



WHAT'S ON

OXFORD BOTANIC GARDEN & ARBORETUM

SHORT
COURSES

2019 - 2020



Dr Chris Thorogood

Welcome to our latest programme of talks, tours and practical courses. This year's programme is packed full of new and exciting events. Why not come and learn a unique craft such as scything or hedge-laying? Or join our expert horticulturalists to learn how to look after an orchid? From tree climbing to yoga and meditation, there is something for everyone. Do come along to our beautiful Garden and Arboretum and be inspired. We look forward to seeing you here.

Oxford Botanic Garden is the UK's oldest botanic garden, founded in 1621, and is an oasis in the city centre. Harcourt Arboretum – a short drive from the city – contains some of the finest conifer collections in the UK, set within 130 acres of historic Picturesque landscape.

Together, the Garden and Arboretum are an incredible resource for research, education, conservation, and inspiration for a new generation of botanists.

General opening times of the Garden

November to February

Daily, 9am to 4pm

March and April

Daily, 9am to 5pm

May to August

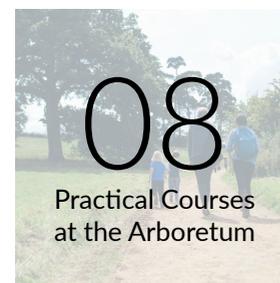
Daily, 9am to 6pm

September and October

Daily, 9am to 5pm

Last admission is 45 minutes before closing time

Please visit obga.ox.ac.uk/visit-arboretum for the Arboretum opening times.



Disabled visitors

The Botanic Garden (including Glasshouses) is fully wheelchair accessible. There is also a wheelchair available to borrow. To reserve a wheelchair, please call the ticket office ahead of your visit (01865 610 300). Please call the Arboretum (01865 610 305 Mon-Fri) if you have any special requirements.

Follow us

Stay up to date with the latest stories, photos and events:



Discover what's on and book online at obga.ox.ac.uk/whats-on

At a glance

Calendar 2019/2020

September	08	2019	Meditation in the Garden
September	11	2019	Super Sunflowers! (Under Fives)
September	15	2019	Meditation in the Garden
October	03	2019	The Evolution of Lycopphyte Roots: From Scottish Rocks to Scottish Lochs
October	17	2019	The Phenomenon of Water Storage in Succulent Plants
October	30	2019	Family-Friendly Autumn Craft
October	31	2019	The Bee, the Flower and the Electric Field: Towards Understanding Electric Ecology
November	14	2019	How Plants Make Organs: The Mechanics of Morphogenesis
November	23	2019	Botanical Christmas Wreath Making
November	28	2019	Safeguarding Seeds: The Work of Kew's Millennium Seed Bank
December	14	2019	Family Christmas Wreath Making
January	23	2020	The Glory of the English Herbaceous Border
January	25	2020	Coppicing Course
February	5	2020	Masterclass in Annual Orchard Tree Pruning
February	6	2020	Houseplants: A Beginner's Guide to Creating a Green Interior
February	19	2020	Waking Up After Winter
February	20	2020	Nature Enhanced: High-Impact-Low-Input Planting
March	05	2020	The Long, Long Life of Trees
March	07	2020	Hedge-Laying Course
March	19	2020	The Flowering of Tuscany
April	01	2020	An Introduction to Orchids
April	08	2020	Family-Friendly Spring Craft
April	11	2020	Foraging Course
April	15	2020	Science Club - Junior Botanist
April	26	2020	Forest Bathing at the Arboretum
May	02	2020	Nature Photography for Beginners
May	13	2020	Peter Rabbit (Under Fives)
May	16	2020	Family Forest School
May	27	2020	Family-Friendly Summer Craft

June	07	2020	Meditation in the Garden
June	11	2020	Around the World With 20 Trees
June	13	2020	Family Botanical Illustration
June	14	2020	Meditation in the Garden
June	21	2020	Plant and Aromatherapy Meditation
June	28	2020	Plant and Aromatherapy Meditation
July	03	2020	Vinyasa Flow Yoga
July	04	2020	Learn to Scythe
July	04	2020	Alice's Day - Picnic Afternoon
July	05	2020	Yin Yoga
July	07	2020	Glasshouse Bug Safari
July	08	2020	Art in the Garden: Botanical Illustration for Fun
July	10	2020	Garden Masterclass - Herbaceous Border
July	10	2020	Vinyasa Flow Yoga
July	11	2020	Tree Climbing
July	12	2020	Yin Yoga
July	15	2020	Art in the Garden: Oil Pastels with Wash
July	17	2020	Vinyasa Flow Yoga
July	19	2020	Yin Yoga
July	22	2020	Art in the Garden: Inks, Monochrome and Colour
July	24	2020	Vinyasa Flow Yoga
July	25	2020	Spices Picnic Afternoon
July	26	2020	Yin Yoga
July	31	2020	Vinyasa Flow Yoga
August	02	2020	Meditation in the Garden
August	09	2020	Forest Bathing at the Arboretum
August	29	2020	Making Charcoal
September	06	2020	Meditation in the Garden
September	13	2020	Meditation in the Garden

Autumn Science Lectures

Lectures cost £8 each or £35 for the series. Book online at obga.ox.ac.uk/whats-on. Cash only on the night. Sponsored by 'Plants, People, Planet', Daubeny Lecture Theatre, next to Oxford Botanic Garden.

The evolution of lycophyte roots:
from Scottish rocks to Scottish lochs
Dr Sandy Hetherington
7PM | 3 Oct 2019 | Daubeny Lecture Theatre



The phenomenon of water storage
in succulent plants
Dr Olwen Grace
7PM | 17 Oct 2019 | Daubeny Lecture Theatre



The bee, the flower and the electric field:
towards understanding electric ecology
Professor Daniel Robert
7PM | 31 Oct 2019 | Daubeny Lecture Theatre



How plants make organs:
the mechanics of morphogenesis
Dr Charlotte Kirchhelle
7PM | 14 Nov 2019 | Daubeny Lecture Theatre



Safeguarding seeds: the work of Kew's
Millennium Seed Bank
Dr Elinor Bremen
7PM | 28 Nov 2019 | Daubeny Lecture Theatre



The glory of the English herbaceous border
Chris Beardshaw
7PM | 23 Jan 2020 | Maths Institute OX2 6GG



Houseplants: a beginner's guide to creating a
green interior
Alys Fowler
7PM | 6 Feb 2020 | Maths Institute OX2 6GG



Nature *enhanced*: high-impact-low-input
planting
Nigel Dunnett
7PM | 20 Feb 2020 | Maths Institute OX2 6GG



The long, long life of trees
Fiona Stafford
7PM | 5 Mar 2020 | Maths Institute OX2 6GG



The flowering of Tuscany
Anna Pavord
7PM | 19 Mar 2020 | Maths Institute OX2 6GG

Lectures cost £15 each or £60 for the series and are followed by a glass of wine. Book online at obga.ox.ac.uk/whats-on. Card or cheque only on the night.

Winter Lectures



Practical courses at the Harcourt Arboretum

The Arboretum is a beautiful setting in which to do practical courses, a 10 minute drive from Oxford in Nuneham Courtenay, OX44 9PX.

Find out more and book online at obga.ox.ac.uk/whats-on

Coppicing course

9AM - 2PM | 25 January 2020 | £30

Learn about the traditional management approach of coppicing under the expert guidance of the Arboretum's arborists. This is an excellent opportunity to get advice and inspiration in our beautiful coppice woodland, which feels like a world away from the city of Oxford. The site will be closed to the general public, so you will have an exclusive out-of-hours experience.

Hedge-laying course

9AM - 4PM | 7 March 2020 | £50

Join our expert arborists for an exclusive course and discover the traditional art of hedge-laying in the stunning setting of the Arboretum. Bring a packed lunch.

Foraging course

10:30AM - 3PM | 11 April 2020 | £40 | For ages 18+

Join our bushcraft instructor for an introduction to wild food and medicinal plants, followed by a cook-up around the campfire using some of the ingredients you have collected. On arrival you'll have a brief introduction with the rest of the group before you head out to discover the array of wild edibles that are all around us, whilst you learn the rules of general foraging and get plenty of tips and information on how to identify what's edible. This is a unique opportunity to learn foraging techniques with expert Manse Ahmad, founder of Wilderness Pioneers. We'll cook on the fire, but bring a packed lunch too.

Nature photography for beginners

10:30AM - 2PM | 2 May 2020 | £50

A day of outdoor photography at bluebell time including the best ways to capture trees, plants and views. We will explore the essential principles of photography such as focus, exposure and composition, and a range of photographic techniques from macro to landscape. Jackie Cross has over 25 years' experience delivering photography training across the UK. Please bring your own camera.

10 Practical Courses

Family forest school

11AM - 2PM | 16 May 2020 | £10

Join us for outdoor adventures and wild discovery. Families can take part in hands-on, playful learning experiences in a beautiful woodland setting. Try your hand at den-building, forest skills and fun craft activities whilst discovering more about the animals, plants and trees around you. Siblings under 1 year old are free of charge.

Designed especially for 6+ but all ages welcome (children must be accompanied by a paying adult).

Learn to scythe

10AM - 4:30PM | 4 July 2020 | £70 | 18+ only

Discover a peaceful way to mow, which also benefits wild plants and animals. Whether it is to cut a sloping meadow, a small space around trees, or to create a winding pathway through grassland, this is a perfect way to enjoy nature without the noise of a mower; just the sound of birds and the swish of your blade. Scything is also a gentle, low-impact exercise.

This course will include: setting up an Austrian scythe; movement and technique; mowing practice; sharpening in the field; maintenance and a demonstration on peening the blade.

Course leader Nicole Clough encourages attendees to purchase their scythe prior to, and for use on, the course and can provide advice on what to buy or she can provide a scythe kit for hire at an additional cost.

Tree climbing

10:15AM - 3PM | 11 July 2020 | £20 | Children welcome

Tree climbing for adults and children (minimum 6 years old).

Join tree climbing experts from the Big Tree Climbing Company, who will guide you up the Arboretum's magnificent trees safely, with ropes and harnesses.

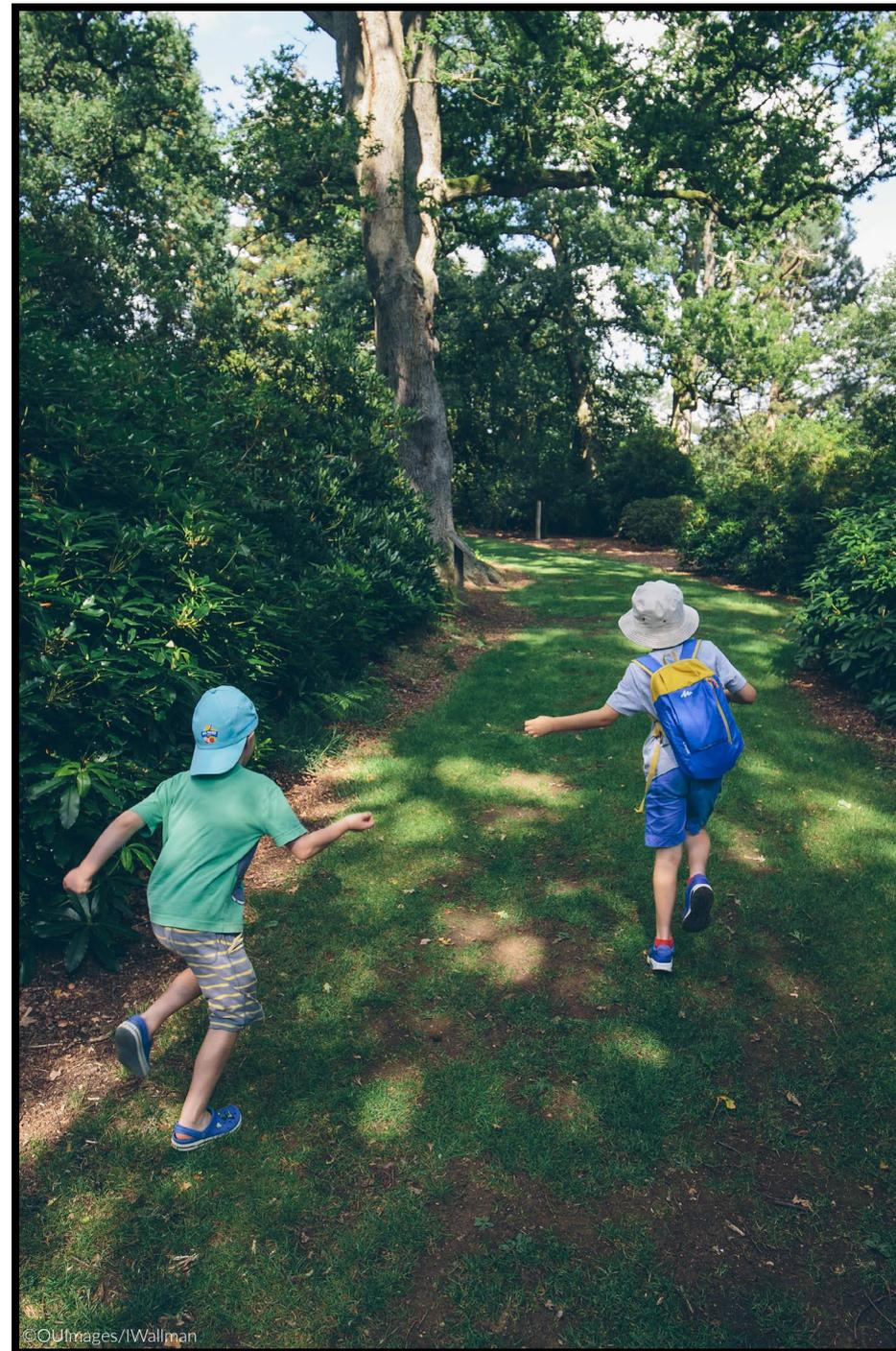
Places are limited so booking early is essential.

Making charcoal

9AM - 4PM | 29 August 2020 | £50 | 18+ only

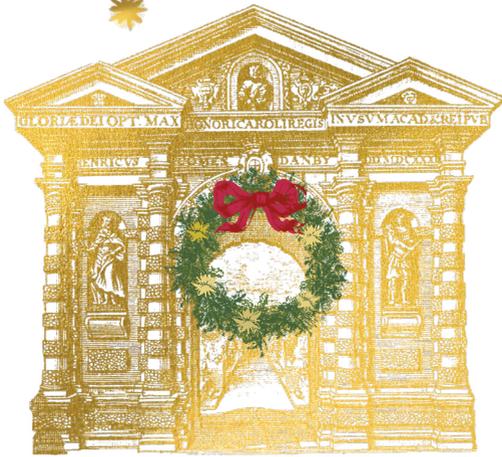
Spend a day with our expert arborists and discover the ancient craft of charcoal burning. Learn how to unload a traditional charcoal kiln, select, split and stack different types of timber for another burn and light.

At the end of the day you will be able to fill a bag with charcoal to take home.



EXHIBITION SPACE AT THE OXFORD BOTANIC GARDEN

Oxford Botanic Garden
Christmas Fair



Saturday 7th December
Sunday 8th December 2019

HERBARIUM ROOM

A unique opportunity to glimpse rarely seen treasures from an internationally important scientific collection.

Please visit
obga.ox.ac.uk/herbarium-room
for opening hours.



Practical courses at the Oxford Botanic Garden

Join horticultural experts to learn new techniques in a beautiful setting - Britain's oldest botanic garden.

Find out more and book online at obga.ox.ac.uk/whats-on

Botanical Christmas wreath making

10AM - 12PM & 1PM - 3PM | 23 November 2019 | £40

Feel festive and make a truly Botanical Christmas wreath with members of the Botanic Garden team. Learn how to create the evergreen base of your wreath before adorning it with seed pods, dried flowers and foliage, all harvested from the Botanic Garden. Your wreath will be quite different from anything available to buy on the high street.

Masterclass in annual orchard tree pruning

9AM - 1PM | 5 February 2020 | £75

This masterclass is an opportunity to refine your pruning skills in a historic setting. The class will teach different pruning techniques using native fruit trees, from newly planted formative pruning, to restorative semi-mature pruning. The variety of tools available and the different cuts which can be deployed will be explained. You will learn how to remove dead, diseased and dying wood and examine how to create a good shape for future growth and maximum fruiting. This class is held at the ideal time of year to carry out fruit tree pruning; there will also be an opportunity to discuss transferable skills to pruning within the garden more broadly. Some basic gardening knowledge is required.

This masterclass will be led by Chris Lanczak, Orchard Manager at Waterperry Gardens.

An introduction to orchids

3:30PM - 5PM | 1 April 2020 | £20

Join Botanical Horticulturalist and orchid grower Lucinda Lachelin for an introduction to orchids and their cultivation.

Garden masterclass - herbaceous border

10:30AM - 1PM | 10 July 2020 | £45

This informative masterclass will take you through the use of colour, height and texture in planning and designing a beautiful herbaceous border. The herbaceous border enables gardeners to work with a wide variety of plants, and to experiment. In this class you will learn about planting plans and the seasonal tasks involved in keeping a border looking at its best throughout

16 Practical Courses

the year. You will gain insights into the cutting back, propagation and division of herbaceous perennials, planting new perennials and bulbs, and soil improvement and conditioning techniques. The masterclass is suitable for complete beginners as well as gardeners with experience. This masterclass will be led by Botanical Horticulturalists from Oxford Botanic Garden.

Art in the Garden

Soak up the beauty of the Garden and explore a different art medium each week. Suitable for absolute beginners, or those who struggle to find time to get creative! Explore different areas of the Garden each week and experiment with a different medium. All materials supplied, sessions take place out in the Garden if sunny, or under cover if the weather is not so kind. Can be purchased as a series or as individual sessions.

Week one: botanical illustration for fun

12PM - 3PM | 8 July 2020 | £40

Botanical illustration is an accurate way of depicting plants, but can also give artists the opportunity to look at a flower, leaf or stem in exquisite detail. Select a beautiful specimen then learn the process of using pencil and watercolours to capture its beauty.

Week two: oil pastels with wash

12PM - 3PM | 15 July 2020 | £40

Oil pastels with ink washes. Working with pastels and ink washes is a great way to capture the vibrancy of garden borders and vistas. Create impressionistic masterpieces to take home.

Week three: inks, monochrome and colour

12PM - 3PM | 22 July 2020 | £40

Use inks with pen or brush to capture striking monochrome structure in the Garden. Brighten up images and experiment with the addition of coloured inks.



Wellbeing events

meditation and yoga



Sophie



Nadia



Fran

In summer 2019 we launched a range of wellbeing events at both our sites. We are happy to welcome back Sophie, Nadia and Fran to lead the next series of events.

Sophie will be leading a series of meditation events through autumn, late spring and summer. Sophie brings her special interest in nature-based practice, using meditation and mindfulness techniques from across all cultures, to deliver some much-needed calm – encouraging and supporting you to find your inner stillness amongst the many demands of today's hectic lifestyle.

Nadia will be leading a series of yin style yoga classes at the Garden. Nadia has been a dedicated student of yoga for 17 years and has been teaching for 7 years. Her classes are open and inclusive to all bodies, ages and abilities and she hopes to make everyone feel relaxed and comfortable and wanting to learn more!

Fran will be leading a series of vinyasa flow yoga classes at the Garden. Living with a busy mind looking for answers, yoga provided Fran with a space to explore new shapes in a calming and nourishing way. Her yoga practice has become a grounding force in her life and through teaching she hopes to share this with others.

Find out more and book online at obga.ox.ac.uk/whats-on

For meditation: although it is a generally safe and enjoyable practice, we ask that you check with your GP concerning any mental health conditions before booking.

Wellbeing events led by Sophie

Meditation in the Garden

10AM - 11:30AM | £20 | Oxford Botanic Garden

8 September 2019 | 15 September 2019 | 7 June 2020 | 14 June 2020

2 August 2020 | 6 September 2020 | 13 September 2020

An hour and a half of combined breathing meditation and contemplation among the plants in the Botanic Garden.

You will be led through a series of accessible mindfulness meditations using the breath, to foster focus and awareness while calming the mind. You will also be guided in exploring the Garden in a contemplative way, connecting with a particular plant, tree or feature to enhance your appreciation of nature and your surroundings in the present moment.

Please bring a firm cushion/yoga block and a blanket, and a bottle of water.

Plant and aromatherapy meditation

10AM - 11:30AM | £20 | Oxford Botanic Garden

21 June 2020 | 28 June 2020

An hour and a half of meditation and discovery in the Garden, using the power of plants and their essential oils to enhance your experience and connect more deeply with nature. The plants themselves will be celebrated, with some discussion of their known effect on mind and body.

We will move gently through the mood spectrum: citrus for invigoration, rose and geranium for self-love and nurture, finishing with lavender for relaxation; meditating on each in turn. Essential oils will play a part through self-anointing (applying on pulse points) and diffusion.

Please bring a firm cushion/yoga block and a blanket, and a bottle of water.

Please advise in advance of any allergies. Citrus oils in particular can be photo-sensitive.

Application of (diluted) oils to the skin is optional.

Forest bathing at the Arboretum

11AM - 2PM | £35 | Harcourt Arboretum

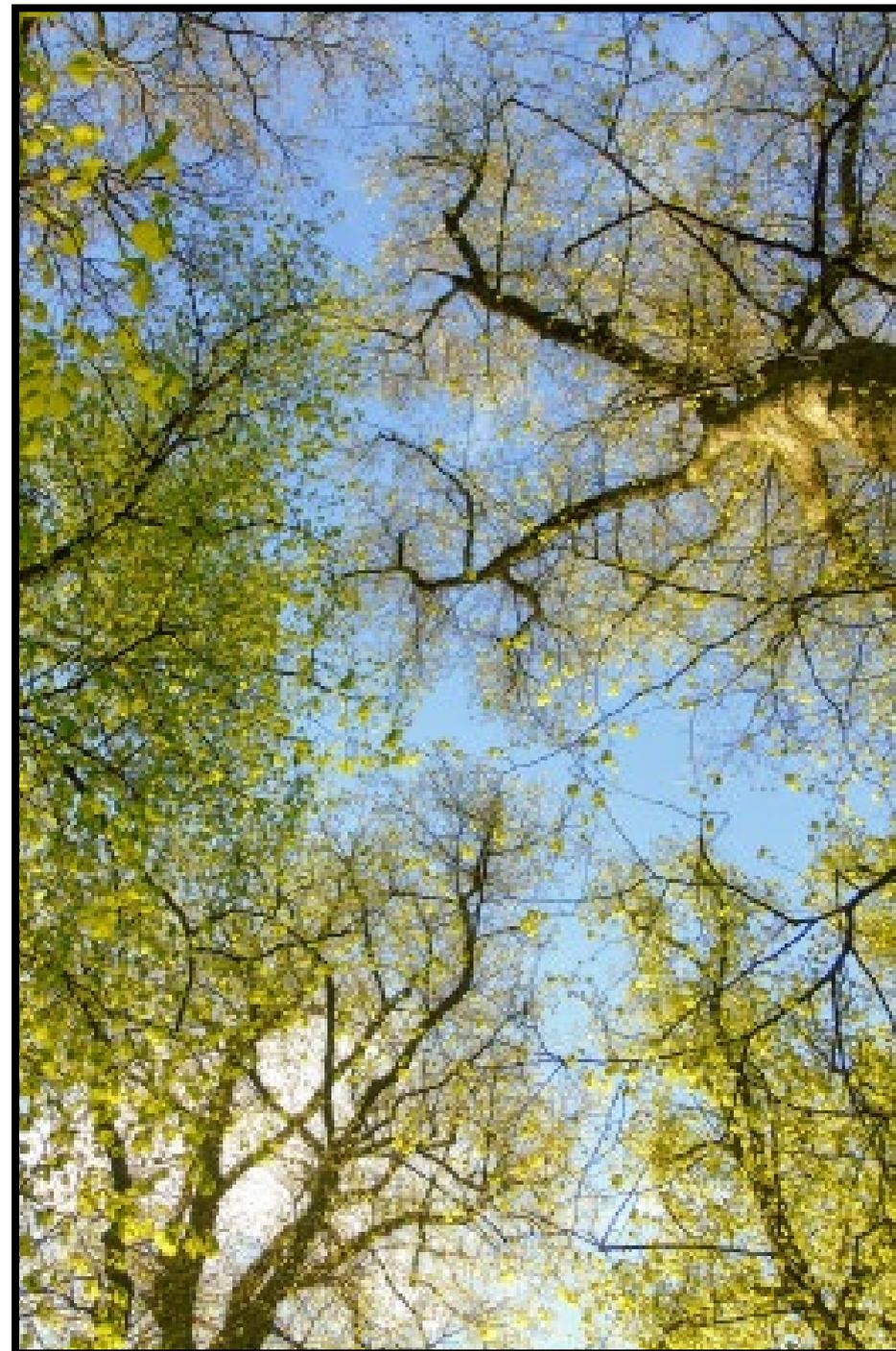
26 April 2020 | 9 August 2020

A three-hour event, giving you the chance to connect with the unique environment at the Arboretum in a new and mindful way.

Forest Bathing or Shinrin-Yoku is a Japanese tradition encompassing meditation, yoga, periods of rest and relaxation, mindful walking and contemplation.

Invitations to guided meditations, contemplation and yoga (with Nadia) will be offered throughout; the rest of the time is yours...

Please bring a firm cushion/yoga block, yoga mat and a blanket, a bottle of water and a picnic.



Yoga in the Garden

Yin yoga led by Nadia

10AM - 11:30AM | £15 | Oxford Botanic Garden

5 July 2020 | 12 July 2020 | 19 July 2020 | 26 July 2020

Yin Yoga is a gentle and passive practice, holding postures between 2-5 minutes enabling it to work deep into the connective tissues and fascia making it a popular choice for many athletes and those who enjoy deep stretches. On another level, practicing yin yoga helps calm the mind, because maintaining one position allows time and space for inner reflection and meditation. This class is perfect for beginners and those with injuries, and is a perfect complement for more advanced or energetic styles of yoga. *Attendees will need to bring their own mats.*

Vinyasa flow yoga led by Fran

4:30PM - 6PM | £15 | Oxford Botanic Garden

3 July 2020 | 10 July 2020 | 17 July 2020 | 24 July 2020 | 31 July 2020

Fran teaches breath-led, dynamic vinyasa flow with creative and fun sequencing. With a strong focus on alignment, her classes are uplifting, mindful and strengthening. Encouraging awareness, compassion and trust for one's self, both on and off the mat.

Attendees will need to bring their own mats, props will be provided where necessary.

SPRING FAIR

Explore the great outdoors and
join in the fun at the Harcourt
Arboretum Spring Fair!

25TH APRIL 2020



FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENTS

Find out more and book online at obga.ox.ac.uk/whats-on

Super sunflowers! (under fives)

10AM - 12PM | 11 September 2019 | Standard entry plus a suggest donation of £2 per child | Oxford Botanic Garden

Enjoy crafts, gardening, stories and a mini guided tour. See how tall our super sunflowers have grown!

Family-friendly autumn craft

1PM - 4PM | 30 October 2019 | Standard entry plus a suggest donation of £2 per child | Harcourt Arboretum

Be amazed by the display of autumn colour and make your own creations to take home.

Family Christmas wreath making

11AM - 1PM | 14 December 2019 | £10 | Oxford Botanic Garden

What better way to celebrate the spirit of Christmas than by working as a team to make a beautiful wreath to hang on your door. Learn the basic techniques of making a wreath and then add lots of beautiful dried flower and seed pods collected from the Garden. If you have time, make some other botanical decorations from natural materials to hang on your tree at home. Designed especially for 5+ but all ages welcome (children must be accompanied by a paying adult). Siblings under five free of charge.

Waking up after winter

1PM - 3PM | 19 February 2020 | Standard entry plus a suggest donation of £2 per child | Harcourt Arboretum

Get outdoors and enjoy some nature-inspired craft in a stunning woodland setting. Search for signs of spring and enjoy seasonal craft activities.

Family-friendly spring craft

1PM - 4PM | 8 April 2020 | Standard entry plus a suggest donation of £2 per child | Harcourt Arboretum

Enjoy spring-themed craft activity in the beautiful setting of the Arboretum.

Science club - junior botanist

10AM - 11:30AM & 1PM - 2:30PM | 15 April 2020 | £10 per child | Oxford Botanic Garden

Find out about plants: how they grow and extreme examples of how they survive, with hands on activities, fun experiments and things to take home and grow! Ticket price includes one adult entry to the Garden, children must be accompanied.

Peter Rabbit (under fives)

10AM - 12PM | 13 May 2020 | Standard entry plus a suggest donation of £2 per child | Oxford Botanic Garden

Can you find Peter Rabbit hiding in our vegetable beds? Join us for a morning of crafts, stories, gardening and a mini guided tour to help us water the Garden.

Family-friendly summer craft

1PM - 4PM | 27 May 2020 | Standard entry plus a suggest donation of £2 per child | Harcourt Arboretum

Enjoy summer-themed craft activities in the beautiful setting of the Arboretum.

Family botanical illustration

11AM - 1PM | 13 June 2020 | £10 | Oxford Botanic Garden

Spend a fun morning getting up close to beautiful blooms in the Garden and learn how to create a colourful botanical illustration from pencil and watercolour. Learn how to sketch outlines and mix watercolour paints. Take home a truly unique memento of your time in the Garden, no matter what your age and ability.

Designed especially for 6+ but all ages welcome (children must be accompanied by a paying adult). Siblings under five free of charge.

Alice's Day picnic afternoon

1PM - 4PM | 4 July 2020 | Standard entry | Oxford Botanic Garden

An afternoon of live music, entertainment and family activities in the Garden to celebrate Oxford's annual Alice's Day.

Spices picnic afternoon

1PM - 4PM | 25 July 2020 | Standard entry | Oxford Botanic Garden

An afternoon of live music, entertainment and family activities in the Garden to celebrate the aromatic world of spices.

Botanic Garden Boutique

Walks and tours 27

Celebrating the wonders of the UK's oldest botanic garden



In store now at the Oxford Botanic Garden

Walks and tours

Find out more and book online at obga.ox.ac.uk/whats-on

Around the world with 20 trees

6:30PM - 8:30PM | 11 June 2020 | £15 | Harcourt Arboretum

Ever wanted to wander through the Arboretum when all the other visitors have gone home? Join our Curator, Ben Jones, for an exclusive twilight tour and discover rare trees in our unique conservation collection.

Glasshouse bug safari

11AM - 1PM | 7 July 2020 | £15 | Oxford Botanic Garden

Get to know your pests! Join an expert Botanical Horticulturalist at the Botanic Garden to identify common greenhouse pests and learn how to control them.

Autumn Fair

12 October 2019 | Harcourt Arboretum

Immerse yourself in the wonderful surroundings of the Arboretum this autumn.





Discover what's on and book online at obga.ox.ac.uk/whats-on

If you experience any problems trying to book online, please call 01865 610305

Please note that a minimum number of attendees is required to run all courses. Friends and alumni are eligible for a concessionary 10% off*. Please bring your card on arrival.

All information is correct at the time of going to print and is subject to change without notice.

*This does not apply to tree climbing at the Arboretum.

Oxford Botanic Garden	Harcourt Arboretum
Rose Lane	Peacock Gate
Oxford	Nuneham Courtenay
OX1 4AZ	OX44 9PX
01865 286 690	01865 610 305

