

**HEREFORDSHIRE OCT 2023 NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME (NGS) TEAM**

Welcome to the first Herefordshire Newsletter from your local National Garden Scheme (NGS) team. Many groups have asked us for early details of gardens that open for charity that they can visit in the coming year. So here is a brief summary of the Herefordshire gardens that will be welcoming groups in 2024. These wonderful, often hidden gems make for a great trip out for almost any group. If you have not booked such a visit before nothing could be simpler: just contact the garden owner to arrange a date and time, discuss teas, group size, parking and price. The gardens shown below will be going on to the NGS website in December but we know that many groups like to plan their 2024 schedule early so we hope you find this information useful. Below the list of gardens is a bit about us and future Newsletters.

**Herefordshire Gardens Open 'By Arrangement' for Groups**

**Aulden Farm** is 4m SW of Leominster and welcomes groups from April to September. It is a fascinating 3 acre country garden planted with wildlife in mind. Whilst it feels mature it is ever evolving. The emphasis is on structure and form with more than a hint of quirkiness. With its eclectic planting it is a garden to meander through and explore. Irises thrive around a natural pond, there are shady beds and open borders; seats abound. Their own ice cream and home-burnt cakes, including Lemon Chisel, are a speciality!



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**Bury Court Farmhouse** is in Wigmore NW of Leominster and is open to groups of up to 30 from February to October. This delightful ¾ acre garden surrounds the 1820's stone farmhouse (not open). The courtyard contains a pond, mixed borders, fruit trees and shrubs, with steps up to a terrace which leads to a lawn and vegetable plot. The main garden is semi-walled and is on two levels with mixed borders, a greenhouse, pond and a mini-orchard. There is year-round colour, wonderful spring flowers and rich wildlife areas.



Contact: Margaret & Les Barclay on 01568 770618 or [l.barclay@zoho.com](mailto:l.barclay@zoho.com)

**Castle Moat House** is right by the village green in Dilwyn. Groups of between 10 and 30 are welcome from 1st April to 7th October. This historic 2 acre plot includes a formal cottage garden that wraps around the house. The remaining area is a tranquil, wild garden with paths to a Medieval Castle Motte, a part filled Moat and Medieval fish and fowl ponds. It is a haven for wildlife and people alike. Please note: there is limited access to the Motte, Moat and ponds as the garden contains some steep banks and deep water.



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**Coddington Vineyard** is 4m NE of Ledbury. Groups are welcome from 19th February right through to 30th October. There is lots to see all year from the mass of spring bulbs through to gorgeous autumn colour. The 5 acres include a 2 acre vineyard, listed farmhouse, threshing barn and cider mill. The garden has terraces, a wildflower meadow, woodland with massed spring bulbs, large pond with wildlife and a stream garden with masses of primula and hosta. Other delights include hellebores and snowdrops, hamamelis and parottia, and azaleas followed by wonderful roses and perennials. If pre-arranged you may just get to sample some apple juice, ice cream or wine.



Contact: Sharon & Peter Maiden on 01531 641 817 or [sgmaiden@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sgmaiden@yahoo.co.uk)

**Hillcroft** is located between Shobden and Presteigne. It is open for groups of up to 40 only between 24th June and 26th July when the garden is at its summer best. The garden is part of a five acre site on the lower slopes of Wapley Hill in the beautiful Lugg Valley. The highlight in mid summer is the romantic Rose Walk as featured on Gardeners' World in 2023. It combines over sixty roses with mixed herbaceous planting set in an old cider apple orchard. In addition to the garden around the house, there is a secret garden, wildflower meadow and a vegetable area. The delicious home-made cakes always prove to be very popular.



Contact: Liz O'Rourke & Michael Clarke on 01544 262795 or [lorconsulting@hotmail.com](mailto:lorconsulting@hotmail.com)

**Ivy Croft** is in Ivington Green just SW of Leominster. Now over 25 yrs old, the garden shows signs of maturity, including some surprising trees. A very wide range of plants is displayed which blend beautifully with the surrounding countryside and provide valuable habitats for wildlife. The cottage is surrounded by borders, snowdrops, raised beds, trained pear trees and containers giving all year interest. Paths lead to the wider garden which includes mixed borders, and vegetables framed with espalier apples. If you are interested in an early visit next year the snowdrops and crocuses are breathtaking.



Contact: Roger Norman on 01568 720344 or [ivycroft@homecall.co.uk](mailto:ivycroft@homecall.co.uk)

**Lower House Farm** is to be found 3m SE of Tenbury Wells. Groups of 12 or more can visit between April and September. This fabulous award-winning country garden surrounds a C16 farm-house (not open) on a working farm. There are herbaceous borders, roses, box-parterre, a spring garden, a wildlife pond and a productive kitchen and cutting garden. Additionally the ha-ha allows for wonderful views. There is spectacular autumn colour and dahlias making a visit worthwhile in late season as well as early on.



Contact: Anne Durston Smith on 07891 928412 or [adskyre@outlook.com](mailto:adskyre@outlook.com)

**Revilo** is in Wellington and groups of 10 to 25 are welcome to visit from 13th April to 14th September. This may be just a 1/3 acre garden but it includes mixed borders, meadow and woodland areas, a scented garden, late summer bed, a gravelled herb garden and a vegetable/fruit garden. There is plenty to see and enjoy in this delightful flower arranger's garden.



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**Shuttifield Cottage** is just 1.5m E of Hereford and is open for group visits between 1st April and 29th September. This 3 acre plantsman's garden has extensive herbaceous borders, many unusual trees, shrubs, perennials, and is colour themed for all year interest. Anemones, magnolias, bluebells, rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias abound in the spring. There is a large old rose garden with many spectacular climbers, a small deer park and walks in a 20 acre wood containing wildlife ponds and wildflowers. To top it all there are also superb views.



Contact: Mr & Mrs David Judge on 01886 884243 or  
[judge.shutti@btinternet.com](mailto:judge.shutti@btinternet.com)

**Weston Hall** is 1m E of Ross-on-Wye. Groups of 5 to 30 are welcome from April until September. The garden has been in the family for 4 generations but is still evolving year on year. It comprises 6 acres surrounding an Elizabethan house (not open). There is a large walled garden with herbaceous borders, vegetables and fruit overlooked by a Millennium folly. Lawns are home to mature as well as recently planted trees and shrubs, including many unusual varieties. There is an orchard, ornamental ponds and a an attractive lake.



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We hope that there is a garden or two that catches your eye. If so, please do not hesitate to contact the garden owner and arrange a visit for your group. If that falls to another person please do feel free to pass on this email or get back to us with their details so we can contact them direct in future.

We will be providing perhaps 3 or 4 Newsletters a year so don't worry you won't be inundated. We will be featuring gardens that will be opening on set dates including some new gardens, we will be giving you a little more information about the coming season and any new and interesting garden stories that we come across. In the meantime do pay a visit to the NGS website where you will find [more about us](#), the [nursing and health charities we support](#) and the 'By Arrangement' [gardens that welcome group visits](#). Lastly, if your group might be interested in a talk about the NGS please do get back to us for details.

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