**PRESS RELEASE** - **April 6,** **2021**

**THE HERITAGE COLLECTION:**
**Spring online talks from the National Garden Scheme**

**The National Garden Scheme’s spring collection of online talks provides behind-the-scenes glimpses of some of the country’s most beautiful heritage gardens. Join the head gardeners from the Royal gardens at Frogmore House and Sandringham and discover the secrets of the historic delights of Kiftsgate, Iford, Minterne and Chelsea Physic Garden.**

“We start the collection - which features gardens that have opened for the National Garden Scheme since its early years - with a talk that explores the story of the National Garden Scheme, its surprising origins in the Victorian foundation of nursing, its launch in the 1920s, its championing of the best in the nation’s gardens, and its development into a much-loved part of Britain’s social fabric,” says CEO, George Plumptre who helps open the collection on Tuesday 13th April.

As the uncertainty slowly begins to lift on garden openings across England and Wales, these informative, and often inspirational online talks, are supplementing the National Garden’s Scheme hugely popular fundraising activities.

**The Heritage Collection includes:**

**The story of the National Garden Scheme**
 **Tuesday 13th April, 7pm**

 Miranda Gunn and William Rathbone with George Plumptre

The series of online talks through April and May feature ‘heritage’ gardens, historic in their own right, all of which have opened for the National Garden Scheme since its early years. We start the series with a talk that explores the story of the National Garden Scheme, its surprising origins in the Victorian foundation of nursing, its launch in the 1920s, its championing of the best in the nation’s gardens, and its development into a much-loved part of Britain’s social fabric. National Garden Scheme CEO George Plumptre will talk about the charity’s history and foundation, introducing William Rathbone whose ancestor founded district nursing. We will also feature Miranda Gunn talking about her family’s superb garden at Ramster in Surrey which has the distinction of being one of only two gardens that have opened for the National Garden Scheme in every single year since its foundation in 1927. The other garden is The Queen’s garden at Sandringham which features in a later talk.

**Click here for** **tickets**
[The story of the National Garden Scheme - Live online talk - Tuesday 13th April 7.00pm - National Garden Scheme (ngs.org.uk)](https://ngs.org.uk/shop/online-events/online-talks-april-may-the-heritage-collection/story-of-the-national-garden-scheme/)

**Frogmore: Her Majesty The Queen’s Private Garden at Windsor**
 **Tuesday 20th April, 7pm**

 John Anderson, Keeper of the Gardens and Neil Dodds, Frogmore Head Gardener, with George Plumptre

The garden of elegant Frogmore House, hidden away in Windsor Great Park within walking distance of the castle, has been a favourite retreat for successive queens from George III’s wife, Queen Charlotte, who laid out the present garden, to Queen Victoria who built the royal mausoleum in the garden. Although it is no longer an occupied royal residence, Frogmore House and Garden is frequently used by the Royal Family for private entertaining. As well as the elegant garden landscape there are many fine trees planted to mark royal occasions. The garden also has a unique place in the story of the National Garden Scheme, having opened for the scheme since 1946 as part of the annual charity garden open days that provide rare public access to this otherwise private royal garden.

National Garden Scheme CEO George Plumptre, who has written a book on the Royal Gardens will introduce Frogmore’s history, John Anderson, Keeper of the Gardens at Windsor Great Park will discuss the garden and Niel Dodds, head gardener, will talk about looking after the garden today.

**Click here for tickets**
[Frogmore: Her Majesty The Queen’s Private Garden at Windsor - Tuesday 20th April 7.00pm - National Garden Scheme (ngs.org.uk)](https://ngs.org.uk/shop/online-events/online-talks-april-may-the-heritage-collection/frogmore/)

**Kiftsgate Court Gardens: Three generations of women gardeners**
 **Tuesday 27th April, 7pm**

 Anne Chambers with Vanessa Berridge

Anne Chambers’ grandmother started creating the garden at Kiftsgate a hundred years ago. Since then first her daughter, then her granddaughter, have continued to develop and add to the structure and formation of the garden to make it reflect country house gardens through the twentieth century and into the twenty-first.

The garden was first opened for the National Garden Scheme in May 1930 and has continued to open almost without break twice a year up to the present day.

Vanessa Berridge, whose acclaimed book: Kiftsgate Court Gardens, Three Generations of Women Gardeners, was published in 2019, will introduce Anne Chambers, granddaughter of the garden’s creator, who today manages the garden with her husband Jonny. Their talk will give you a fascinating insight into the family’s involvement and endeavours over the century and will tempt you to visit on a National Garden Scheme open day.

**Click here for tickets**
[Kiftsgate Court Gardens - Three generations of women gardeners - Live online talk - Tuesday 27th April 7.00pm - National Garden Scheme (ngs.org.uk)](https://ngs.org.uk/shop/online-events/online-talks-april-may-the-heritage-collection/kiftsgate-court-gardens/)

**Iford Manor Garden: evolution not revolution**

**Tuesday 4th May, 7pm**

William and Marianne Cartwright-Hignett

William and Marianne Cartwright-Hignett are the passionate owners and managers of Iford Manor, a delightful honey-stone Cotswold manor house on the Wiltshire-Somerset border near Bradford on Avon. The gardens were principally designed by Harold Peto in the early 20th Century, but the history of Iford extends back far further.

Elizabeth Cartwright-Hignett bought Iford in 1965 from Harold Peto’s nephew, with the intention of restoring the gardens, a project given great impetus by her husband John who has dedicated the last 40 years to their restoration. Today, through a fresh approach to sustainable management of the whole Iford Estate, and working with Head Gardener Troy Scott, William and Marianne hope to set the garden on a sustainable footing and to secure a long future for this special place.

The talk will discuss the evolution of the garden over the centuries, the challenges of maintaining a historic garden, and look to the future ‘unwritten historic’ of historic gardens and Iford in particular.

**Click here for tickets**
[Iford Manor Garden: evolution not revolution - Live online talk - Tuesday 4th May 7.00pm - National Garden Scheme (ngs.org.uk)](https://ngs.org.uk/shop/online-events/online-talks-april-may-the-heritage-collection/iford-manor-garden/)

**Sandringham: a much-loved royal country garden**

**Tuesday 11th May, 7pm**

Martin Woods, Head Gardener at Sandringham, introduced by George Plumptre

Ever since the estate at Sandringham was purchased by King Edward VII when he was Prince of Wales in 1862 it has been a favourite country home for the royal family where the garden plays an integral part. Providing a spacious setting for the great house, with majestic trees and lakes and views to the village church on one side, the garden today is full of history as well as fine planting. As our talk will unveil, the garden also has a very special place in National Garden Scheme history, having opened in the first year of 1927 and through every year since. National Garden Scheme Chief Executive, who has written a book on the Royal Gardens will talk about the history and Sandringham head gardener, Martin Woods, will describe the garden today.

**Click here for tickets**
[Sandringham: a much-loved royal country garden - Live online talk - Tuesday 11th May 7.00pm - National Garden Scheme (ngs.org.uk)](https://ngs.org.uk/shop/online-events/online-talks-april-may-the-heritage-collection/sandringham/)

**Minterne Himalayan Gardens: 250 years of development**

**Tuesday 18th May, 7pm**

For 250 years successive generations of the Digby family have developed and added to the landscape and gardens that surround their historic Dorset home. The present owner, Henry Digby will chart the development of the garden over a period of 250 years from a valley bare of trees to one of England’s most celebrated rhododendron gardens. He will show how the natural valley site and plentiful water provide the ideal setting for the rhododendrons and other ornamental trees and shrubs that were introduced direct to the garden from Victorian and Edwardian plant-hunting expeditions.

Mark Bobin, Head Gardener, will talk about his achievements in the first five years of the job and plans for the next five years including creating the National Collection of Cinnabarinums.

**Click here for tickets**
[Minterne Himalayan Garden - 250 years of development - Live online talk - Tuesday 18th May 7.00pm - National Garden Scheme (ngs.org.uk)](https://ngs.org.uk/shop/online-events/online-talks-april-may-the-heritage-collection/minterne-himalayan-garden/)

**Chelsea Physic Garden: London’s oldest botanic garden**

**Tuesday 25th May, 7pm**

 Tinx Newton and Katy Parry

Join Tinx Newton and Katy Parry from Chelsea Physic Garden for an online tour of London’s oldest botanic garden which is also the second oldest botanic garden in England founded just three years after Oxford University’s. The site was acquired and Chelsea Physic Garden founded in 1673 by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London to grow medicinal herbs and train apprentices in their identification and use. Nearly 350 years later it still provides plant material to various institutions for instruction and research. Our talk will bring the garden to life with images, and you will discover its fascinating 350-year history and find out more about some of the 5,000 plants housed within the four acres of this unique city sanctuary.

**Click here for tickets**
[London’s oldest botanic garden: Chelsea Physic Garden - Live online talk - Tuesday 25th May 7.00pm - National Garden Scheme (ngs.org.uk)](https://ngs.org.uk/shop/online-events/online-talks-april-may-the-heritage-collection/londons-oldest-botanic-garden/)

**With more exciting events lined up for the year ahead keep an eye on the National Garden Scheme website for details at:** [**Lectures and Online Events - National Garden Scheme (ngs.org.uk)**](https://ngs.org.uk/product-category/online-events/)

All proceeds from ticket sales will help provide funding for the vital nursing and health charities supported by the National Garden Scheme including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Carers Trust, the Queen’s Nursing Institute and Parkinson’s UK. For more see [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk/)

**IMAGES** **to support the above events can be downloaded here – PLEASE OBSERVE COPYRIGHTS WHERE GIVEN IN INFO**:
 [National Garden Scheme Heritage Garden Online Talks - National Garden Scheme (smugmug.com)](https://nationalgardenscheme.smugmug.com/National-Garden-Scheme-Heritage-Garden-Online-Talks/n-cBCZTK/)

**About the National Garden Scheme**

The National Garden Scheme was founded in 1927 by The Queen’s Nursing Institute to raise money for district nurses. Ever since then it has given annual donations to nursing and health charities totalling over £60 million. It gives visitors unique, affordable access to over 3,500 exceptional private gardens in England and Wales and raises impressive amounts through admission charges and the sale of tea and cake.

Thanks to the generosity of garden owners, volunteers and visitors we are now the most significant charitable funder of nursing in the UK. As well as the Queen’s Nursing Institute, our beneficiaries include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Carers Trust and Parkinson’s UK.

The National Garden Scheme doesn’t just open beautiful gardens for charity – we are passionate about the physical and mental health benefits of gardens too. We fund projects which promote gardens and gardening as therapy, and in 2016 commissioned [The Kings Fund report Gardens and Health](https://ngs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Kings-Fund-Report-1.pdf). Our [Gardens and Coronavirus 2020](https://ngs.org.uk/new-report-gardens-and-coronavirus-2020/): The importance of gardens and outdoor spaces during lockdown report

**For more information please contact:**

Vicky Flynn, Communications Manager vicky@ngs.org.uk 07980 135909