

# NICHOLSONS *Club 57*



Thursday 22nd February

**Talk: Bees and pollinators**

Botley Meadow Bees observe natural beekeeping methods. Mark Sandham has kept bees for about 12 years and classes himself as a hobbyist beekeeper. Initially, his aim was to offer honey and beeswax products locally and to spread the word of how wonderful bees are and the importance of supporting them. Mark can be seen at outreach events such as Blenheim Palace Flower Show and Science Oxford Centre as well as helping journalists and serving as one of the county's swarm catchers.

COST: £10 Including refreshments



Thursday 14th March

**Living spring wreath workshop**

In our spring wreath workshop, Melissa, local florist from Bunch in Bloxham, will teach you how to make a sustainable living wreath using a natural woven willow base, decorated with locally sourced dried flowers, bulbs and foliage. The spring bulbs will come into bud and bloom whilst hung on your door and can be planted in your garden afterwards. This is a relaxed workshop with no previous experience needed, perfect to enjoy with friends or as a gift for Mother's Day.

COST: £55 (includes all materials, a tutorial, refreshments and canapes)



Thursday 25th April

**Talk: Skywave Gin**

Skywave gin is the result of adventure-loving founders Rachel Hicks and Andrew Parson's pursuit of the perfect gin. Their awards and accolades are numerous. This talk is all about gin: the science of its production and botanicals. The Oxfordshire growers provide rhubarb and apples while village hedgerows are foraged for blackberries. Completing their local heritage, mineral water from Oxfordshire's Blenheim Palace is used. Taster samples will be distributed during the event and bottles will be available to purchase.

COST: £10 Including refreshments



Thursday 16th May

**Garden visit: Rousham Gardens**

After the house and gardens have closed for the day, we will be having a private talk and tour of these wonderful gardens. Designed by William Kent in the 18th century, Rousham Gardens feature a wonderful walled garden, an abundance of fruit and vegetables and stunning flowers. Kent was a painter and architect who spent time in Italy - this is reflected in the gardens.

COST: £10 Including refreshments



Tuesday 11th June

**An Evening with Arthur Parkinson**

Join Arthur Parkinson in the Orchard Barn for a talk and demonstration of how to grow, cut and arrange homegrown garden flowers for both yourself at home and for summer parties. Expect a celebration of scented sweet peas and other cottage garden favourites, all arranged into an array of vases and vessels for a jamboree of scent and a carnival of rich colours.

COST: £35 (includes includes refreshments on arrival and nibbles).  
Book online by [clicking here...](#)



Wednesday 26th June

**Garden visit: South Newington House**

Meandering through the tree lined drive leads to 2 acres of garden. Herbaceous borders designed for year-round colour. Organic garden with established beds and rotation planting scheme. An orchard full of fruit trees with pond encouraging wildlife. Walled parterre planted for seasonal colour. A family garden with a small menagerie, all beautifully designed to blend seamlessly into the environment; a haven for all. Then a short walk takes you to a further garden, surprisingly different and worth the walk. To round the visit off, there is a lovely public house close by.

COST: £10 (includes refreshments)



Thursday 19th September

**Garden visit: The Grange, Charlgrove**

11 acres of delightful gardens include herbaceous borders and a large expanse of prairie planting with many grasses and a wildflower meadow. There is a lake with bridges and a planted island, a dry riverbed and a labyrinth. A brook runs through the garden with a further pond, arboretum, old orchard and partly walled vegetable garden.

Cost: £10 (includes refreshments)



Thursday 10th October

**Talk: Val Bourne - The Living Jigsaw: the secret life in your garden**

Award winning garden writer, organic gardener and lecturer, Val Bourne gardens on the windswept Cotswolds at her home, high above Bourton on the Water. Her third of an acre garden is managed without using chemicals - something she has always believed in. The Living Jigsaw is gardening without using chemical props. Val is passionate about beautiful, flower-packed gardens which support wildlife. Wildlife is in decline, it is vital that gardeners begin to nurture the planet as well as their garden, because gardens are highly important green spaces.

COST: £10 Including refreshments



Find opening times online  
[www.nicholsonsgb.com](http://www.nicholsonsgb.com)

## About Club 57

United by a love of horticulture, the members of Garden Club 57 attend a range of informative talks and visits to local gardens to gain inspiration and advice throughout the seasons. The calendar to the left outlines our events for 2024. We will be sending out invitations by e-mail prior to each event. Those who have expressed their interest will receive addresses and event-specific details.

RSVP will be essential as only those who have booked in advance will be allowed admission as numbers are limited.

For further information, contact Julie Hillier at [julie@nicholsonsgb.com](mailto:julie@nicholsonsgb.com).

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### Where?

Orchard Barn, Nicholsons, North Aston, Bicester Oxfordshire, OX25 6HL

Or location stated



2024 Schedule  
More events to be announced soon!