WHAT’S ON
OXFORD BOTANIC GARDEN & ARBORETUM
SHORT COURSES
2021–2022
Welcome

We will be celebrating Oxford Botanic Garden’s 400th anniversary with an exciting programme of events with themes including: history; horticulture; botanical science; the arts, food, and health and wellbeing. Learn a new craft such as scything or hedge-laying; gather top tips from our expert horticulturalists on how to care for an orchid; or pick up a brush and get creative. Yes, from tree climbing to meditation, there is something for everyone. So come along and be inspired in the Garden and Arboretum! We look forward to seeing you here.

Chris Thorogood, Deputy Director and Head of Science. Photo credit: Ed Nix.

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.

Botanic Garden opening times

Please check our website for full details about our opening times and to book your tickets.

https://www.obga.ox.ac.uk/visit-garden
https://www.obga.ox.ac.uk/visit-arboretum
Accessibility

Full information about the accessibility of our venue is available on our website. There is a wheelchair available to borrow. To reserve, 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:

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@OBGHA
@oxfordbga

Book your tickets online at www.obga.ox.ac.uk/whats-on
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Due to COVID 19, events may vary at short notice. For updates and to book your ticket, visit www.obga.ox.ac.uk/whats-on
Celebrate with us

Oxford Botanic Garden, founded on 25th July 1621, is the oldest botanic garden in the UK.

From 25th to 30th July 2022, we will be celebrating with an exciting programme of events and sessions at the Botanic Garden including bookable courses and drop-in activities. Please check the website for further information.

Photo © Ian Wallman
Winter Lectures 2022
20th January – 17th March 2022

20 Jan 2022 | 7pm
Isabella Tree
Conservationist and author of Wilding – the Return of Nature to a British Farm

3 Feb 2022 | 7pm
Richard Deverell
Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

17 Feb 2022 | 7pm
Rosie Atkins
Founding Editor of Gardens Illustrated magazine

3 Mar 2022 | 7pm
Andy Sturgeon
Internationally renowned garden designer and winner of Best Show Garden at Chelsea Flower Show 2019

17 Mar 2022 | 7pm
Joan Morgan
Renowned pomologist and fruit historian at Brogdale Collections

Location: Mathematical Institute, Woodstock Rd, Oxford OX2 6GG at 7pm, followed by a wine reception*

Find out more and book your tickets soon at:
www.obga.ox.ac.uk/whats-on

*Subject to changes due to COVID-19 restrictions; in the event of new restrictions, talks may run online.
Practical courses at Harcourt Arboretum
Practical Courses at 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.

All courses at Harcourt Arboretum take place outside. Check the weather forecast before setting out, and wear outdoor clothing and shoes suitable for the season. Bring a bottle of water, and a packed lunch or snacks as refreshments are not provided.

Nature Photography for Beginners
16 Oct 2021 | 10.30am - 2pm | £50 | 18+ only | Harcourt Arboretum
30 Apr 2022 | 10.30am - 2pm | £50 | 18+ only | Harcourt Arboretum

Capture autumn colour at the Arboretum. Learn techniques to photograph trees, plants and vistas with your own camera. We will examine the essential principles of photography including focus, exposure and composition, as well as a range of techniques including macro and landscape. Please bring a packed lunch and your own camera.

Winter Tree Identification
22 Jan 2022 | 10.30am–1pm | £25 | 18+ only | Harcourt Arboretum

During this practical workshop led by Ben Jones, Curator of the Arboretum, you will be using twigs, bark, and form of trees to identify native British tree species. Please bring a packed lunch.

Coppicing
29 Jan 2022 | 10am-3pm | £30 | 18+ only | Harcourt Arboretum

Find out about the traditional management approach to coppicing under the expert guidance of our arborists. This is an excellent opportunity to receive advice and inspiration in a beautiful coppice

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Practical Courses at Harcourt Arboretum

woodland that feels a world away from the city of Oxford.
*Please bring a packed lunch.*

Ornamental Tree Planting

19 Feb 2022 | 10.30am-2pm | £30 | 18+ only | Harcourt Arboretum

Our arborists will teach you how to plant and grow a specimen tree. This course will cover specialist techniques such as staking, caging and watering that will enable you to nurture your tree. *Please bring a packed lunch.*

Hedgelaying

5 Mar 2022 | 9am–4pm | £50 | 18+ only | Harcourt Arboretum

Join our expert arborists to discover the traditional art of hedgelaying in the stunning setting of the Arboretum. *Please bring a packed lunch.*

Foraging course

9 Apr 2022 | 10.30am-3pm | £45 | 18+ only | Harcourt Arboretum
16 Apr 2022 | 10.30am-3pm | £45 | 18+ only | Harcourt Arboretum

Join our bushcraft instructor for an introduction to wild food and medicinal plants. Discover the array of wild edibles that are all around us, whilst learning the rules of general foraging and how to identify what’s edible. This is a unique opportunity to learn foraging techniques with expert Manse Ahmad, founder of Wilderness Pioneers. *Depending on what we are able to find, we may cook over an open fire, but please bring a packed lunch and drink too!* *Please bring a packed lunch.*

Tree Climbing

22 May 2022 | 10.15am-3.45pm | £25 | 6+ only | Harcourt Arboretum
19 Jun 2022 | 10.15am-3.45pm | £25 | 6+ only | Harcourt Arboretum

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

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and harnesses. Admission charges do not apply for ticket holders however spectators will need to buy a ticket to the Arboretum on the day. Please meet at the Arboretum’s ticket office 15 minutes before your slot.
Practical Courses at Harcourt Arboretum

Families in the Forest
31 May 2022 | 10am - 11.30am | 12.30pm - 2pm | 2.30pm - 4pm | £15 per child | Harcourt Arboretum

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 craft activities whilst discovering more about the animals, plants and trees around you. Designed especially for ages 6+ years but all ages welcome (children must be accompanied by an adult). Siblings under 2 years old and accompanying adults join for free.

Bushcraft
31 Jul 2022 | 10.30am-4pm | £45 | 18+ only | Harcourt Arboretum

Spend the day learning what it takes to survive in the wilderness, practising the core skills of bushcraft and survival.

This Bushcraft experience will be led by Manse, director of Wilderness Pioneers, who recently starred in the three part Channel 4 documentary, 'Surviving the Stone Age', and featured on BBC Countryfile. The course has been created and developed to introduce you to not only the skills, but also the philosophy behind bushcraft and what the Wilderness Pioneers strongly believe in.

Skills and knowledge you will learn on the day:

- How to make fire using a variety of techniques and methods;
- Where to find and utilise natural tinders;
- How to manage a fire safely and efficiently;
- Learning about the many useful plants and trees;
- How to find water and make it safe to drink;
- Shelters: both man-made and natural;
- Safe site selection for shelters;
- And much more.

Please bring a packed lunch with you.

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Scything
6 Aug 2022 | 10am–4.30pm | £70 | 18+ only | Harcourt Arboretum

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.

Charcoal Making
27 Aug 2022 | 9am-4pm | £50 | 18+ only | Harcourt Arboretum

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.

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Hold your special event at Britain’s oldest botanic garden or escape the city for a peaceful woodland setting at the arboretum

Oxford Botanic Garden & Arboretum
events@obg.ox.ac.uk | 01865 610305
www.obga.ox.ac.uk/hire-our-spaces
Practical courses at Oxford Botanic Garden
Learn new techniques from horticultural experts in the lush setting of Britain’s oldest botanic garden.

Sustainable Staking

Learn how to stake successfully with our horticulturalists here at the Botanic Garden. You will stake a range of perennials, get top tips and advice, and be inspired to try out new techniques in your own garden.

Survive and Thrive: Orchids
25 Jul 2022 | 11.30am-1pm | £30 | Oxford Botanic Garden

Learn how to care for your orchids with our expert glasshouse horticulturalists. You will receive top tips to keep your orchids happy and in flower for longer. The session will start with a short introduction to the glasshouses collections of Oxford Botanic Garden, their history and purpose, and the session will end with a Q&A.

Survive and Thrive: Houseplants
27 Jul 2022 | 2pm–3.30pm | £30 | Oxford Botanic Garden

Learn how to care for your foliage plants with our expert horticulturalists. You will learn top tips to see your house plants survive and thrive. The session will start with a short introduction to the glasshouses collections, their history and purpose, and end with a Q&A.

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Practical Courses at Oxford Botanic Garden
Survive and Thrive: Succulents
28 Jul 2022 | 2pm–3.30pm | £30 | Oxford Botanic Garden

Learn how to care for your succulents with our expert horticulturalists. You will receive top tips that see your house plant ‘pets’ flourish. The session will start with a short introduction to the glasshouses collections, their history and purpose, and end with a Q&A.

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Art classes at the Botanic 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!

Sessions take place out in the Garden if sunny, or under cover if the weather is not so kind. All materials supplied. For details and to find out more and book online at www.obga.ox.ac.uk/whats-on
Christmas Wreath Making
8 Dec 2021 | 10am-12pm & 1-3pm | £60 | Oxford Botanic Garden

What better way to celebrate the spirit of Christmas than to create your own festive wreath! Floral designer Lyn Oswin, of Enchanted Floristry at Minster Lovell, will show you how to create a traditional wreath using foliage, dried flowers, seed pods and fir cones gathered from the Botanic Garden and Arboretum. Lyn, who has had a life-long flare for creativity says: "I'm delighted to be coming along to the Botanic Garden to help you, step-by-step, create a gorgeous and unique Christmas wreath – it's such a fun and satisfying thing to do, and I look forward to meeting you all."

Three sessions on watercolours

Experiment and learn how to capture the most beautiful species, using watercolours in various ways. The watercolour sessions displayed can be attended as individual sessions or, if you want to start and improve, they can be purchased as a set.

Jo Acty is an artist and teacher, and director of ArtWorks. With over 30 years' experience, she has taught in a multitude of settings, each time relishing the opportunity to share her love and knowledge of the art process. Jo has exhibited in Oxford, Devon and London.

Watercolour class week 1
2 Jun 2022 | 1pm-4pm | £40 | Oxford Botanic Garden

Botanical illustration is an accurate way of depicting plants but can also

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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.

Watercolour class week 2
9 Jun 2022 | 1pm-4pm | £40 | Oxford Botanic Garden
Capture the striking structure of plants in monochrome using ink. Experiment with line and tone with dip pen and wash creating a dramatic composition. Coloured inks are also available if you crave a splash of colour!

Watercolour class week 3
16 Jun 2022 | 1pm-4pm | £40 | Oxford Botanic Garden
Show the vibrancy of the Garden’s borders and vistas with oil pastels and ink washes. Work with unpredictable water media mixed with direct spontaneous mark-making to ensure the liveliness and energy captured from direct observation. A joyous celebration of colour and pattern.

Watercolour masterclass by The Illustrating Botanist
28 Jul 2022 | 6.30-8 pm | £30 | Oxford Botanic Garden
We will paint specimens from the Botanic Garden collection focussing on leaf, shape and form. In this class you will have the opportunity to learn or refine techniques for producing botanical watercolours including: washes, glazes, wet on wet, and adding details including life-like finishing touches such as leaf blemishes. A unique chance to paint rare and exotic plants.

This event is led by Deputy Director of the Botanic Garden and Arboretum, Dr Chris Thorogood.

All abilities are welcome including beginners. We will finish the workshop with a glass of wine.

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Wellbeing events at the Garden & Arboretum

Forest Bathing
24 Apr 2022 | 14 Aug 2022 | 11am–2pm | £40 | Harcourt Arboretum

A three-hour event, giving you the chance to connect with the nature of 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 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.

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Aromatherapy meditation

5 Jun 2022 | 26 Jun 2022 | 10am–11.30am | £20 | Oxford Botanic Garden

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 effects 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. 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.

Meditation in the Garden

12 Jun 2022 | 29 Jul 2022 | 10am–11.30am | £20 | Oxford Botanic Garden

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. 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.

Yoga in the Garden

3 Jul 2022 | 10 Jul 2022 | 10am-11.30am | £20 | Oxford Botanic Garden

Slow, stretch and relax: this will be a gentle class with slow aligned movements, quiet mediation, relaxation and awareness of the beautiful surroundings of nature in the Botanic Garden. The class is open to all levels with options to take different modifications to poses as you wish. Please bring a firm cushion/yoga block and a blanket, and a bottle of water.
Botanic Garden Boutique

Offering a unique range of seasonal gifts and books

Visit the newly stocked shop or buy our bestsellers online www.obga.ox.ac.uk
Spring Fair and Plant Sale

14 May 2022, 10am–4PM

Celebrate the arrival of spring with bluebells, farmyard animals and fun activities for the family at Harcourt Arboretum.

Browse plentiful displays of beautiful plants to fill your garden and home.

www.obga.ox.ac.uk/whats-on
Family Friendly Events

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For updates and to book your ticket, visit www.obga.ox.ac.uk/whats-on
Arboretum Autumn Fair

9 Oct 2021 | 10am-4pm | For more information and to book a ticket please visit our website | Harcourt Arboretum | Children welcome

Harcourt Arboretum contains one of the finest collections of trees in Oxfordshire and some of the oldest redwoods in the UK. At this time of year, the Arboretum is truly beautiful, perfect for a stroll amongst the spectacular acers. Get creative with family-friendly autumn crafts, enjoy delicious treats from one of our food stalls, and sample local brewed beers and ciders. Please note car parking for the event is limited. We encourage visitors to consider car-sharing or using public transport.

Arboretum Spring Fair and plant sale

14 May 2022 | 10am–4pm | For more information and to book a ticket please visit our website | Harcourt Arboretum | Children welcome

Celebrate the arrival of spring by immersing yourself in the spectacular surroundings of Harcourt Arboretum. Enjoy delicious local foods and drinks, create family-friendly crafts and play outdoor games.

This year, the plant sale runs alongside our Spring Fair; This is a wonderful event run by the Friends of Oxford Botanic Garden and Arboretum. Browse plentiful displays of beautiful plants to fill your garden and home. This will include colourful hardy and tender perennials, vegetable and herb plants, shrubs, trees, grasses, ferns and annuals. We will also have a fantastic range of flowering and foliage indoor plants.

A day ticket will cover entry for both
Please note car parking for the event is limited. We encourage visitors to consider car-sharing or using public transport.

Alice’s day at the Botanic Garden

2 Jul 2022 | 1–4pm | For more information and to book a ticket please visit our website | Oxford Botanic Garden | Children welcome

An afternoon of live music, entertainment and family activities in the Garden to celebrate Oxford’s annual Alice’s Day. Alice’s adventures will come to life this summer at Oxford Botanic Garden. Bring along your picnic blanket and delve deeper into the quirky and exciting world that is Wonderland. Some delicious refreshments will be available onsite.
Family Friendly Events

Family friendly art
28 Jul 2022 | 11am–12.15pm and 1.30pm–2.45pm | £20 | Oxford Botanic Garden
Get 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. The session will be under cover, but will be outside so please dress accordingly. All children will need to be accompanied by a paying adult. All materials will be provided.

Botanic Garden Birthday Party
30 Jul 2022 | 10am–4pm | Standard entry | Oxford Botanic Garden | Children welcome
An afternoon of live music, entertainment and family activities to celebrate the Garden’s 400th anniversary.

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Walks and Tours

Snowdrop and Bulb Walk
10 Feb 2022 | 11am–12pm | £15 | Oxford Botanic Garden
Join our expert horticulturalists on a stroll among swathes of unique snowdrops and other winter and spring bulbs in the Botanic Garden's collection.

A Passion for Snowdrops - book signing
10 Feb 2022 | 12pm–1pm | Free with standard entry | Oxford Botanic Garden
George Brownlee is a keen gardener and a passionate galanthophile who has grown over 100 different species and varieties of snowdrop. He will share a short talk about his book, A Passion for Snowdrops, then hold a signing for visitors who purchase a copy.

Insight tour
11 May 2022 | 11am–1pm | £25 | Oxford Botanic Garden
Join our expert horticulturalists on a guided walk through the Garden. Find out about the unique collection of plants we grow from around the world and their connections with authors who have been associated with the Botanic Garden over the last four centuries.
Walks and Tours

Twilight tour
26 May 2022 | 23 Jun 2022 | 6.30pm–8.30pm | £25 | Harcourt Arboretum

Join our Curator for an exclusive twilight tour among the trees and discover what goes on behind-the-scenes at the Arboretum. The tour will finish with a glass of wine.

History tour of the Botanic Garden
25 Jul 2022 | 10-11am and 2-3pm | £20 | Oxford Botanic Garden

Join Oxford local historian and author Mark Davies for a stroll around the Botanic Garden.

Literature tour with Mark Davies
26 Jul 2022 | 10-11am and 2-3pm | £20 | Oxford Botanic Garden

Mark Davies will host a walk that takes you through the Garden, into Christ Church Meadow and back to the Garden. Learn more about visiting authors, fascinating facts and the inspiring settings.

Garden tour with the Curator and Head of Horticulture
28 Jul 2022 | 10.30-12.30pm | £25 | Oxford Botanic Garden

An insight tour of the Botanic Garden with the Curator, who will describe how the garden and plant collections are managed on a daily basis and our plans for the future.

The Origin of Alcoholic Drinks
29 Jul 2022 | 4pm–5.30pm | £25 | Oxford Botanic Garden

Join Dr Lauren Baker on a tour that examines the botanicals we grow that are used around the world to produce alcoholic beverages. Learn more about the plants that are used to create tequila, rum, beer and more, then top off your evening with a drink tasting after hours in our Conservatory.

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Note: tours include two steps and a narrow gate.
Please email us if you have accessibility requirements via admin@obg.ox.ac.uk
Education visits

We welcome nurseries, primary and secondary schools, colleges and any adult education institutions to visit the Garden and Arboretum. We offer a range of high quality sessions that are in line with the latest UK National Curriculum, which engages students with the world of plants. Bespoke sessions are also available on request via email enquiry.

Each session lasts for 90 to 120 minutes and are led by experienced Education Officers. The sessions come with pre and post visit cross-curricular activities that you can choose to include in your lesson planning to make the most of your chosen session.

We also run School Outreach sessions in which our Education Officers deliver sessions in schools. For more details on any of our education offering, please visit www.obga.ox.ac.uk/education-visits

Pre-booking is essential. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Phone: 01865 286693
Email: primaryeducation@obg.ox.ac.uk secondaryeducation@obg.ox.ac.uk
Due to COVID 19, events may vary at short notice. For updates and to book your ticket, visit www.obga.ox.ac.uk/whats-on.

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

Please note that a minimum number of attendees is required to run all courses. Friends 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.

Oxford Botanic Garden  Rose Lane, Oxford OX1 4AZ  Tel. 01865 610300
Harcourt Arboretum  Peacock Gate, Nuneham Courtenay OX44 9PX  Tel. 01865 610 305