

Programme of garden visits for 2022

DATE	TIME	COST	VISIT
Thursday 7 th April Private local visit	2 pm	£10.00	Compton Elms, Marlow Road, Pinkneys Green, Maidenhead SL6 6NR. We kick off our year with a visit to the delightful spring garden of Compton Elms. Make your own way to the garden for our private visit which starts at 2pm and will include light refreshments. The garden is set in a sunken woodland, lovingly recovered from old clay pit workings. The atmospheric garden is filled with snowdrops, primroses, hellebores and fritillaries, interspersed with anemone and narcissi under a canopy of ash and beech.
Thursday 21 st April 2pm Private local visit	2 pm	£12.00	Orchard House, Tower Road, Coleshill HP7 0LB. Make your own way to another local private visit to a garden rarely open to the public. Our visit will include tea and homemade cakes. Set high in the Chilterns, this five-acre garden is made up of two wooded areas, a wild flower meadow, two large ponds and a bog garden with a board walk. There are avenues of Silver Birch and Eco hedges to encourage wildlife and beehives in meadow grasses. Nearer the house, a raised garden area with raised beds provides vegetables and flowers for cutting. The garden has been lovingly created by the current owners.
Thursday 12 th May Private local visit	2 pm	£6	St Michael's Convent Garden, Vicarage Way, Gerrards Cross, SL9 8AT. A very local private visit – Meet at 2pm. This is a private visit to the well-established two-acre garden with mature trees and shrubs, rockery in a shady grove, and a walled garden being developed for vegetables. There is a colony of honeybees, and some 'wild' areas to encourage wildlife. We will be shown round by Sister Hilda Mary; there are light refreshments after the tour. There is no charge but a charitable donation of £6.00 is suggested. This visit is repeated on 26 th May as places are limited. https://stmichaelsconvent.sistersofthechurch.org/garden
Thursday 19 th May Private local visit	10.15am	£22 includes lunch	Waltham Place Gardens , Church Hill, White Waltham, Berkshire SL6 3JH. Make your own way to this unique garden to meet at 10.15am. Parking is available. We will be having a private visit and tour of the garden followed by lunch. Waltham Place, a 220-acre organic and biodynamic farm and garden which offers a unique opportunity for visitors to explore a series of naturalistic gardens, surrounding countryside and learn about the importance of sustainability and biodiversity. The philosophy of the gardener here is to work with the nature of the place, adapting and evolving to its ecology rather than producing a decorated garden. A series of walled gardens, the oldest dating from the 17th century, an English landscape garden with splendid specimen trees planted in the early 19th century, and a huge double border enclosed by yew hedges are the main features of the ornamental gardens. Within this framework many intimate areas invite the visitor to pause and contemplate, for here new gardening concepts are afoot. The Dutch garden designer Henk Gerritsen, renowned for the Priona gardens in the Netherlands, was commissioned in 1999 to transform the formal gardens using his principles of natural plantings. https://www.walthamplace.com/

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Thursday 26th May Private local visit	2 pm	£6	St Michael's Convent Garden, Vicarage Way, Gerrards Cross, SL9 8AT. A very local private visit – Meet at 2pm. This is a repeat of the visit on 12 th May. We will be shown round by Sister Hilda Mary; there are light refreshments after the tour. There is no charge but a charitable donation of £6.00 is suggested. https://stmichaelsconvent.sistersofthechurch.org/garden
Thursday 16th June Private visit /Coach trip	Full day	TBA - includes lunch	Fullers Mill Garden and Ousden House garden Suffolk . The first of our full day coach trips to two delightful gardens in Suffolk. Our morning visit to Fullers Mill garden includes a private tour of the garden. We move onto Ousden House for a private visit starting with a two-course lunch(included) after which we tour the garden. Fullers Mill Garden is an enchanting and tranquil waterside and woodland garden, situated on the banks of the River Lark at West Stow in Suffolk. It combines a beautiful site of light dappled woodland with a fabulous collection of rare and unusual shrubs, perennials, lilies and marginal plants. Ousden House is a historic house with a remarkable 12-acre garden which includes extensive herbaceous borders, a rose garden, water garden, a long double crinkle yew hedge, formal courtyard, clock tower and dovecote. https://perennial.org.uk/garden/fullers-mill-garden/
Thursday 30th June Coach trip	Full day	TBA - includes lunch	Hidcote (National Trust) and Kiftsgate Court Gardens, Cotswolds. A full day coach trip to the famous National Trust garden at Hidcote, where we arrive mid-morning, followed by the beautiful garden at nearby Kiftsgate where we go for lunch (included) before time in the afternoon exploring this wonderful garden. We are free to walk round both gardens as we choose. Hidcote is an Arts and Crafts garden in the north Cotswolds. It was created by the talented American horticulturist, Major Lawrence Johnston and its colourful and intricately designed outdoor 'rooms' are always full of surprises. Kiftsgate is a beautiful garden with many 'rooms' and great views. It is famous for Rosa filipes 'Kiftsgate' which takes up half the space on one side of the Rose Border. The vigour shown by this rose, which is claimed to be the largest in England, produces huge growth each year and three trees have been smothered by its spreading habit. https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hidcote and kiftsgate.co.uk
Thursday 14th July Coach trip	Full day	TBA	Woolbeding gardens (National Trust), West Sussex, plus Midhurst for lunch. Nestled in a quiet corner of West Sussex lies a true horticultural haven bursting with colourful planting, sensational views and a whole host of surprises. Very much a private garden with limited opening, we will have a 15-minute Introductory Talk before exploring the gardens at our own pace. Woolbeding are currently in the process of confirming their catering offer for 2022, however, following our visit, we will head into nearby Midhurst for a late(ish) lunch (own expense) and an opportunity to look around the town. We will travel by coach. https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/woolbeding-gardens and https://visitmidhurst.com/

DATE	TIME	COST	VISIT
Tuesday 16 th August – Coach trip/(semi) private visit	Full day	TBA	Broughton Grange, near Banbury. A coach trip to Broughton Grange Gardens, set in over 400 acres of beautifully undulating north Oxfordshire countryside. The gardens at over 130 acres have been extensively renovated and developed over the past 20 years. The centrepiece is an impressive three-terraced walled garden created by Chelsea gold medal-winning designer Tom Stuart-Smith. Cleverly walled on two sides, the walled garden contrasts the form of topiary with wild luxuriant herbaceous planting whilst softly framing a rural backdrop. There are many other areas to see including a stumpery, woodland garden, knot garden, wildflower meadows, water meadow, parterre and rose garden, long borders and a large arboretum full of interesting trees. In 2018 Broughton Grange Gardens won the European Garden Heritage Network award for the best development of a historic park or garden. We will have an introductory talk about the garden after which we will have lunch (bring a picnic or purchase a packed lunch). You will then be free to explore the gardens followed by light refreshments before returning home. https://www.broughtongrange.com/
Wednesday 7 th September Private local visit	2 pm	£15	“Green and Gorgeous”, Baliffs House, Little Stoke, Wallingford, OX10 6AX. Make your own way to “Green and Gorgeous” for a tour, flower demonstration, tea and cake. The Green and Gorgeous flower farm has over two acres of flower fields, orchards, and herb and vegetable beds. It is buzzing and singing with life. https://www.greenandgorgeousflowers.co.uk/
Thursday 29 th September Coach trip	12 - 4pm	TBA - includes lunch	The Savill Garden, Wick Lane, Englefield Green, Egham TW20 0UJ. We round off our visits this year with a trip to the inspiring Savill Gardens, part of Windsor Great Park. Our organised group visit starts with lunch followed by a one hour guided tour of the garden. There is then free time to explore the garden at leisure and visit the shop. The Arts festival will also be in full swing during our visit. This natural haven of beautifully designed gardens and woodland can be enjoyed by everyone, from dedicated horticulturists to those who just want to spend a relaxing day out. There are 35 acres of interconnected gardens. https://www.windsorgreatpark.co.uk/en/experiences/the-savill-garden