



Horticultural Society

Issue 71 Spring 2012

Welcome to the Wellow Hort Soc newsletter keeping you up to date with local gardening news and events.

Did you notice the wildflower roundabout this year? It looked fabulous for weeks and weeks and made me think about planting my own meadow (or wildflower patch!). The Council's gardeners have told me that the seeds were a standard mix from www.pictorialmeadows.co.uk. The Horticultural Society is planning to plant wildflower seed around the village – do let us know if you would like to help or have some planted in a favourite spot.

Now that the weather is warming up we're all getting into the gardening mood and many members were helped along by Jane Moore's entertaining talk about her bold planting schemes. If you missed it why not visit the Bath Priory Hotel gardens on 17th April 2-5pm when they open to the public for the National Garden Scheme www.ngs.org.uk. On Sunday 29th April 2-6pm private gardens in Bradford on Avon are open for charity and you can have a snoop at other people's clever ideas and enjoy the charms of its hidden back gardens.

If, like me, you've been down to the garden centre to get potting compost, don't forget to grow a few extra plants for the plant sale in May – it's a bring and buy plant swap for everyone. For those who need inspiration or just a great afternoon out do join the Sunday afternoon trip to Snape Cottage on 22nd April. The owners will show us around and we will have the place to ourselves which will be a special opportunity to admire rare plants (and have tea and cakes) in a beautiful cottage garden setting.



Top gardening tips for this spring issue are from Jonathon Knight who talked to me about his wildflower meadows.

Jonathon was keen to tell me that he does not consider himself an expert - even though his wildflower meadow was a blaze of colour this summer. Planting has been deceptively hard work as the seed has to go onto carefully prepared ground and the meadow must be managed to allow the flowers to flourish amongst the grasses. 'The more you put into it, the more you get out of it' he says, and I got the feeling that he's out there most days pulling out weeds and nurturing the varieties he wants to establish. He suggested that a good way to get started is to grow the wildflower seed in trays or pots and plant them out when they are big and bold enough to compete in the wild.

Spring veg frittata with goat's cheese & mint
Serves 1 - Prep 15 mins

1 tbsp olive oil
2 spring onions , sliced
handful mint leaves, roughly chopped
1 small courgette, cut into quarters and thinly sliced
1 cup defrosted frozen peas
50g mild, crumbled goat's cheese
3 eggs , whisked and seasoned

Heat oil in a small non-stick frying pan and cook the spring onion and courgette for 3-4 minutes or until soft. Add the peas, eggs and mint and cook for 5-6 minutes until almost set.
Scatter the cheese over and slide under a hot grill for 2-3 minutes until golden.

Programme of Events

April 22nd Sunday	Private view and guided tour - Snape Cottage Plantsman's Cottage (near Stourhead) 2 – 5pm Cottage garden, spring flowers, rare and ancient varieties of bulbs and perennials. Teas. www.snapecottagegarden.co.uk £3 entrance fee. A limited number of seats are available on the community minibus for this trip. Please contact Sue Wordsworth tel 836181 to book. The bus will leave the Square at 1.15 pm and cost £5 per person for the return trip.
May 5th Saturday	Plant Sale. 2 – 4pm – Please note the change of date - we have moved this event forward a week.
May 22nd Tuesday	Talk and demonstration- Caroline Pakenham 'Cultivation, history and use of unusual herbs'
June 27th Wednesday	Private view and guided tour - Holt Organic Farm (Blagdon) 7.30 - 9.30pm. Organic ornamental gardens, 5 acres of contemporary planting, quirky sculptures, purple palace, glorious meadows, posh vegetable patch. Great views, green ideas. £5 entrance fee.
July 13 th Friday	Garden Party
September 1 st Saturday	Flower Show
October 11 th Thursday	Talk –Steve Pritchard, Backyard Fish Farming
November 20 th Tuesday	AGM – wine and light supper
December 11 th Tuesday	Willow weaving - a favourite hands on event at which you can make your own seasonal wreath or decorations.

All talks, the quiz, film and AGM will be in the village hall at 7.30pm.

Membership benefits

10% discount at Norton Green Nursery in Chilcompton and 6% discount at Prior Park Garden Centre.

A year of free talks and events including subsidised garden visits and the Wellow Flower Show every September.