

ALLAGOGG

The Newsletter of the
Gloucestershire Organic Gardening
Group
ISSUE 94



Spring 2022

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FLEECE

FLEECE width 3 metres @ 75p per metre

Contact Anne Matthias 01452 614214 to place your order, which will be brought to the next meeting. Monies to be paid to Stella Ellis

Fleece is finely spun polypropylene and can be used for crop protection, especially for protection against carrot fly or for

aid to germination for more difficult crops.

DUNDRY NURSERIES MEMBERS' DISCOUNT

Dundry Nurseries, Bamfurlong Lane, Staverton, near Cheltenham.

Members are entitled to 10% discount on production of the current GOGG Programme Card (which is available from Lorna when you pay your subscription)

The nursery can be contacted on 01452 713124.

Cover photo:

Cyclamen Coum in Brenda Jones garden

GOGG has associate membership of **GARDEN ORGANIC**.

Any member wishing to use the Group's ticket for members to visit Ryton Gardens should contact Stella Ellis on 01242 230442(Please check opening on the GO website: www.gardenorganic.org.uk)

NATURE NOTES SPRING 2022

March began more or less as February ended with changeable weather but by mid-month a high pressure system moved in to give us a spell of sunny and unseasonably warm weather. This brought our Victoria plum and the large blackthorn trees at the bottom of the garden into glorious full blossom which inevitably meant that the weather turned much colder for the last few days of the month and the start of April- the infamous “blackthorn winter “ again!! Fortunately the weather warmed up by the middle of the month to give us a beautiful sunny and warm Easter holiday with temperatures reaching 20C. After Easter, the weather remained dry but an easterly wind kept the temperature down although it could be quite pleasant in a sunny and sheltered spot.

The late winter flowers such as snowdrops and crocuses soon gave way to the early spring flowers as the weather warmed up in March with daffodils to the fore as usual. In the Dymock area of the county, the wild daffodils gave a wonderful display in the local woods and along the hedgerows. Sadly most of the meadows where daffodils grew in their thousands have been lost to modern agricultural changes but a few remain to give an idea of what they were like when the Great Western Railway ran special trains from London and Birmingham for people to pick the blooms. On the hills around Cheltenham, the earliest flowers to bloom are the various violets such as sweet and dog violets although there is a small patch of what I think are wild daffodils on Leckhampton Hill which I expect were planted there rather than having arrived of their own volition! With regard to the violets we have noticed that the white versions seem to flower before the blue shades although they are still the same species. Funnily enough we noticed that in the garden the white snakeshead fritillaries flowered before the more normal chequered flowers which give the plant its common name. This may be

just a coincidence of course but perhaps there is a reason why white flowers should open first- less light needed perhaps!! As well as the wild daffodils in the woods around Dymock, the wood anemones also seem to have spread and a local dog walker in Betty Daw's Wood told us that it was the best the wild flowers had been in the 20 odd years she had lived in the area. The excellent show of wood anemones was repeated in Lineover and Crickley Hill Woods where they have continued to flourish. Much less common in the Cotswold woodlands are wood sorrel which seems to prefer less calciferous soils such as on the Malverns where it is widespread. However I found a lovely patch of these delicate white flowers on the bridleway leading up to Shurdington Hill around the foot of an old tree. Presumably many years of leaf litter have altered the soil's PH enough to make it suitable for the plants. I have also found wood sorrel growing in old tree stumps in Lineover Wood which must have a similar effect.

There are certainly lots of lovely flowers to see in deciduous woodland in spring but the main attraction is surely the bluebell where it carpets the woodland floor. This year the bluebells in Lineover have been better than ever despite the competition from other plants particularly wild garlic and dog's mercury. Unfortunately dog's mercury has a tiny plain flower but the garlic of course gives a pretty spectacular display itself with carpets of pure white flowers carpeting areas where they are the dominant species. Wild garlic is not confined to woodland and over the years I have seen it gradually spreading along the River Chelt into the heart of the town in Sandford Park. After these spectacular displays some of the rarer specialties of the Cotswold woods begin to flower in Lineover and I need to look out for the lily of the valley, Solomon's seal and early purple orchids. Most interesting however are the strange flowers of herb Paris which can often be found growing amongst the dog's mercury. There was some concern that the climate crisis might reduce bluebells because of trees coming into leaf earlier and shading them out but of course the woodland flowers have responded by flowering earlier as well! Another spring flower which seems to have

benefited from the warming climate is alkanet which is flowering along many of the footpaths around us as well as in the garden. Originally a native of south west Europe, in the past this plant may have been regarded as a bit of a weed but, as a relative of borage and comfrey, it's electric blue flowers look striking en masse. Also it flowers over a long period and is a great bee plant so its not unwelcome!

In order to hear the birds as well as possible this Spring I had the wax removed from my ears and this has proved an excellent investment. Birdsong got off to a rather slow start and in particular our local blackbirds seemed reluctant to get into their full melodic voice until the arrival of the warmer weather. But once they joined the local robins, great and blue tits, they were quickly joined by the arrival of lots of chiffchaffs with their cheerful two note song sounding the arrival of our first summer visitors. Although skylarks are very common on Cleeve Hill's wide acres of unimproved grassland I do not hear them so frequently on the other hills around Cheltenham so it is always a pleasure to find fields just back from the escarpment where 1 or 2 can be heard giving their lovely continuous song from high above my head. I can report that I heard my first cuckoo on Leckhampton Hill on May 2nd but I suspect that it was just passing through on its way to the north country.

Despite the 2 warm and sunny spells in March and April, we have seen very few butterflies in the garden and round our area. The most numerous have been brimstones and speckled woods with plenty of holly blues, large whites and a few peacocks. In the last week of April however some orange tips turned up in the garden which is sheltered from the easterly winds which were predominating at the time. The serious decline in butterflies here is illustrated by the fact that on a sunny Easter in our early years in Leckhampton over 30 years ago, we would normally see 10 species in a day in the garden. First came brimstones, peacocks, commas and small tortoiseshells which overwinter as adults followed by large, small and green veined whites,

orange tips, holly blues and speckled woods which overwinter as a chrysalis awaiting warmer weather before transforming into adult butterflies. So I wonder whether as the number of butterflies in the countryside has steadily declined, butterflies have not needed to spread out into more suburban and urban areas to find suitable food sources. In fact only the speckled woods which like the hedgerows along our footpaths seem to be present in reasonable numbers. After the cold wet May we had last year, I fear that the late spring species will only be present in very small numbers and the rarer species could be very hard to find this year.

An interesting insect which turns up in the garden in early spring amongst the queen bees and wasps is the bee fly (*Bombylius major*) which can be seen feeding on flowers and hovering around in the sunshine. The bee fly is easily recognised by its large size, furry bee-like body and long, rigid proboscis which it uses to reach deeply into flowers. It seems a very friendly insect as it hovers in front of your eyes before darting away and is of course a useful pollinator of early fruit blossom. However, beneath this friendly adult behaviour lies a much darker secret as their young are in fact a predator of solitary bees for the female lays her eggs around the holes where the solitary bees have laid their eggs. Once the grubs hatch out, they crawl into the nest holes and eat the grubs of the bees and their stored food. This seems bad but of course part of a natural pattern of life which keeps the bee flies in balance with the bees and won't destroy bee populations in the same way as modern bee killing chemicals such as neonicotinoids may if their use is permitted again.

In order to get these notes into this Allagogg, I've only covered the first two months of spring but April brings such an explosion of new life that I hope you have found something of interest here. This explosion seems so much greater now that the climate crisis has brought forward the flowering of plants and trees that would previously not have appeared until May like bluebells and may blossom. Anyway let's hope for a good summer with plenty of warm sunny days but sufficient rain for our crops. Vic Ellis 4/5/22

Water in the organic garden



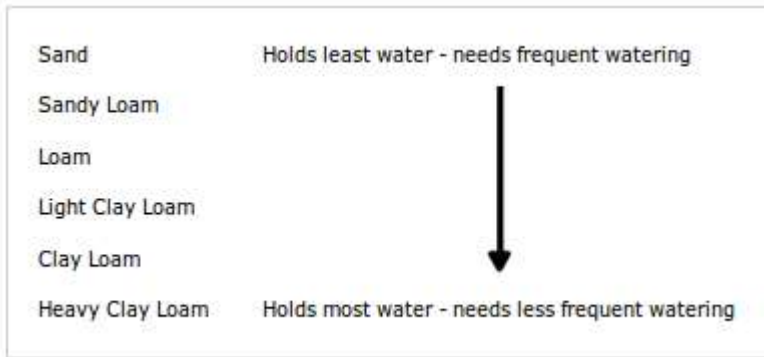
Using and managing water in your garden and on your allotment is essential to grow healthy plants that better withstand the attacks of pest, disease and periods of drought. A better understanding of how and why plants need water will help you water at optimum times and use your water more efficiently.

How plants take up water from the soil

The soil can be thought of like a sponge, containing numerous pore spaces that can hold water. This acts as a reservoir of water that is exploited by the plant roots. The ability of plants to exploit this reservoir differs greatly between plant types: some plants have much deeper rooting systems than

others so can use water from greater depths. Also some plants have a much greater ability to suck any remaining water out of dry soil.

Different soil types hold different amounts of water, with sandy soils holding the least, and heavy clay soils the most. The more water a soil can hold the less often it will need watering.



How soils gain and lose water

The reservoir of water in the soil can lose water or gain water in different ways. The ways in which water is gained are obvious: Rainfall, irrigation (eg. sprinkler, watering can etc), and movement of water upwards from the water table.

The ways in which water are lost from the soil can either be beneficial to the plant or wasteful.

Transpiration by the plant: Water that is used (transpired) by the plant, ie taken up by the roots into the plants then released through pores in the leaves, is beneficial. It is essential for many processes in the plant such as taking up soil nutrients and plant growth and development.

Evaporation from the soil surface: Water that evaporates from the bare surface of the soil is a waste of water and can be reduced in many ways (see next section on how to use water more efficiently in the garden).

Drainage from the soil: When the soil reservoir can hold no more water, ie the pore spaces are all full, water will drain out of the soil to lower depths. This is wasteful and can wash soluble nutrients, especially nitrogen, to lower depths where the roots cannot reach it. Water can also drain out of the soil through cracks if the soil is very dry.

Run-off from the soil surface: When the water cannot be adsorbed by the soil surface, it will run off into another location and cannot then be used by the plant. This occurs when the water application rate is too high. Very dry soil, or a cap or crust on the soil surface caused by poor cultivations can reduce the ability of the soil to adsorb water. If areas in the garden are identified as particularly prone to run-off, this can be reduced by establishing areas of permanent vegetation.

How to use water more efficiently in the garden

The key to using water more efficiently in the garden is to target the water to when and where the plants need it, and minimise the wasteful processes such as evaporation from bare soil, drainage and run off.

Water your soil properly Many people water the very surface of the soil, which will then evaporate rapidly without ever reaching the plant roots. Check with a trowel that you are actually soaking

the soil beneath. It is better to give the soil a good soaking every few days rather than just wetting the surface regularly.

Target the water at the soil rather than wetting the foliage. Water on the foliage will just evaporate or remain on the leaves encouraging fungal disease. Drip irrigation systems are by far the most effective way of delivering water to plants, as water is targeted to the plant roots rather than wetting the soil surface. They take a lot of setting up, but once in place, watering takes very little effort.

Mulching: Mulching with compost or straw has a huge effect on reducing the amount of water that evaporates from the soil surface. It reduces the amount of watering needed and will also suppress weed growth. There are many different materials that are suitable for mulching, from newspaper and cardboard, hay and straw to grass cuttings and leaf mould. All are excellent at retaining moisture in the soil and reasonably cheap. Gravel and grit on pots are also useful but may not have been quarried in a sustainable way.

Water the plant when it most needs it: There are critical stages when it is most important to water plants. For directly sown plants the soil should be kept moist otherwise the seeds won't germinate. Likewise after transplanting, plants have only poorly developed roots so will need frequent watering. After this critical period, the water requirement of plants differs. As a very general rule, leafy vegetables (eg spinach) will require more or less continuous watering to allow leaf expansion. For plants that produce fruits (eg tomatoes, beans) watering is most critical from fruit or pod set onwards. To keep potatoes free from scab, avoid letting the soil dry out for about six weeks after tuber initiation. This is when the plants are approximately 15 cm high, but you may wish to dig up a few to check.

Improve the moisture holding capacity of your soil: If you have a very light sandy soil, water will drain out quickly. Improving the organic matter content by regular additions of compost, garden waste, manure, and crop residues, will gradually improve the ability of the soil to retain moisture.

Harvesting water

Your next line of defence against drought should be to harvest as much rainwater as possible. Most water authorities now offer water butts at subsidized prices. You can also buy some rather smart wooden affairs from garden centres and online suppliers, or re-use any suitable container you can get your hands on. Make sure all water butts are covered – this prevents any nasty accidents to children, wildlife and pets, it stops the water becoming a mosquito breeding ground in the height of summer, it keeps out leaves and other debris and excluding the light prevents the water from turning green. Try to fit butts to every available down pipe, and fit guttering connected to butts onto sheds and greenhouses. Most butts only hold around 200 litres so you may need to connect several together to see your garden through a severe drought. If rain is forecast in a dry spell, pop outside and fill up as many watering cans as possible from your butts – this leaves spare capacity in the butt for more water. Some readers may like to consider the more expensive option of installing underground storage tanks taking rainfall directly from their roofs to an evaporation-proof container.

Greenhouses

These can be one of the most water-hungry areas in the garden. Seedlings are very vulnerable to ‘damping-off disease’ – a catch-all term for a variety of fungal infections that can kill an entire tray of seedlings in hours. Because of this danger, seedlings should

only be watered using tap water, which has been treated by the water company to be free of any pathogens. Once your seedlings are past the first potting-up stage, harvested rainwater can safely be used. Never place pots directly onto your greenhouse staging as much of the water applied to them will simply drain off. Invest in capillary matting or gravel trays for greenhouse staging to prevent run-off when watering and to enable plants to access this water when needed. There are many automatic watering systems on the market suitable for use in a greenhouse, from inexpensive ‘watering spikes’ to entire systems with porous hose and timers. Some can use harvested rainwater or can be connected to water butts and some need connecting to the mains – this would be illegal during a hosepipe ban so think carefully before deciding which system to buy. Simple measures such as putting plants in a spot that is shady at midday, and making full use of gravel trays and capillary matting will reduce the need for watering.

Reusing water

Only consider using greywater if all your beds are enriched with organic matter and mulched, and the rain falling on your property is being harvested and stored as much as possible. Each summer the Garden Organic Information team receives many enquiries on the best way to use bath and shower water on the garden – and our advice is always to address the issues of storing water in the soil and collecting rainwater first. A bath full of clean-looking water looks like a wasted resource, and maybe you did only use environmentally-sound detergents, but storing water previously used for washing poses a real risk of incubating Legionnaires’ disease (*Legionella* spp.) or other diseases and parasites. If you really must use it, do not store the water for any longer than it takes to cool. Then, only water ornamental areas and top fruit with it. Avoid using on any food eaten raw, such as salad crops and soft fruit, at all costs. To be able to store it or use it on more of your

food crops, it will need to be cleaned via a reedbed – see Garden Organic factsheet FR5, “The reed bed sewage system at Garden Organic Ryton”. For more information on small-scale reedbeds, The Centre for Alternative Technology have an excellent tipsheet available from their website www.cat.org.uk or call 01654-705950.

Code: GG55 January 2009 ©Garden Organic

GOGG HOLIDAY TO NORFOLK 2022

Arrangements are now in hand for the GOGG holiday in 2022 to Norfolk with Barnes Travel We shall be staying at the Comfort Dolphin hotel in Great Yarmouth from Monday 27th June to Friday 1st July. We stayed at this hotel when we toured Norfolk in 2006 and were very happy with it including the vegetarian food. Great Yarmouth is one of the most popular seaside resorts in the UK and has been smartened up in recent years. It also has a long history as a North Sea fishing port and, as well as the miles of golden sands, it has an historic centre and a harbour where we watched terns fishing when we were here in 2006.

We will be visiting 2 gardens in Essex both of which we visited in 2006 and 5 in Norfolk, 1 of which we visited then, The draft itinerary for the tour which is of course subject to confirmation is as follows:-

Day 1

On our way up to Norfolk we will visit RHS Hyde Hall gardens in Essex. Perched on a hill overlooking the Essex wheat fields over 25 acres of gardens have been developed over the last 30 years to showcase gardening in this the driest part of the UK much of it since our visit in 2006. It features a large dry garden with a wide variety of drought resistant plants and the Hilltop garden has roses and herbaceous borders. In 2017 the boundaries of the garden were extended to create

the Global Growth vegetable garden where circular vegetable plots have been developed around a large glasshouse to show various kinds of plants from across the World and to challenge conventional allotment growing. With its many other gardens, Hyde Hall makes an excellent introduction to what should be a wonderful tour.

Day 2

In the morning we will visit the National Trust estate at Blickling Hall. The 55 acre gardens here are set around the Jacobean house and represent a panorama of garden history from the 17th century to the present day filled with colour and interest. The parterre has corner beds planted in the 1930s with roses growing around the edges. There is an orangery dating from 1782 with a variety of half-hardy plants and a kitchen garden as well as many other historical elements.

Our afternoon visit will be to the 15 acre garden at Hoveton Hall near Wroxham deep in Broadland. Here there are 2 walled gardens the first of which is known as the Spider Garden because of the spider's web gate and contains many old roses. The other walled garden was the original 19th century kitchen garden and contains well-labelled vegetables grown in a time-honoured way. The magnificent glasshouse is one of only 3 or 4 remaining examples in the UK constructed with iron. In the 19th century The gardens about the wetlands of Wroxham Broad and the rare Norfolk Hawker dragonfly (*aeshna isosceles*) may be seen here.

Day 3

Our morning visit will be to Pensthorpe Wildlife gardens near Fakenham. These 200 acre gardens appeared in the BBC Springwatch programme several years ago and were created mainly for the benefit of wildfowl and other wildlife. However the site contains 2 important gardens created by well known garden designers. The larger is the Millennium garden which is probably one of the finest examples of a

garden designed by Piet Oudolf in the UK. The smaller is the Wave garden by Julie Toll using a mixture of wild and cultivated plants to great effect. Both are striking and colourful gardens which merge gently into the natural landscape. In addition the newer Infinity and Wildlife Habitat gardens are designed to be both beautiful and to be attractive to all kinds of wildlife.

. In the afternoon we go to the charming little seaside port of Wells next the Sea on the North Norfolk coast for some free time. Here you can walk or take the miniature railway to the beach with its miles of golden sands, perhaps enjoy excellent fish and chips sitting on the harbour wall or sample a pint of Wherry Bitter on board the “Albatros”, a Dutch North Sea clipper permanently moored by the quay. Also look out for marsh harriers and other wetland birds over the salt marshes as we make our way back to our hotel along the coast road.

Day 4

Our morning visit will be to Mannington Hall, the home of the Walpole family. The 20 acre gardens are full of charm and colour featuring lawns running down to a moat and drawbridge and other colourful sections. The former walled garden includes rose gardens showing the development of the rose from medieval to modern times with over 1500 varieties, together with a vegetable plot and children’s garden.

In the afternoon we go to East Ruston Old Vicarage near Happisburgh (pronounced Haysborough!). When we visited back in 2006 the garden had just begun to be recognised nationally as a great garden and we were totally bowled over by this stunning garden created by Alan Gray and Graham Robeson. I’ve no doubt that it is worth coming on the holiday if only to see this incredible garden as this is undoubtedly the most flamboyant garden we have visited in the 20 years of running these holidays..With so many individual gardens it is difficult to pick out the highlights but the desert wash garden, the Mediterranean garden and the brilliant herbaceous borders should not be missed. Rare and unusual plants abound including many half-hardy plants reflecting the

closeness of the garden to the sea. The gardens also make use of the surrounding countryside with vistas out to 2 churches and a lighthouse. Altogether this is a magical place!.

Day 5

On our journey home, the last garden we visit will be Beth Chatto's garden near Colchester but although the last it is by no means the least important. Although Beth died a few years ago, her daughter has taken over the management of the garden and it remains one of the greatest gardens in the UK. It was created in a area of farmland which was unproductive and shows how a wonderful garden can be created in the most unpromising of areas. Beth was one of the most influential gardeners of the late 20th century and the garden remains a classic example of the way to use the right plant in the right place. The dry garden created on the original car park is an object lesson in colour and design in an area of very low rainfall but throughout the garden are wonderful combinations of plants. At the bottom of the garden is a beautiful water garden created in the former marshy area which is wonderfully colourful and serene. There is a nursery with many of the plants in the garden on sale. We visited in 2006 and Stella and I have also visited on several other occasions and it is certainly worth another visit.

The likely cost of the holiday will be £470 to £530 depending on numbers booking with a single supplement of about £60. Barnes will be booking the gardens and should be producing a poster (based on this note) and booking form and I hope to be able to send these out before Xmas. I will send them to everyone who has been with us on recent holidays but if you are interested and haven't been with us before, let me know either by phoning me on 01242 230442 or emailing me on the GOGG address (glosorgg@gmail.com) and I will add your name to the list. ALL SINGLE ROOMS HAVE BEEN BOOKED. Vic Ellis

BRENDA JONES OBITUARY

Sadly Brenda died in April after a couple of days in hospital, she was 91. She was a member of GOGG for most of our existence.

Although Brenda didn't attend our meetings, she did come and give us a talk on a couple of occasions and did join us on some coach trips, I remember her joining our visit to Barnsdale.

She also helped at the Malvern Show many times, being very generous with flowers and produce for the Autumn Show. .

I always remember her telling off Alan Titchmarsh; he was going around the show with his entourage and left their trolley in front of our stand, Brenda moved it and when they came back for it she gave him a real ticking off, his charm didn't work on Brenda.

Latterly she would phone and invite me to go and take photographs of the garden for the magazine that we produced during lockdown.

After leaving school in the late nineteen forties Brenda trained at Waterperry Horticultural School for Women, on the suggestion of her friend's mother, Brenda was unsure of what she wanted to do workwise. She then worked as a jobbing gardener for most of her life. In the early days she used to travel around the country by public transport to work for days at a time in the gardens of country houses, staying in the servants quarters.

Brenda gardened on the Western slopes of May Hill where she had a lovely natural garden with fruit, veg and ornamentals which she managed organically. She was still gardening when I last visited earlier this year and planning to reduce the veg patch to a more manageable size!

Our condolences go to her sister Jenny on her sad loss.

Elaine

GERRY BARNETT OBITUARY

We are also sad to report the death in April of one of our long-standing members, Gerry Barnett, at the age 89. Gerry and his wife, Margaret, were regulars at meetings for many years until the recent lockdowns and members will know Gerry as a friendly and helpful member always happy to chat and give expert advice gained from his many years experience as an organic gardener.

Gerry also regularly took the chair during Annual General Meetings to conduct the election of officers and members of the committee ensuring that the election took place in a fit and proper manner.

Gerry and Margaret lived in Ashton under Hill on the side of Bredon Hill and were one of the first of our members to open their garden for an evening visit by the Group. They also opened their garden regularly for the well known Ashton open gardens weekends where Margaret also helped with the village teas. Gerry had been a reporter on the "Echo" newspaper and in the early days at the Malvern shows he combined helping on the GOGG stand with reporting on the show for the paper! Gerry will certainly be greatly missed at meetings by many members in the future.

Our sympathies are with Margaret and her family on their sad loss.

Vic Ellis 16/5/22

GOGG MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

This is a last call for subscription renewals. we have had only half the number of membership renewals that we had in 2021, so please check that you have renewed.

If you are unsure whether you have renewed or not, then please contact us at:

glosorgg@gmail.com

SUMMER EVENING VISITS

GOGG Evening garden visit on Tuesday 21st June, 7.00pm.

Cotswold Farm, Duntisbourne Abbots, Cirencester. GL7 7JS.

Cost: £10 per person to include refreshments

Gardens and wild flower meadow

Directions:

Cotswold Farm is situated just off the A417, 12 miles South of Gloucester and 5 miles North of Cirencester.

From the North, exit the A417 at the sign for the Services and Duntisbourne Abbots, turn right at the T-junction, then left through the gates for Cotswold Farm.

From the South, exit the A417 at the sign for the Services, Winstone and Duntisbourne Abbots, turn right for Winstone, then right again under the A417. At the junction go straight on through the gates for Cotswold Farm.

GOGG Evening visit on Tuesday 19th July, 7.00pm.

Crickley Hill Country Park, Birdlip, Glos. GL4 8JY.

Cost: Entrance free, car parking £2 per vehicle

Wild flowers, woods, views

Directions:

Approx. 3½ miles from Gloucester and 2½ miles from Cheltenham on the A417.

Take the Cheltenham Road from the Air Balloon and turn left almost immediately.

Parking: The car park belongs to Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. All visitors (including National Trust members) need to pay for their stay 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Please note: there will be a notice on the gate at the entrance from the main road to say what time the gates will be closed.

The café will be closed so bring your own refreshments if you wish.

GOGG Evening garden visit on Tuesday 16th August, 7.00pm.

East Court, East End Road, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham. GL53 8QN.

Cost: £7 per person

Gardens

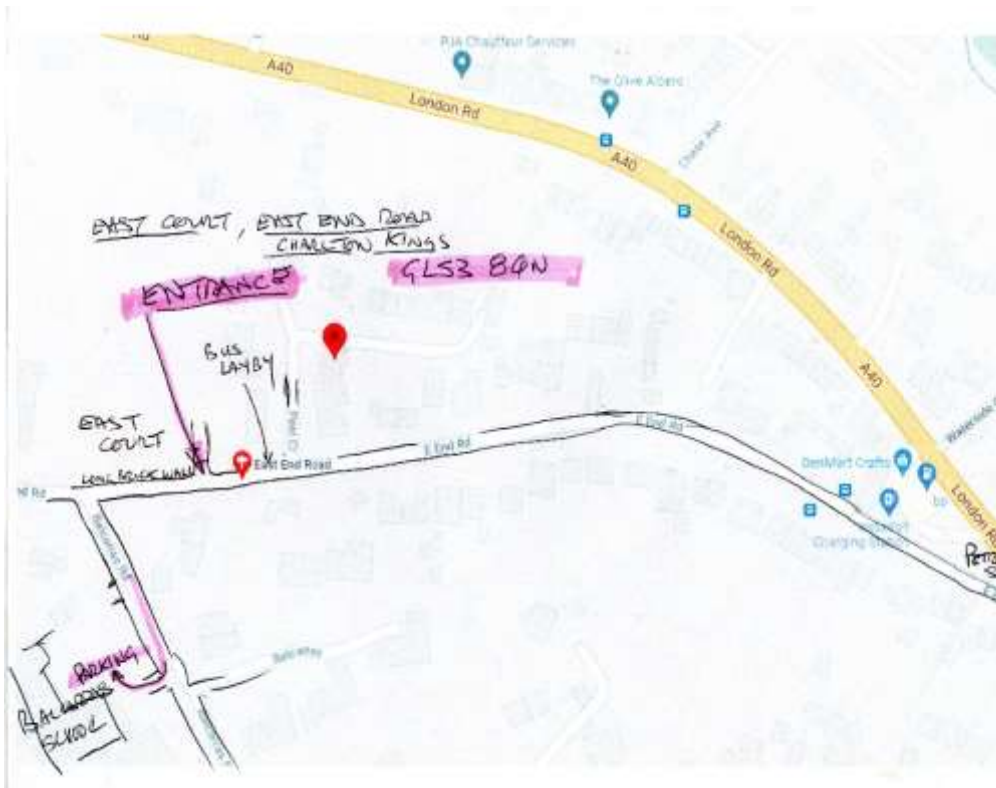
We shall be providing our own refreshments, cake and drinks.

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN MUG.

**IF ANYONE WOULD BE WILLING TO BRING A CAKE TO SHARE,
PLEASE LET US KNOW - THANK YOU.**

Directions:

Parking at Balcarras School, Balcarras Road (opposite)



EDITOR'S NOTES

We would like to thank Leo for the many years that he has edited ALLAGOOG for us, as well as organising the seed order. His contributions have been much appreciated.

As many of you will know he has now stood down from the editor's role due to ill health.

Pat Hutley has very kindly offered to have a go at taking over the editor's role, so thank you Pat.

In future please send contributions to Pat at

pat.hutley@arcor.de

Copy for next edition by 31st July 2022 please to Pat Hutley

Programme 2022

All indoor meetings are held at 8.00pm (doors open at 7.45)

at St. John's Church Hall, St. John's Ave., Churchdown, GL3 2DB

Refreshments: we are planning to resume supplying refreshments from our September meeting

Raffle, Plant Sales, Honey Sales

Entrance: Members free Visitors £2

For more information contact Stella & Vic Ellis 01242 230442

Jan 18 th	Talk by Sally Morgan on 'Living on one acre or less'- Zoom
Feb 15 th	Talk by Caroline Sheldrick on 'Flowers for Healing'- Zoom
March 15 th	Talk on Wild Daffodils of Gloucestershire
April 19 th	GQT – Clive, Robin & Elaine
May 17 th	Plant Exchange
June 21 st ***	Evening garden visit to Cotswold Farm
July 19 th ***	Evening visit to Crickley Hill
Aug 16 th ***	Evening garden visit to East Court gardens
Sept 20 th	Harvest Supper
Oct 18 th	AGM & Slide show
Nov 15 th	Talk by Nicola Hope(hopefully) to be confirmed
Dec 20 th	Christmas social

As most COVID restrictions have now been lifted we have been meeting at St. John's and will continue to do so for the remaining indoor meetings for 2022.