitcombe House, Overbury GL20 7NZ £9 to include tea and cake

One acre of colour from April to Sept in a peaceful Cotswold stone-walled shrub and herbaceous garden with mature and young trees including beech, and Catalpa. Spring-fed gravel brook is bordered by primula. Pastel colours merge with cool white and blue and later hot colours turn to mellow yellow. Lavender and lots of roses. Secret corners, arches, vines, figs, a vegetable parterre and benches for relaxation.

Wednesday 22nd May Pear Tree Cottage, Witton Hill, Whichenford, Worcs WR6 6YX Admission £5 Teas available

A Grade II listed black and white cottage (not open) set in south-west facing gardens with far-reaching views across orchards to Abberley Clock Tower. The $\frac{3}{4}$ acre garden comprises gently sloping lawns with mixed and woodland borders, shade and plenty of strategically-placed seating. The garden has a quirky and humorous character with the odd surprise and even a Shed of the Year Runner Up. New for 2024 is a lovingly-created path which twists through a fernery and is made from recycled roof tiles edged with blue Victorian tiles.

Wednesday 26th June Bolters Farm, and King's Cottage, Chilson, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire OX7 3HU £8

Bolters Farm has a cherished old cottage garden restored over the last 17 years. Tumbly moss-covered walls and sloping lawns lead down to a stream with natural planting and quirky characterful moments.

King's Cottage comprises an old row of cottages with mature trees and yew hedging. Over the last eight years a new design and planting scheme has been started to reduce the areas of lawn; bring in planting to complement the house (not open) and setting; introduce new borders; and encourage wildlife. A work in progress!

July date to be set nearer the time Visit to the National Plant Collection of Penstemon - 40 Evesham Road; Bishops Cleeve GL52 8SA

Suggested donation of £5 to Plant Heritage. National plant collection of historic cultivars displayed in a garden setting.

Thursday 15th August Charlton Down House, Tetbury GL8 8TZ (An NGS Open Day) £7

Extensive country house gardens in 180 acre equestrian estate. Charlton Down has formal terraces, perennial borders, a walled topiary garden, enclosed cut flower garden and a large glasshouse. There are also rescue animals and a Jubilee copse to admire. Ample parking and refreshments available.

Monday 16th Sept Shuttifield Cottage, Birchwood, Storrige, Worcs WR135HA £5 Min 10 Home-made teas available.

Superb position and views. Unexpected three acre plantsman's garden with extensive herbaceous borders, many unusual trees, shrubs, perennials, and colour themed for all year interest. Large old rose garden with many spectacular climbers. Small deer park, and walks in a 20 acre wood containing wildlife ponds and wildflowers.

NGS OPPORTUNITIES

Members who missed out on our visits last year might be interested that The Gate in Winchcombe and 11 Hatherley Court Road in Cheltenham are both open for the NGS again this year, The Gate on Monday 6th May and 11 Hatherley Court Rd on Sunday 19th May and Sunday 14th July – pre-booking required for these.

Westaway on Cleeve Hill was a popular visit last year and is open only by arrangement, but Winchcombe Gardening Club is organising a visit.

Browse the NGS website for your local opportunities: www.ngs.org.uk

NATIONAL RHS EVENTS

18th – 21st April RHS Urban Show Depot Mayfield, Manchester
rhs.org.uk/urbanshow

20th – 21st April RHS National Rhododendron Show, RHS Garden Rosemoor, Devon

9th – 12th May RHS Malvern: if you would like to help out at the CGS stand. contact our local Chair, Robert Stone, on 01242 602384 or email robert@lestones.co.uk

GLOUCESTERSHIRE LIBRARIES MINI GARDENING FESTIVAL

2nd - 4th April

Join Lee Connelly, widely known as the Skinny Jean Gardner, for an action-packed session during the Easter Holidays to explore the world of gardening.

Each activity will take you on a journey to learn more about the natural world and how you can grow more for nature back at home. This festival is suitable for children and families.

The festival includes various fun and interactive zones including:

- Interactive Seed Sowing & Claw Machine Game (Sow & Grow)
- Build a Bug Hotel
- Gardening Library
- Colouring Zone
- Selfie Area
- Music Played by Plants

Sessions are filling up quickly. Book with the branch via the Library website or call in:

Churchdown Library, Tuesday 2nd April 13:00 - 14:45 or 15:00 - 16:45.

Fairford Library, Wednesday 3rd April 10:00 - 11:45; or 13:00 - 14:45; or 15:00 - 16:45.

Quedgeley Library, Thursday 4th April 15:00 - 16:45.

ALSO WITH THE LIBRARY SERVICE

EARTH DAY: Creative Walks in Nature with Canopy



Take a walk through the beautiful Forest of Dean and engage in a post-walk arts workshop with Canopy.

You will be provided with notebooks and opportunities to respond creatively to nature, either through written notes, poems, photographs, sketches, mark making, rubbings or simply 'being in the moment'. It will be an inspirational, fun and social approach to connecting with the local landscape.

Coleford Library, Saturday 20th April, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

WILLOW CRAFTING WORKSHOPS



Willow is a fantastic natural and sustainable resource. Here is your chance to explore the wonders of willow and learn all about this amazing plant and it's uses.

Come and join Lin (from Tump Willows) in this fun and relaxed session where you can create and play; we can find a project you engage with and make something fun with willow.

Suitable for ages 16+. £15 per person.

Stow Library, Saturday 6th April, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Bishops Cleeve Library, Saturday 6th April, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Newent Library, Saturday 13th April, 10:15 am to 12:15 pm

Cheltenham Library, Saturday 13th April, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

CATCH THIS BEFORE IT MOVES ON!

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

DID YOU KNOW?

Broadleigh Gardens in Somerset, famed for their bulbs, will be up for sale later this year. Visits and sales are still available now.

www.broadleighbulbs.co.uk

RECYCLING OLD PLASTIC POTS AND COMPOST BAGS

If you have more pots and bags than you can re-use, some garden centres now offer recycling, including Dobbies at Tewkesbury (GL20 7FX) which has large recycling bins in its outdoor plant section.

