

SPRING OUTING

Friday 6th May 2022

Haslemere
Gardening
Society

The RHS Malvern Spring Festival at the 3 Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire WR13 6NW

The RHS Malvern Spring Festival is one of the UK's earliest major flower shows each year, taking place at the Three Counties Showground in Malvern, Worcestershire, with the stunning Malvern Hills as its backdrop. The event combines show gardens, speciality nurseries, engaging talks, delicious food, and family-friendly attractions, making it a highlight on the gardening calendar. Held from May 5th to 8th, 2022, this festival marks the start of the RHS show season, making it a favourite for gardeners eager for early-year visitors. Visitors can find inspiration in award-winning gardens and discover beautiful plants and flowers offered by leading nurseries in the floral marquee and plant arcades. There's an abundance of expert advice available from celebrity gardeners and specialists, while food enthusiasts will enjoy sampling local fare throughout the venue.



Inside the floral marquee, the festival features remarkable displays from top specialist nurseries nationwide. Attendees can stroll among the exhibits, purchase premium plants, consult with RHS experts, and be among the first to access exclusive new plant varieties unveiled at the show.

The event is organised by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) in partnership with the Three Counties Agricultural Society. Set within a spacious showground with picturesque views of the Malvern Hills, the festival offers both indoor and outdoor exhibits. The festival features a diverse array of show gardens, often designed by up-and-coming talent. Indoor Plant Gardens are a newer addition, highlighting trends in houseplants. Each year, the Master Grower exhibit celebrates a specialist nursery, putting their expertise and unique collections in the spotlight.

Large floral marquees host specialist nurseries offering rare and unusual plants. Visitors can also explore a wide variety of garden tools, décor, artisan crafts, and horticultural products. There is a full programme of speakers, with gardening experts and well-known horticultural personalities sharing their insights and advice.

The event includes the School Garden Challenge, which showcases gardens designed by local schools. There are also plenty of family-friendly activities and hands-on workshops to engage visitors of all ages. A wide variety of food stalls and dining options are available, many featuring local produce. For those seeking an enhanced experience, optional VIP packages offer premium hospitality.

Telephone: 01684 584900

Website: <https://www.rhsmalvern.co.uk>

On Friday, 6th May 2022, members of Haslemere Gardening Society boarded a coach early in the morning to visit the first RHS Flower Show of the year at the 3 Counties Showground in Malvern. The journey went well until the last 7 miles, where a new roundabout was being constructed, and that took us an hour. Once we reached the showground, we were pleased to find that the weather was dry, if cloudy, and although there were so many cars parked, there was no crush, and it was pleasant to be able to wander around comfortably. There weren't as many show gardens as usual at these events, but this was compensated for by the amazing displays in the floral marquee and the expert knowledge of the people selling the plants. There was also a large pavilion with beautiful handmade artefacts for sale - pottery, glass, woodwork and prints - all very tempting. We did make a few small purchases.

At 4.30 pm, we set off for home, and sadly, the homeward journey was a mirror image of the outward one. Although it was frustrating for the passengers after a great day out, it must have been so trying for poor Steve, the driver, who coped with it very well. A big "thank you" to him and to Georgina for organising the outing so well, as she always does.

