

COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY COTSWOLD GROUP APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



MARCH TALK: THE STORY OF GOTHERINGTON NURSERIES

Mark came to talk to us about the family business he and his wife built up from scratch. The audience was clearly very impressed by Mark's considerable achievements - a result of his extraordinary determination and extremely long hours of hard work. He described how he left school with 3 CSEs, but was enrolled at Pershore College by his head teacher where he began his journey into forestry and horticulture and found his vocation.

Mark's clear passion for machinery has both supported and expanded the scope of his business. Although he employs a diverse range of equipment in his nurseries (for example, to mix compost, plant seeds and pots and move goods around) he still harbours a soft spot for the old grey Fergie he started out with.

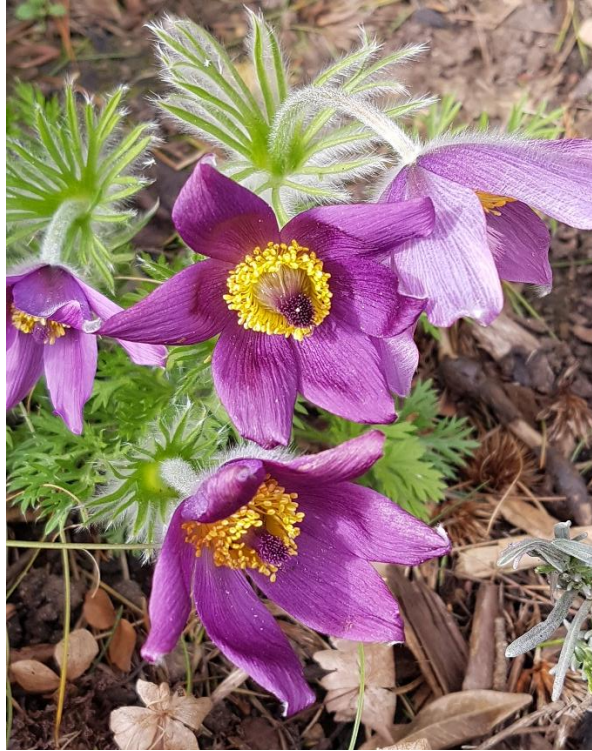
The nurseries remained busy during lockdown delivering to customers who could not come to them. Deliveries are still available now, although it is a delight to wander through the ranks of healthy plants on site and to browse the range of containers and equipment on offer. You can get lots of helpful advice and join the loyalty scheme.

See for yourself if you haven't visited : Gotherington Nurseries Gretton Road, Gotherington, GL52 9QY 01242 676722 . Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm; Sundays 10am to 4pm.

The website also has a range of detailed information sheets you can download:
<https://gotheringtonnurseries.co.uk/>

CGS SMALL GROUP GARDEN VISITS

We are now finalising our programme of garden visits for this year. Information will be sent out shortly. Meanwhile contact Natalie with any questions or suggestions on 01242 602384 or email natalie@lestones.plus.com



SOME NGS GARDENS OPEN LOCALLY IN APRIL

Vanessa, our County NGS Organiser, opens her garden, The Gate at 80 North Street, Winchcombe GL54 5PS, on Sunday 26th April from 1pm to 5pm. £4.50; child free. Home-made teas.

Elsewhere this month you might like to try:

HIGHNAM COURT, HIGHNAM, GLOUCESTER, GL2 8DP

Sunday 5th April – Easter Day 11am -4.30pm. Admission £6, children free. Home-made teas. Donation to other charities.

40 acres of Victorian landscaped gardens surrounding magnificent Grade I* listed 17th century house (not open. The gardens were set out by the artist, Thomas Gambier Parry, and have been lovingly restored by the current owner, Roger Head. There are lakes; shrubberies; a wildflower meadow; multiple rose gardens (5000+ roses); knot gardens; an oriental garden; a newly-constructed white garden; a kitchen garden; multiple wood carvings; and a listed Pulhamite water garden with

grottos and fernery. In the orangery, you can see rare air plants and carnivorous plants.

COTSWOLD GARDEN FLOWERS Sands Lane, Badsey, Evesham, WR11 7EZ

Wednesday 8th April 11am to 4pm Admission £5; children free. Light refreshments.

The garden consists of one acre of stockbeds with thousands of kinds of plants, many of which are unusual and rare. Guided tours are available on NGS open days.

NB Please note this is a working nursery and not a traditional garden.

PRIOR'S PIECE, Mill Street, Prestbury, GL52 3BQ

Saturday 11th April 1pm to 5pm. £5.50; child free. Tea, coffee and cake.

Semi-formal garden with lawns and box hedges. Many interesting trees and shrubs including an enormous magnolia, ginkgos, acers, lilac and Portuguese laurel. In the grounds is an historic dovecote leading to a beautiful tranquil part of the garden. The garden is surrounded by mature trees and historic buildings and has views of the church.

DAYLESFORD HOUSE, DAYLESFORD, GL56 0YG

Wednesday 15th April 1pm – 5pm. Admission £11, children free. Home-made teas. Refreshments in aid of local charity.

18th century landscape grounds with lakeside and woodland walks within wildflower meadows. Large formal walled garden, centred around orchid, peach and working glasshouses. Trellised rose garden. Citrus collection in period orangery. Secret garden, pavilion, and formal pools.

NB The owners have specifically requested that photographs are NOT taken in their garden or grounds. No dogs allowed except guide dogs. It is a very large garden with substantial distances and partial wheelchair access.

SUDELEY CASTLE GARDENS, WINCHCOMBE, GL54 5JD.

Friday 17th April 10am - 3pm. Admission for the gardens only, £10, children £5.

Light refreshments at The Pavilion. 10 award-winning gardens, including The Queen's Garden, filled with many varieties of roses in the Tudor Parterre fashion. The gardens reflect the 1,000 years of the castle's history - the only private castle in England to have a queen buried within the grounds. Katherine Parr, the last and surviving wife of King Henry VIII, lived and died in the castle.

NB A circular route around the gardens is wheelchair accessible, although some visitors may require assistance from their companion.

NB <https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden-list> takes you to a full list of gardens open in April.

PLANT FAIRS AND SALES

12th April

11am – 4pm Rare Plant Fair at The Old Rectory, Quenington, Cirencester GL7 5BN. Old organic garden on banks of Coln River mill race. Tickets on arrival: £8 entry – cash only as poor signal locally! Under 16s free. Parking and refreshments. www.rareplantfair.co.uk

12.30pm – 4pm Cheltenham Horticultural Society Spring Show at Pittville School, Albert Road, Cheltenham GL52 3JD Admission £2.50; Under 16s free. Sales, refreshments and free parking.

MALVERN RHS SPRING SHOW 2026

Following our Silver Gilt Medal achievement last year, we are taking a year out from the hard work of staging a Cottage Garden Society display at the Malvern show in 2026, but will be having a small information stand there. If you would be interested in helping to staff this and have a free entry to the show, please contact Robert or Natalie: call 01242 602384 or email robert@lestones.plus.com or natalie@lestones.plus.com

THE GENEROUS GARDENER LECTURE DAY

The Garden Lecture Days are held in Rodmarton's Arts and Crafts Manor House beginning at 10.30am with coffee and tea before the first talk at 11am. Then there is a two course lunch with wine and elderflower and you have time to explore the garden before the second lecture starts at 2.00pm. The days will end at around 3.30 to 4.00pm with tea and homemade cake.

On 16th April the 2 lectures will offer fascinating insights into garden history, practical gardening tips and world renowned garden design knowledge from Anne Chambers and Vanessa Berridge followed by Emma Mazzullo and Libby Russell.

<https://thegenerousgardener.co.uk/garden-lecture-days-2026/>

Email: sarah@thegenerousgardener.co.uk

Rodmarton Manor, Rodmarton, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 6PF



Geum Totally Tangerine in flower 10 months of the year!

NATURE IN ART

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

Adult Courses cost £62 a day for Nature in Art members; £79 a day for non-members. www.natureinart.org.uk/artcourses

25th April Helen Lomberg: Hazel and Willow Garden Structures

Children's Activities cost £8 per child which 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

Exhibitions:

Until 5th April Gloucestershire Society for Botanical Illustration Annual Exhibition. Admire the work and meet the artists!

'Animal A-Z' opens on Tuesday 21st April and runs until Sunday 7th June 2026, with 26 different exhibits from 26 different artists.

Depicting the incredible diversity found within the natural world, each piece represents a year of the 21st century and highlights the aims of the UN Global Diversity Framework, which aims to halt human-induced species extinction by 2050, restore degraded ecosystems and improve worldwide biodiversity.

For full details of the 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

THE AMAZING LIFE OF BEES

We enjoyed the talk about honeybees earlier this year and this week a fascinating documentary appeared on BBC4 ***My Garden of a Thousand Bees*** filmed by wildlife photographer Martin Dohrn in his Bristol garden during lockdown. If you missed it, you can find it on BBC iPlayer.

It is an amazing close-up study of more than 60 species of bee in just one garden from the largest bumble to the tiny scissor bee – so close that Martin could recognise individual bees and film the minutiae of their lives, as they competed over territory, built complex nests, laid eggs, feasted on flowers and fought off wasp aggressors.



EVER WONDERED IF YOUR PLANTS MIGHT BE HARMFUL TO YOUR PETS?

Admiral Insurance have produced house and garden plant guides for cat and dog owners:

<https://www.admiral.com/resources/pet-hub/health-wellbeing/poisonous-plants-for-dogs>

<https://www.admiral.com/resources/pet-hub/health-wellbeing/poisonous-plants-for-cats>

BECOME A LANDSCAPE AND GARDEN DETECTIVE!

April 22nd 10:00am - 5:00pm. Design West. 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol. BS1 4QA

Love historic parks and gardens? Want to know how and why they were created and find out their history, but don't know where to start? If you would like to become a garden detective, why not take part in a new, **one-day research study day with the Avon & Gloucestershire Gardens Trust and the national Gardens Trust?**

For full information: <https://www.aggt.org.uk/events/become-a-landscape-garden-detective>

FEELING ARTISTIC? TRY STROUD'S PAINT CLUB



SPRING BLOSSOM

**7pm Tuesday 14th April 2026 The Sub Rooms, Stroud (Doors open 18:30)
£35.50 includes both tuition and materials.**

Join the monthly paint night experience. No experience is required and everything you need to paint with is provided. You get 2 hours of expert tuition from a local, professional artist, and leave with a masterpiece of your very own!

To book, please go to the Paint Club at <https://www.thepaintclub.co.uk/events/spring-blossom-at-the-sub-rooms-stroud-1>

GARDEN SCHOOL DAYS AT WYNDCLIFFE COURT HOUSE

St Arvans, Chepstow, NP16 6EY. Tel: 07710138972

Each Garden School Day includes coffee on arrival and a 2-course lunch in the house. The days are meant to be informative and fun with plenty of time to explore the Arts and Crafts Garden with the rose garden designed by Sarah Price in 2018. The groups are comparatively small so everyone has a chance to meet the guest speakers.

Wednesday 22nd April £115

11am Tony Russell, ex head of Westonbirt Arboretum, dendrologist and Forester "extraordinaire": Trees for the 21st Century.

2pm Fiona Pidduck and Liz Colebrook of New Hope specialist daylilies nursery: Day Lilies - Perfect for Busy People.

Thursday 7th May 10am to 4pm £150

Jason Ingram: Garden Photographic Workshop; illustrated talk/demonstration followed by practical outdoor session. Bring your own camera or iphone.

For more information, visit: www.wyndcliffecourt.com

To book, email: sarah@wyndcliffecourt.com



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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