

**COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY COTSWOLD GROUP MARCH 2026
NEWSLETTER**



Primula Pollyanna Flame

OUR WINTER PROGRAMME

This has continued with monthly talks in the Abbeyfield Community Centre in Winchcombe on Thursdays between 3.15 and 5pm. There is free onsite parking; refreshments are provided; and there are always plants for sale, free gardening information leaflets and free seeds available.

Our February talk was on auriculas and primulas with Ingrid and John Millington of Hillview Hardy Plants near Bridgnorth.

Ingrid and John covered the different kinds of primulas and auriculas, their history and their cultivation needs with colour photographs to illustrate the immense variety of these plants. 2026 had seen a poor start to the year for auriculas which were behind in their usual growth, but the Millingtons brought a tempting selection of primulas for sale. These hardy plants are addictive!



Prima Belarina Ocean Blue

THURSDAY 19TH MARCH THE STORY OF GOTHERINGTON NURSERIES

Mark will talk to us about his local family business, Gotherington Nurseries, and about his experience of growing and providing plants for both local customers and for exhibitors at shows including Hampton Court.



An online review of Gloucestershire nurseries described Gotherington as “one of those hidden gems that locals love to keep to themselves ...where the focus is firmly on healthy plants and friendly faces.”

The Nurseries stock a wide range of plants and horticultural products and online you will also find a store of very useful fact sheets to help you. Mark is very happy to take questions, so bring along any gardening queries you have and he will try to answer them!

Gotherington Nurseries Gretton Road, Gotherington, GL52 9QY

01242 676722 <https://gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk/>

Weekdays 9am to 5pm; Sundays 10am to 4pm.



CGS SMALL GROUP VISITS

We are in the process of setting up our 2026 programme of small group visits. Let us know of any you would especially like to visit.

Email Natalie: natalie@lestones.plus.com or call 01242 602384.

KEMPLEY DAFFODIL WEEKEND GL18 2BP

14th to 15th March Golden Triangle Wild Daffodil Event www.daffs.org.uk

- Walks and hot drinks from 9.30am at St Edward's Church.
- Food, drinks and barbecue at village hall with stalls including plant sales and raffle.
- Exhibitions and events at St Mary's Norman Church and St Edward's Church. Free "Daffs and Ride" bus to view the area about every 45 minutes (sponsored by Weston's Cider).

LOCAL NGS GARDENS OPEN IN MARCH BY ARRANGEMENT

Have you ever thought about making a private visit to a National Garden Scheme garden? You can arrange an appointment at a time to suit both you and the garden owner, who will lead you round. So you'll get an insider's view on the planting and design before being served a good tea. It's a lovely way of giving a friend a treat or perhaps celebrating a special birthday or anniversary. Many of the Gloucestershire gardens opening by arrangement are only too pleased to host four or five visitors, so don't think you have to join a large group to be welcome.

Here are some Gloucestershire gardens offering private visits in March:

Cotswold Farm, an Arts & Crafts garden at Duntisbourne Abbots near Cirencester (John & Sarah Birchall, 07845 122165; garden@birchall.org.uk)



Kemble House, a landscaped garden with sculptural lime trees and good spring bulbs and magnolias. (Jill Kingston, 07798 830287; kingsjill50@gmail.com).



Moor Wood, at Woodmancote, near Cirencester, holds a National Collection of Rambler Roses, but this valley garden has beautiful shrub colour in spring. (Mr & Mrs Henry Robinson, 07973 688240; henry@moorwoodhouse.co.uk).

Radnors, at Lydbrook, is a five-acre hillside woodland garden above the River Wye. The focus is on wildlife and naturalistic planting that is just emerging in March. (Mary Wood, 01594 861690; woodmary37@gmail.com).



Trench Hill, at Sheepscombe, is a three-acre garden in a spectacular setting overlooking the Painswick valley. Its spring display is second to none. (Celia & Dave Hargrave, 01452 814306; celia.hargrave@outlook.com). Trench Hill is also open on Sunday 15 March (11-6); adult, £5; child, free.

For more details of these openings and other By Arrangement openings throughout the year, look on ngs.org.uk or contact Simone Seward simone.seward@ngs.org.uk

IN BLOOM: HOW PLANTS CHANGED OUR WORLD

This lovely exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford opens on 19th March and runs until 16th August. Tickets are now available to book.

<https://www.ashmolean.org/exhibition/in-bloom-how-plants-changed-our-world>

WINCHCOMBE GARDENING CLUB

7pm for 7.30pm Wednesday 18th March Julie Ritchie of Hoo House Nursery on 'Cut and Come Again'. Abbeyfield Community Centre in Winchcombe. Free to Winchcombe Gardening Club members. Visitors £3.

NATURE IN ART

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR EXHIBITION to 12th April, closed Mondays.

This annual treat has returned, following its launch at the Natural History Museum. Enjoy the 100 winning and commended images from the very latest competition. Selected from over 60,000 entries from 113 countries, this is both beautiful and moving.

<https://natureinart.org.uk/>

Nature in Art hosts many exhibitions and provides art and craft courses throughout the year, some with a botanic focus.

Courses cost £62 a day for Nature in Art members; £79 a day for non-members.

www.natureinart.org.uk/artcourses

22nd March Holly Foskett-Barnes: Spring Wildflower Watercolours

25th April Helen Lomberg: Hazel and Willow Garden Structures

Children's Activities: £8 per child includes entry to the museum for 1 adult and 1 child. Sessions run from 10am to 11.30am and from 1pm to 2.30pm.

Children's Spring Activities include:

Thursday 2nd April Scandinavian Flower Doodles

Wednesday 8th April Yarn butterflies

Exhibition: 24th March to 5th April Gloucestershire Society for Botanical Illustration Annual Exhibition. Admire the work and meet the artists!

For full details of the new programme and to book go to www.natureinart.org.uk A38 Twigworth Gloucester GL2 9PA **2 miles north of Gloucester on A38.SatNav**
Postcode: GL2 9PG. Tel. 01452 731422

COMMON FARM FLOWERS

If it is still too wet to get out in the garden, you can always try an online gardening experience. Flower farmer and florist Georgie Newbery's Common Farm Flowers offers a range of actual and online activities, including demonstrations and workshops.

Online Demonstrations at 5pm, each at £45:

- **Wednesday 4th March** [Shrubs and Perennials for Cut Flower Arrangements](#)
- **Tuesday 24th March** [Spring Propagating Plants](#)

Common Farm Flowers, Barrow Lane, Charlton Musgrove, Somerset, BA9 8HN

Email: georgie@commonfarmflowers.com or call 0196332883.

DID YOU KNOW?

- **CHESTER ZOO HAS BEEN RECOGNISED AS AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT BOTANIC GARDEN.** With its hundreds of exotic plant specimens and five UK national plant collections, it is the first zoo in the UK and only the second in Europe to receive accreditation from Botanic Gardens Conservation International. Some of the plants are virtually extinct in the wild. The indoor Plant Project displays endangered orchids, cacti and pitcher plants <https://www.chesterzoo.org/explore-chester-zoo/plants-gardens>
- **NATIONAL FRUIT SHOW JUDGES HAVE VOTED JAZZ APPLES THE BEST FOR TASTE, CONSISTENCY AND QUALITY FOR THE 8TH TIME.** Developed just 20 years ago, Jazz apples are now grown in Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Essex and Norfolk.
- **GARDENERS WERE ONCE ADVISED TO USE ARSENIC.** The *Floricultural Cabinet*, a 19th century gardening magazine, recommended as "the most effectual method of destroying ants":
"Take equal quantities of loaf sugar, arsenic, and finely powdered dried bread; rub them together in a mortar till they are very well mixed. This should be kept in a bottle, in readiness for laying small quantities near their haunts. Great care is requisite in the use of this mixture for it is injurious to vegetable as well as animal life."

Not recommended practice now!

THE ALPINE SOCIETY PERSHORE SHOW ON 21ST FEBRUARY



The show and plant fair attracted a large crowd - and a film crew from BBC Gardeners' World. There were many splendid and perfect specimens to marvel at in the show hall and gorgeous plants such as Ashwood's hellebores to tempt shoppers.



TO SEND ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER, IDEAS FOR VISITS - OR WITH ANY QUERIES, call 01242 602384 or email:

Robert: robert@lestones.plus.com

Natalie: natalie@lestones.plus.com

Sue: sueatwillowbank@btinternet.com

Or text 07796 106579 to join our **WhatsApp** group