

Horti Programme 2026

The meetings, entry nights and shows all take place at Sibford Village Hall

Wed 11th March Bob Brown **'Trending Plants'**

Bob is a true plantsman and this talk will focus on standout plants, tried and tested favourites that have earned their place in the spotlight for outstanding garden performance, beauty and reliability and personally selected by Bob. His talks are always illuminating, fun and he often brings plants for sale as well.

7pm refreshments
7.30 start

Wed 15th April Carolyn White **'The flower farmer's year'**

Home Close is a delightful Arts and Crafts house and garden in Sibford Ferris. When Carolyn and family moved to the village in 2012 both the house and garden were in need of significant renovation. Post renovation, the two acre garden retains the structure from its historical origin with a series of continually evolving garden rooms all now beautifully planted and maintained.

As well as opening her garden for the NGS, Carolyn is now in her 4th year of growing cut flowers for sale. She will take you through the transition she has made from a 'gardener' to a 'flower farmer' and the rhythm of her year.

Carolyn will talk about the growth in demand for British grown flowers and how she has turned her garden into a flower growing business. Discover her top blooms that work well for cut flower arrangements and what you can harvest and when.

For more information here is a link to her website where you can book workshops, garden tours and afternoon teas.

<https://www.homecloseflowers.co.uk/>

7pm refreshments
7.30 start

Sat 9th May **Plant Sale** **Carter's Yard 10am – 1pm**

This is a wonderful opportunity to see the plants growing in situ and to benefit from the expertise of the garden owner, Sue Bannister, who as well as having grown many of the plants herself, will be happy to answer any horticultural questions.

Wednesday 13th May **Entry Night for Spring Show**
7.00 – 8.00pm

Sat 16th May
2.30 – 4pm **Spring Show** Plant Sale and refreshments

Thu 18th June

Full Day visit

Rodmarton Manor

The Horti has secured a private visit to this renowned Arts and Crafts house and garden; this is a unique opportunity to visit without the crowds.

We begin with a guided tour of the house, built in the early 20th century when furniture was being mass-produced; Ernest Barnsley who designed the house countered this trend by sourcing local materials for the building and commissioning skilled local Cotswold craftsmen and women to do the work and the result is a celebration of the English Arts and Crafts movement at its best. (There is wheelchair access to the ground floor)

After lunch we will enjoy a guided tour of the 8 acre garden which was also designed by Barnsley. He used hedges to create specific outdoor rooms close to the house. Beyond, there are superb vistas and long views into the surrounding countryside, and at the time of our visit, white borders, magnificent herbaceous borders and an abundance of roses. There are also plenty of places to sit and relax before enjoying tea and cake. (Most of the garden is accessible by wheelchair)

Timings and how to book your place:

Meet at the VH at 10am to car share and depart by 10.15am

Drive time is approx 1 hour 15 mins

Arrive 11.15am visit starts at 11.45am with a house tour (1 hour 15 mins) followed by a sandwich lunch. (Please advise of any food intolerances) when booking.

2pm garden tour - 3.15/3.30pm followed by Tea and cake.

Depart approx 4.15pm

Cost: members £26.00,

non members £36.00

Please note, the Horti Society is heavily subsidising this visit which includes 2 guided tours, lunch and tea)

<https://rodmarton-manor.co.uk/>

Address:

Rodmarton Manor

Cirencester

GL7 6PF

How to book:

Please contact our treasurer Paul Harffey to secure your place and **ideally pay by bank transfer from**

March onwards but *before* 28th May

M. 07841 011 403

E. paul_harffey@yahoo.co.uk

Bank Details:

Bank: Lloyds

Account Name: Sibford Horticultural Society

Sort Code: 30-99-50

Account Number: 7028 1268

Friday 10th July

Afternoon visit University College Oxford

The impressive college buildings are set amongst beautiful lawned Quads and gardens, full of colourful borders and mature trees. The gardens constantly change with plantings made to allow for a succession of colour throughout the year, and provide a peaceful haven for study and contemplation.

As well as the main quads our visit will include The Master's Garden. This private garden has been extensively redesigned in recent years. The only part of the original garden is the herbaceous border and an established Magnolia in the lawn. The herbaceous border is a riot of colour from May through to October, starting the year with Iris and Geranium in bloom and ending with asters, penstemon and geraniums throughout the summer and autumn.

The microclimate in the sheltered old library courtyard is ideal for the new Herb Garden that was planted in the summer of 2016. The herbs are used for cooking by the College kitchen.

Visit begins at 2.30pm

Cost of the visit £10 includes garden entry, garden tour with head gardener Tom Bartlett and refreshments:

Getting there:

Drive to Peartree Park and Ride

Post code:

OX2 8JZ

What 3 words for the main entrance (Porter's Lodge) of University College Oxford (Univ) on High Street is **///enable.trades.season**

Drive time from Sibford 45 minutes to the Park and Ride (allow time to park your car). Anyone with a bus pass goes free and at the time of writing the park and ride is free but do check on the day. Buses run every 10 minutes.

From the Park and Ride, allow another 45 minutes to get to University College.

Directions:

Alight in George street opposite the New Theatre

It is then just a 15 minute walk to University College (Univ) as follows:

Walk back to Cornmarket Street, continue straight until you reach the High Street. Turn left into High Street and continue straight down the High Street and Univ is on the right with a full length statue of Cecil Rhodes above the entrance.

Several of you have said that you would like to take this opportunity to visit the Ashmolean in the morning. If you are planning on doing that and you would like to visit the "In Bloom" exhibition you will need to buy timed tickets ahead of your visit.

Here is the link:

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

There are plenty of places for lunch including a restaurant and café in the Ashmolean and a multitude of snack bars in the covered market.

To secure your place for the garden visit:

Please contact our treasurer Paul Harffey and then pay by bank transfer **ideally from April onwards but by 30th June.**

M. 07841 011 403

E. paul.harffey@yahoo.co.uk

Bank Details:

Bank: Lloyds
Account Name: Sibford Horticultural Society
Sort Code: 30-99-50
Account Number: 7028 1268

Please would you contact Véronique by 1st July if you have space in your car or if you would like a lift

L - 01295 788 088

M - 07963 029 273

E - veronique@humangivens.com

Wed 26th August	Entry Night for Summer Show	7.00 – 8.00pm
Sat 29rd August	Summer Show	Plant sale and refreshments 2.30 – 4pm
14th October	Diane Clement	‘A garden for all seasons’ 7pm refreshments 7.30 start

Diane has a flower in bloom every day of the year in her shady Wolverhampton garden half of which only gets to see the sun for 6 months of the year. She does this through making full use of all areas of the garden and with an understanding of the needs of different plants including aspect, sun and moisture. She will share her knowledge and take us through a detailed look at planting round her garden at all times of year. She promises lots of practical ideas for increasing the flowering season.

Diane is also a specialist in growing alpinists and woodland plants and has recently been awarded the Lyttel Trophy for making an outstanding contribution to the world of alpine plants. If you have any queries in those areas, save them for the Q&A after the talk.

Wed 11th Nov	Timothy Walker	‘The subtle science and exact art of colour in English garden design’
7pm for mulled wine and mince pies 7.30pm start		

Always entertaining and informative; this is Timothy’s very personal and unique take on the plants that feature in the celebration of Christmas.

2027

13th February

All day Visit

**Snowdrop walk
Thenford Arboretum and gardens**

Please make your own arrangements and book this day online.
Thenford can accommodate 450 visitors and there is plenty of parking.

The arboretum, which is only 30 minutes drive from Sibford, is spread out over 70 acres, featuring a collection of more than 3000 different trees and shrubs and a snowdrop collection featuring over 900 varieties.

Some of our members visited in February 2026 and on arrival they were invited to attend 4 talks snowdrop talks in the lecture theatre. Each talk was limited to 50 attendees and there was no extra charge. Light lunches and afternoon teas were available at a reasonable price. Tea and coffee were available throughout the day.

As well as enjoying a variety of snowdrops in a woodland setting, this is an opportunity to meet plant collectors and breeders some of whom have stalls selling sometimes very rare snowdrops. Best not to look at the price tag! More common but unusual varieties are reasonably priced.

Please note:

The perimeter of the gardens is extensive with rough terrain in some parts, which may not be suitable for everyone

Car parking is free of charge

Visitors can't bring dogs unless they are Assistance Dogs.

<https://thenfordarboretum.com/snowdrops-walks-thenford/>