

One of our recently appointed **National Garden Scheme Ambassadors** is **Anya Lautenbach** aka the Garden Fairy. Anya is a published author and Influencer and her third book is now available ' **The Money-Saving Gardener CONTAINERS** '. She is also passionate about gardening on a budget, and with Spring just around the corner now is a very good time to start. Anya gives advice about seeds and seedlings, propagation by taking cuttings and by division. To read Anya's piece for the NGS simply click on the link:- <https://ngs.org.uk/creating-a-beautiful-garden-on-a-budget-with-anya-lautenbach/>

Of course many of our **Open Gardens sell plants on their open days. (Nationwide this is around 1,600 gardens selling plants)** This is a great opportunity to buy good quality plants, locally grown at a fraction of the price of garden centres. Garden Centres can be useful, especially the reduced section, where sorry looking unloved plants can be purchased at ridiculously cheap prices and with a bit of TLC and a feed of Liquid Seaweed they soon pick up and can be divided to double your purchase.

Several of the gardens mentioned below, which open in April, usually have plants for sale.

CRAWLEY GARDENS Crawley Winchester SO21 2PR



<https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/17567/crawley-gardens> (Photo Paige Cottage)

Opening: Friday 3rd & Monday 6th April (Easter Weekend) 2pm to 5.30pm Pre-booking available.

Combined Admission: £8.00 children free. Cashless Payments available

Refreshments: Home-made teas in the Village Hall. (In aid of Crawley Village Hall Trust)

Crawley is a charming period village nestled in chalk downland, featuring thatched cottages, a C14 church, and a village pond. The gardens offer seasonal interest with both traditional and contemporary approaches to landscape and planting. **Little Court** is a 3 acre country garden with beautiful country views, carpets of spring bulbs, herbaceous borders, and a large meadow. **Paige Cottage** (pictured above) is a 1 acre traditional English garden surrounding a period thatched cottage (not open), with bulbs, wild flowers, and old climbing roses.

Coaches welcome Plants generally for sale.

MANOR LODGE Brook Lane Botley Southampton SO30 2ER



<https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/34837/manor-lodge>

Opening: Saturday & Sunday 11th & 12th April 2pm to 5pm

Admission: £5.00 children free CASH ONLY

Refreshments: Tea, coffee and cake. GF option

A 1½ acre garden of an enthusiastic plantswoman. This garden is still in evolution with established areas and new projects to give fresh interest each year. Informal and formal planting, dry/gravel and wet areas, sunny and shady beds, kitchen garden and greenhouse, woodland and wildflower meadow walks. There are large established trees and newer specimen shrubs and trees. Planting combinations for year-round interest.

LORD WANDSWORTH COLLEGE Long Sutton Hook RG29 1TB



<https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/46319/lord-wandsworth-college>

Opening: Saturday & Sunday 18th & 19th April 11am to 3pm Pre-booking available

Admission: £4.00 children free Cashless Payments available

Refreshments: Home-made teas (in aid of The Lord Wandsworth Foundation)

Lord Wandsworth College is set in 1200 acres of rolling farmland and wooded valleys. The main college campus is set around formal lawns with mature paper bark maples, cedar trees, cherry trees, and magnolias. The herbaceous borders are planted with an array of tulips, daffodils, and alliums. A South African inspired border runs the full length of the new Science Centre. Plants generally for sale. Coaches Welcome.

SOUTHSEA GARDENS Southsea Portsmouth PO4 0PR



<https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/22238/Southsea%20Gardens>

Opening: Sunday 19th April 1.30pm to 5pm Pre-booking available

Combined Admission: £8.00 children free Cashless Payments available

Refreshments: Home-made teas at 28 St. Ronan's Avenue

Four gardens near to Southsea promenade are examples of what can be done in an urban setting. Both **35 and 67 Gains Road** are small gardens designed and planted with artistic flair by the owners, including ferns, bamboo, and sculpture. The creative gardeners are keen plantspeople and have made the very most of the limited space in both front and rear gardens with planting of an exceptional standard. **28 St Ronan's Avenue** is divided into different areas including a wildflower meadow and pond. Planting is a mixture of traditional and tender plants including puya, agaves, echeveria, echiums, and tree ferns. Tulips feature in April. Recycled items are used to create sculptures. **2 Kenilworth Villas**, on Kenilworth Road, showcases bearded irises in May/June. Trees have been planted for privacy and as a wind break. Planting is a mixture of herbaceous perennials, climbers, shrubs, spring bulbs, bananas, and dahlias in late summer.

BRICK KILN COTTAGE The Avenue Herriard Nr.Alton RG25 2PR



<https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/25764/brick-kiln-cottage>

Opening: Sunday 26th April 11.30am to 3.30pm Pre-booking available

Admission: £5.00 children free CASH ONLY

Refreshments: Home-made teas.

A 2 acre bluebell woodland garden with a perimeter woodland path including a treehouse, pebble garden, billabong, ferny hollow, bug palace, waterpool, shepherd's hut and a traditional cottage garden filled with herbs.

The garden is maintained using eco-friendly methods as a haven for wild animals, butterflies, birds, bees and English bluebells. Children's reading area and games. A haven in the trees. There is also a gallery of textiles. This year the bluebell day will include music. Plants generally for sale.

ALSO Open By Arrangements from 27th April to 8th May for Groups of 10 to 30.

I am quite worried about my frogspawn - or lack of it. I normally have some in my natural pond by mid February!! Fingers crossed.

Best Wishes to all

Pat Beagley (Head of Publicity)
National Garden Scheme - Hampshire.