

# SPRING NEWS

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WALLED GARDENS

Jan 2010

## BIG PLANS, BIG PLANTING



Happy New Year from all of us. We have some ambitious plans for this year. A large delivery of roses arrived just before Christmas and we planted trees raised **from seed on an island off Skye by my brothers' father in law.** The snowdrop bank will be planted with a new spring and bog garden this year. We hope to get the fountain restored and there are more large plantings in the planning. This will all be recorded by Channel 4 for a one hour programme presented by former RHS curator Matthew Wilson, quite a different feature from the student film shot in the gardens in the autumn. If you are able to come along for a few volunteer days this spring do get in touch, we have so much to do that any help would be appreciated!

With best wishes Ursula Cholmeley

## SNOWDROP WEEK

Every year I write about our snowdrop week and think, how can I make this different from last year? In fact, nature does that for me. We had a blanket of snow on the first day last year. It covered the snowdrops completely but we had a very special day with our visitors who were able to come. So this year, the leaflet talks about the carpets of snowdrops and aconites but our hellebores and winter flowering cherries have really grown so they may add to the show if conditions are right. What I can promise you is that we will be there to welcome you and your friends with hot drinks and food and homemade cakes. Jackie is giving her talk twice a day again and will have her beautiful spring plants for sale (check out the blue irises.) The snowdrops last for about a month in the gardens **and they cover the river banks and flourish under the trees, so if you can't make snowdrop week see our opening times below and you may catch their final swansong as other flowers emerge.**

SNOWDROP DATES: OPEN EVERY DAY 13TH—21ST FEBRUARY 2010

11.00 AM – 4.00 PM



## SPRING OPENING TIMES



The gardens open for the season earlier than most gardens. This is partly because the extent and history of the gardens is interesting at all times of the year. The other reason is the joy of spring turf studded with little blue, white and yellow flowers. If you can find a free day to visit us in March or April when the clouds swing across the blue skies and the birds are bursting with song, wrap up warm and come and experience this lovely time of year with us.

OPENING TIMES: 28TH FEBRUARY - END OF OCTOBER 2010  
WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, SUNDAYS AND BANK  
HOLIDAY MONDAYS. 11.00 AM-4.00 PM

# GOOD GARDENS • GOOD SHOP • GOOD FOOD



## MOTHERS DAY AND EASTER

We have got lots to offer families during Spring. The gardens are particularly interesting at this time of the year because the spring bulbs herald the summer and lift the spirit. All Mothers who visit the gardens on Mothers Day (March 14th) receive a free gift with our thanks. At Easter we are open on Good Friday, 2nd April, in aid of the National Gardens Scheme and on Sunday and Monday (4th and 5th April). On Bank Holiday Monday we will have a new trail for children as well as the swing, den, yew tunnel and turf maze to keep children busy. The tearoom will be serving light lunches and teas on all these days and the shop will have our sweet pea and vegetable seed ranges for you to plant now.

## MAY PLANT FAIR AND GROUP TALKS.

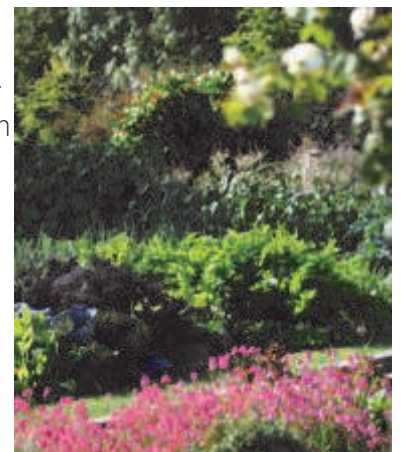
Our annual plant fair is on May 2nd and 3rd this year and will include the best stalls from around our region. The gardens look lovely and there should be some warmth in the ground by now (as I write there is further snow forecast for the next 10 days so it is hard to imagine!) This makes it a great time to plant up your own garden with new shrubs and plants. This will be our eighth annual plant fair and it is organised by Andrew Sankey who you may know from his talks schedule around the county and beyond. He is lecturing in the states this year and hopes to take a talk on the gardens with him. Pete and Jackie Murray offer talks on the gardens in this country. If you would like to know more please contact us.

## COURSES IN THE GARDENS



Join photographic expert, teacher and plantsman Pete Murray for a series of seasonal workshops available on 24 February, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, 25 August, 8 September 2010. You can join him for one, some or all of the days offered. Pete uses the gardens to help you get the most out your own landscape photography in an informative and easy going way and only offers courses to small numbers of people to ensure you get the maximum out of the time available. To book call us or call Pete on 01780 410 078 for more

**NEW!....VEGETABLE GROWING COURSES.** This is for those of you who **long to eat really tasty vegetables which don't cost the earth.** In March and June our in house florist and down to earth gardener, Lucy Dawes, will be running courses in conjunction with Lincolnshire County Council's Personal Development and Lifelong Learning Programme – 'Grow'. **The first sessions in March will take you through** planning, where and what to grow, soil preparation, sowing, thinning and growing on. In June, you will cover winter crops, complementary planting, crop rotation and some ideas for using and storing your harvest. The support from the council makes it superb value at only £5.00 per session and the courses are available on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 24<sup>th</sup> March, June 16<sup>th</sup>, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 11.00am – 1.00pm. For more information please call Lucy on 01778 591 220.



Advance Sweet Pea Week dates for 2010: 27th June - 4th July Daily 11.00 am—4.00 p.m