

# *Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies*

Registered Charity Number 257391



**Affiliated to the RHS**



*News Spring 2018*

## Notice

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018  
2pm for 2.30pm

Kiftsgate Court  
Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, GL55 6LN  
By kind permission of Mrs Anne Chambers

This is your opportunity to hear what the Federation has been working on during 2017 and to learn about our hopes and plans for the future. It is also your chance to discuss issues with members of the Executive. Our President, Mrs. Chambers has invited members who attend to visit the gardens at Kiftsgate Court after the meeting.



Kiftsgate Garden in April 2015

If you would like to make a day of it you could visit the gardens at Hidcote, GL55 6LR a National Trust garden in the morning as it is very close to Kiftsgate Court.

\*\*\* A Reminder to Show Secretaries \*\*\*

## GFGS Centenary Table Top Competition 2018

As part of the centenary celebrations we will be running an inter club 'Table Top' competition that will not involve any extra work for hard pressed show secretaries!

There will be two competitions, a Spring Competition and a Summer Competition. After your show has been judged you are asked to create a display using a minimum of 6 and maximum of 8 exhibits from those entered in the horticultural section on a table top.

This display should be photographed and a maximum of 5 digital images and a copy of your show schedule should be emailed to the following address [tabletop2018@gfgs.org.uk](mailto:tabletop2018@gfgs.org.uk)

The Spring Competition will run from the start of the show season until the 30th June 2018 and all entries for this competition should be submitted before the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018, entries after this date will not be judged.

The Summer Competition will run from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018 until the 30th September 2018 and all entries for this competition should be submitted before the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2018, entries after this date will not be judged.

The following prizes will be awarded, £100 Gold, £75 Silver, £50 Bronze, others may be awarded at the Judge's discretion, and these prizes will be offered for both the Spring and Summer Competitions.

Both competitions will be judged by members of the GFGS Guild of Judges, the Spring Competition in July and the Summer Competition in October.

All affiliated clubs/societies that hold shows are eligible to enter; if you hold both a Spring Show and a Summer Show you may enter both competitions.

Note - If Show Secretaries have any questions relating to the competition please use the email address above to contact us.

Please note the dates for judging the above competitions have now been confirmed

Spring entries will be judged on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Summer entries will be judged on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Please ensure your entries are submitted before these dates!

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If you would like to advertise your club/societies show or event please send a copy of your Show Poster/Schedule or Event information by email to, [secretary@gfgs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@gfgs.org.uk) or by snail mail to,

Rod Wells, 15 Lapwing Close, Tewkesbury, Glos., GL20 8TN.

# Centenary Celebration Lecture

Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, GL7 6JS  
2.00pm Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018

## Timothy Walker

[www.timothywalker.org.uk](http://www.timothywalker.org.uk)

Former Director of the Oxford Botanic Garden & Harcourt Arboretum will help us to celebrate by giving a lecture,

### ‘WHAT HAVE PLANTS EVER DONE FOR US!’

Tickets are priced at £6.00 (Includes free raffle entry)

You are invited to organise the purchase of tickets for your members in advance of the event being more widely advertised.

Your members may also apply individually if they wish.

So the message is book early to avoid disappointment!

For further information please email [secretary@gfgs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@gfgs.org.uk)  
or use the contact us form at <http://www.gfgs.org.uk/gfgs/contact.htm>

\*\*\* A booking form is included with this newsletter \*\*\*

## *Jottings from Hawkesbury...*

George Bush (The Elder) said "I do not like broccoli. And I haven't liked it since I was a little kid and my mother made me eat it. And I'm President of the United States and I'm not going to eat any more broccoli."

This came to mind when I was scanning the menu at a pub when my companion, an Italian, asked what I was having. I said that I was looking for something that did not come with 'a selection of seasonal vegetables' or something similar because I don't much like them. He looked at me like he had found a long lost kinsman. 'Me neither!' he said. 'Especially sprouts and broccoli'. Men after my own heart – Presidents and Italians.

Our garden looks like a battlefield because the snow ripped off branches and flattened shrubs. It will all bounce back because that is what plants do. They just need a little help. Meanwhile snowdrops are out and daffodils are ready to bloom. Ain't nature wonderful?

### **Our speaker for February was John Mason from Highfield Garden World who taught us all about Pruning.**

John first outlined how garden centres have changed since the Highfield Centre was first set up. It is clear that today few people are actually gardeners in the classic sense – they are now mostly shoppers who happen to buy a plant now and then. They have, for instance, no idea what a bare-rooted plant is – everything must come in a pot. Even then nothing is fool-proof. One customer complained that a pot of raspberry canes he had bought weren't growing many months after being planted. John told him to bring them back, which he did. There were 10 canes in the pot and they were still tied together in a bundle just as the guy had bought them. I'm saying nothing!

Furthermore, hardly anyone one gardens for 12 months of the year anymore, hence the need to provide shopping and eating and quaffing facilities at garden centres in order to keep the business alive.

Johns approach to pruning is very refreshing, particularly when compared to the kind of dross we are bombarded with by TV 'experts'. Simply put - prune like the grim reaper. Cut it short. Sometimes even down to ground level. Show no mercy. The plant will love it. Simply, if it flowers in the Spring then prune after the flowers are finished. If it flowers in the Summer then prune in the Spring. Some plants can take any treatment but if you manage to prune a Euonymus to death then it's time to give up gardening altogether.

There are exceptions of course e.g. do not prune box until after Derby Day. Let it grow strongly until then. Just like Granny told you.

You do not need to be a gardener to attend our meetings and there are advantages to becoming a member, such as discounted seeds and coach trips. If you are not a member and would like to hear a speaker that takes your fancy then come along as a guest for just £3.00.

For further information contact Terry Truebody on 01454 238364

*Terry Truebody*



ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY

COTSWOLD & MALVERN GROUP

## SPRING SHOW & PLANT SALE

Maisemore Village Hall  
Church Road  
Maisemore  
Gloucestershire  
GL2 8JE

EASTER MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2018

Admission £2.50\*

\*AGS Members & Accompanied Children Free

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### Springtime

The sight of snowdrops on this early spring morn  
With the sun in the sky it looked and felt warm  
Those long winter days seem a distant past  
With the birds in full song, long may it last?

The buds on the fruit trees have opened their eyes  
With the sun comes the blossom to no surprise  
A hedgehog awakes from his long winter sleep  
Taking no notice to all he might meet.

The sights and colours of springtime  
The smell of freshly cut grass  
A sparrow in the hedgerow going to and fro  
Building her nest where her youngsters will grow.

Iris Wright.

## **NEW SPEAKER**

**Nick Morgan**

**2 Crown Meadow, Coalway, Coleford, Glos. GL16 7HF**

**Telephone: 01594 835571**

**Email: [1951nickmorgan@gmail.com](mailto:1951nickmorgan@gmail.com)**

### **Titles of talk(s)**

- Making the most of your greenhouse.
- The Great glasshouse Wisley, concept to completion.
- A considered approach to managing garden pests and diseases.
- Pot plants in the home.

All talks are extensively illustrated with digital images and can be modified to provide more in-depth information. I am happy to consider requests for other topics and presentation formats.

- Fee: negotiable plus travelling expenses
- Travel any distance
- All own equipment provided

Availability: any time normally

Nick Morgan. M Hort. RHS

Retired to Gloucestershire in 2016 after 23 years working in key roles within the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) as RHS Horticultural Specialist and Superintendent of the RHS Garden Wisley glass and propagation departments. I have been a member of the RHS Tender Ornamental Plant Committee, trained as an advisor by the Independent Standards Organisation (BASIS) for pesticides, fertilisers for amenity horticulture, and hold the RHS Master of Horticulture award. I have enjoyed speaking to garden clubs throughout the UK and abroad. In retirement I would love to continue to share my knowledge and inspire others to enjoy their garden.

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# Sculpture at Kingham Lodge – Part of Oxfordshire Artweeks

Open 5<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018

**Open for one week only** - Kingham Lodge's 4th biennial sculpture show is open from 5-13<sup>th</sup> May, giving the public the chance to see a new Moorish Pavilion inspired by the beauty of Grenada's Alhambra. With towers, courtyard and more, it stands in the centre of the garden with colonnades and lions hand carved in India and Africa, all assembled by local stone masons building with local stone.

A piece of sculpture in its own right, the pavilion stands proud in the centre of a fabulous five acre sculpture exhibition for Oxfordshire Artweeks during which over 30 local and 40 Zimbabwean artists as well as 14 schools will exhibit hundreds of pieces of sculpture (from £10-20,000).

## The Garden

Planted over the past two decades, unusually for the Cotswolds, situated on sand over gravel allowing ericaceous plants not normally seen in the Cotswolds to grow here.

The year starts with aconites then thousands of snowdrops giving way to anemones, and specie tulips and then daffodils, tulips, erythroniums and many other later bulbs and irises. From January to July a rhododendron is in bloom somewhere with big displays in May, including the laburnum arch along with the azaleas.

Highlights include a formal 150 metre border, backed with trellis, shaded walk ways with multi-layered planting, an informal quarry pond and formal mirror pond, a massive pergola and parterre and the unique Islamic garden.

## The Event

Established in 2012 this biennial charitable event has attracted thousands of visitors including hundreds of school children and raised over £80,000 for charity. There is a pop-up cafe with homemade soups and cakes, children's sculpture trail, toilets, wheelchair access and dogs on leads are welcome.

Further details at [www.sculptureatkinghamlodge.com](http://www.sculptureatkinghamlodge.com)

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## **WIGMORE & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB - PLANT SALE**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May, between 2pm and 4pm

Wigmore Village Hall, Ford Street, Herefordshire, HR6 9UW.

Wigmore and District Gardening Club will be selling vegetable seedlings, herbs, herbaceous plants, shrubs and annuals of all sorts, plus gardening sundries, at their annual plant sale. These have all been donated by members so the prices and the quality are good. Always an enjoyable and busy event, so arrive early and please bring bags. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available and a large share of proceeds will go to local charities.



Old Rectory Gardens Open in aid of the British Red Cross

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – Open 2 to 6pm

Entrance Adults: £5.00, children under 12 free

Old Rectory, Church Road, Quenington, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7  
5BN

(The Old Rectory is located 2 miles north of Fairford).

Further details [www.redcross.org.uk](http://www.redcross.org.uk)

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British Cactus & Succulent Society - Gloucester & District Branch  
**Cactus Show**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018

11am – 4pm

Shurdington Social Centre, Bishop Road, Shurdington, GL51 4TB

Admission £1

Plants for Sale – Light Refreshments – Plant Advice

[www.gloucester.bcsc.org.uk](http://www.gloucester.bcsc.org.uk)

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Rockcliffe House Gardens Open in aid of the British Red Cross

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – Open 12 to 5pm

Entrance Adults: £5.00

Rockcliffe House, Upper Slaughter, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL54 2JW

Further details [www.redcross.org.uk](http://www.redcross.org.uk)

## Gardeners' World Live

Gardeners World Live is on from June 14<sup>th</sup> to June 17<sup>th</sup>  
at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

Full details at [www.bbcgardenersworldlive.com](http://www.bbcgardenersworldlive.com)

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## The Village Show

Part of the Royal Three Counties Show, 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018

The Royal Three Counties Show are attempting to increase the horticultural element at this primarily agricultural event; for the past three years we have run the 'Village Show' which is a traditional unaffiliated horticultural event which is open to everyone.

Along with the Royal Three Counties Show we are looking to encourage more residents of the Three Counties including Gloucestershire to take part in the 'Village Show' competitions so with this newsletter we have included a show schedule and an entry form. Please make your members aware of this event.

Further details can be found at,

<https://www.royalthreecounties.co.uk/whats-on/gardening-hub/>

Or contact Richard Heath, Shows Executive, Three Counties Showground  
Tel: 01684 584906

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## Berkeley Show

The Berkeley Show is planned for Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup> in  
Castle Meadow at Berkeley Castle.

The schedule for the horticultural classes is on the 'Competitions page'  
of the show website, [www.berkeleyshow.co.uk](http://www.berkeleyshow.co.uk)

## TWO SHOWS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE...!

Saturday 21st July 1.00pm - 4.00pm

Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies

8th Annual Open Sweet Pea Show

Shurdington Social Centre

Bishop Road (off Church Lane), Shurdington, Gloucestershire, GL51 4TB

Further information from the Show Secretary, 15 Dunster Road, Springbank,

Cheltenham, GL51 0NL or email [casallot15@gmail.com](mailto:casallot15@gmail.com)

[www.gfgs.org.uk/shows/schedules/opensweetpeashow2018.pdf](http://www.gfgs.org.uk/shows/schedules/opensweetpeashow2018.pdf) View/Download a Show Schedule

[www.gfgs.org.uk/shows/schedules/showingsweetpeas.pdf](http://www.gfgs.org.uk/shows/schedules/showingsweetpeas.pdf) Advice Sheet on Showing Sweet Peas

Cotswold Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society

Annual Fuchsia & Pelargonium Show

Shurdington Social Centre,

Bishop Road (off Church Lane), Shurdington, Gloucestershire, GL51 4TB

Further information from the Show Secretary, 15 Dunster Road, Springbank,

Cheltenham, GL51 0NL or email [casallot15@gmail.com](mailto:casallot15@gmail.com)

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Saturday 11th August from 2:00pm

Churchdown Horticultural Society 68th Annual Show

Churchdown Community Centre

Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucester, GL3 2JH

Further information from Rebecca Henwood [churchdown.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:churchdown.secretary@gmail.com)

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Saturday 11th August from 2:30pm

Norton, Leigh & District 71st Horticultural Show

Norton Village Hall, Old Tewkesbury Road, Norton, Glos. GL2 9LJ

Further information from the Show Secretary, Jess Beeson Tel: 07894 037843

Saturday 25th August from 1.00pm

Stow Flower & Produce Show

Stow on the Wold Primary School

St Edwards Drive, Stow on the Wold, Gloucestershire, GL54 1AW

For further info contact Chris Small 07702 425 554 or Email [chrissmall.stow@gmail.com](mailto:chrissmall.stow@gmail.com)

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## GFGS Guild of Judges Meetings 2018

Saturday 19th May 2018 – Judging Vegetables

Saturday 7th July 2018 - Judging GFGS Spring Centenary Table Top Competition Entries

Saturday 6th October 2018 - Judging GFGS Summer Centenary Table Top Competition Entries

Meetings 2pm - 4pm in the skittle alley at the

Avenue Hotel, 227 Bristol Road, Gloucester, GL1 5TH

(Car park off Tuffley Avenue)

If you have an interest in becoming a judge or just an interest in the subject of the meeting please feel free to attend, although it would be helpful if we knew you were coming!

No previous experience needed so why not come along and find out all about becoming a judge?

Further details at [www.gfgs.org.uk](http://www.gfgs.org.uk) or email [guildofjudges@gfgs.org.uk](mailto:guildofjudges@gfgs.org.uk).

# BOOKING FORM

## Centenary Celebration Lecture

Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, GL7 6JS  
2.00pm Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018

Timothy Walker, former director of the Oxford Botanic Garden & Harcourt Arboretum will help us to celebrate by giving a lecture, 'WHAT HAVE PLANTS EVER DONE FOR US'

I would like to order.....tickets for the above lecture and enclose a cheque for £.....

**\*Please also enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope\***

\*Please make cheques payable to 'Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies'

Name.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Email.....

Telephone.....

\*Please note your details will be kept on a spreadsheet for administration purposes only and deleted the day after the event (23/09/2018). Your details will not be passed to a third party.

Your order for tickets should be sent to one of the following,

Rod Wells, 15 Lapwing Close, TEWKESBURY, GL20 8TN.

Alan Cursue, 87 Brookfield Road, Hucclecote, GLOUCESTER, GL3 3HH.

For further information please email [secretary@gfgs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@gfgs.org.uk)  
or use the contact form at <http://www.gfgs.org.uk/gfgs/contact.htm>