

ngs gardens open
for charity

North East Gardens 2010

County Durham,
Northumberland, Teesside
& Tyne and Wear





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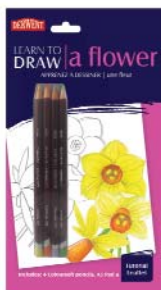
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Patricia Fleming, Wooperton Hall, Alnwick NE66 4XS 01668 217009


Cover garden: Cheswick House, Cheswick

Photographer: Mr & Mrs P Bennett

Symbols at the end of each garden entry indicate features and items of special interest at the garden.

-  The number shown by each garden entry refers to that garden's position on the county map.
-  Garden opening this year for the first time or reopening after a long break or under new ownership.
-  Denotes a garden which is open to the public on a regular basis. Gardens which carry this symbol contribute to The NGS either by opening on a specific day or days, and/or by giving a guaranteed contribution to the Scheme.
-  Wheelchair access to at least the main features of the garden. Often disabled parking is available close to, or in the owner's driveway.
-  No dogs except guide dogs. Where dogs are allowed they must be on short leads.
-  Plants usually for sale, often propagated by the garden owners. If proceeds go elsewhere this is shown at the garden opening.
-  Garden that holds a NCCPG National Plant Collection.
-  Gardens that offer accommodation. For a detailed listing see the Accommodation index in The Yellow Book 2010 or visit www.ngs.org.uk.

 Refreshments are available, normally at a charge. Detailed information is given in the garden's entry. Wine is often available at Evening Openings. If proceeds go elsewhere this is shown at the garden opening.

 Gardens showing this symbol welcome visitors by prior arrangement. They are listed at the start of each county or area section. Some can accommodate clubs, some only small parties and some have limited parking. Please telephone, email or write to make an appointment.

Coach Parties Please contact the garden direct to make arrangements.

Children Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Toilets Toilets are not usually available at private garden.

Photographs Where taken at a garden opening, photographs must not be used for sale or reproduction without prior permission of the owner.

Share to If 'share to' is shown in a garden text, it indicates that a proportion of the money collected will be given to the nominated charity.

Group Opening A group of gardens opening together on the same day or days – a great afternoon out!

Opening Dates

March

SUNDAY 28

- 22** Moorbank Botanic Garden

April

SATURDAY 17

- 3** Bide-a-Wee Cottage

SUNDAY 18

- 25** The Old Vicarage, Hutton Magna

May

WEDNESDAY 19

- 22** Moorbank Botanic Garden (Evening)

SUNDAY 23

- 2** Barningham Park
- 4** Blagdon
- 18** Lilburn Tower
- 35** Wallington

SUNDAY 30

- 33** Thornley House

June

SATURDAY 5

- 24** Ochrelands House

SUNDAY 6

- 1** Ashfield
- 26** Oliver Ford Garden
- 37** Woodland Cottage
- 38** Wooperton Hall

WEDNESDAY 9

- 9** Crook Hall & Gardens

SUNDAY 13

- 15** Hexham Community Walled Garden
- 27** 25 Park Road South
- 30** Romaldekirk Gardens

THURSDAY 17

- 13** Herterton House

SUNDAY 20

- 21** Mindrum
- 34** Thorpe Gardens
- 37** Woodland Cottage

SUNDAY 27

- 6** Browside
- 11** Fowberry Mains Farmhouse

July

SUNDAY 4

- 7** Cheswick House
- 12** Gorst Hall
- 16** Hidden Gardens of Croft Road
- 17** High Hill Top
- 36** Walton Manor Gardens

THURSDAY 8

- 22** Moorbank Botanic Garden (Evening)

SUNDAY 11

- 5** Broaches Farm
- 14** Hetton House
- 32** St Margaret's Allotments

THURSDAY 15

- 13** Herterton House

SATURDAY 17

- 8 Cragside

SUNDAY 18

- 10 111 Fatfield Park
- 29 Ravensford Farm

SUNDAY 25

- 23 Newbiggin House

August**SUNDAY 1**

- 31 Smithfield Road Allotments

THURSDAY 5

- 13 Herterton House

September**SUNDAY 12**

- 35 Wallington

October**SUNDAY 24**

- 22 Moorbank Botanic Garden

Gardens open to the public

- 3 Bide-a-Wee Cottage
- 8 Cragside

- 9 Crook Hall & Gardens
- 13 Herterton House
- 28 Raby Castle
- 35 Wallington

By appointment only

- 19 Loughbrow House
- 20 10 Low Row

Also open by Appointment

- 7 Cheswick House
- 10 111 Fatfield Park
- 15 Hexham Community Walled Garden
- 17 High Hill Top
- 23 Newbiggin House
- 26 Oliver Ford Garden
- 27 25 Park Road South
- 29 Ravensford Farm
- 33 Thornley House
- 37 Woodland Cottage

Look out for the gardens with the – they are waiting for your call

The Gardens

1 ASHFIELD

Hebron NE61 3LA. Barry & Rona McWilliam, www.ashfieldgarden.co.uk. 3m N of Morpeth. 1½ m E of Heighley Gate. 1m off A1 on C130. S side of Hebron. Car park is through field gate. Home-made & cream teas. Adm £3, chd free. Sun 6 June (12-5).

Plantsman's garden, largely grown from seed. Set within 5 acres are collections of sorbus, betula and malus, beautiful hedging and remarkable alpinas, in full bloom, from around the world. The long lawns are bounded by herbaceous and shrub borders, which contrast with the tranquil woodland, set with meandering grass paths and varied under planting. Woodland walks, alpinas. Featured in 'Morpeth Herald' & on Radio Newcastle. Winner CMBC Best Extra Large Garden.

**2 BARNINGHAM PARK**

nr Barnard Castle DL11 7DW. Sir Anthony Milbank. 9m W of Scotch Corner. Turn S off A66 at Greta Bridge or A66 Motel via Newsham. Cream teas in Barningham Village Hall. Adm £3, chd free. Sun 23 May (12-5).

Woodland walks, trees and rock garden on steep slope with ponds and waterfalls. Shrub and perennial borders. House (not open) built 1650. Limited wheelchair access, steep slopes, gravel paths and stone steps.

**3 ◆ BIDE-A-WEE COTTAGE**

Stanton, Morpeth NE65 8PR. Mr M Robson, 01670 772238, www.bideawee.co.uk. 7m NNW of Morpeth. Turn L off A192 out of Morpeth at Fairmoor. Stanton is 6m along this rd. Adm £2.50, chd free. For opening details please tel or see website. For NGS: Sat 17 Apr (1.30-4.30).

Unique secret garden created over the last 26yrs out of a small sandstone quarry, it features rock and water. Unusual perennials are woven within a matrix of ferns, trees and shrubs. The garden contains the National Collection of centaurea, and many other plants seldom seen.



4 NEW BLAGDON

Seaton Burn NE13 6DE. The Hon Matt Ridley, www.blagdonestate.co.uk. 5m S of Morpeth on A1. A1 N of Newcastle 8m, turn on to B1318 towards Seaton Burn then L at r'about (Holiday Inn) and follow signs to Blagdon. Entrance to parking area signed. Home-made teas. Adm £3.50, chd free. Sun 23 May (1-5).

Unique 27 acre garden encompassing formal garden with Lutyens designed 'canal', Lutyens structures and walled kitchen garden. Valley with stream and various follies, quarry garden and woodland walks. Large numbers of ornamental trees and shrubs planted over many generations. National Collections of Acer, Alnus and Sorbus. Featured in 'Living North'. Disabled WC.

**5 NEW BROACHES FARM**

DL11 7HW. Mr & Mrs Hutchinson. 7m W of Scotch Corner. From Scotch Corner on A66 W, 7m turn L at A66 motel. After 1/2 m turn L to Dalton. 1m farm on L. Home-made teas. Adm £2.50, chd free. Sun 11 July (2-6).

In 1996 this wonderful garden was a field, which now includes 2 ponds, one with koi. Stream, bog garden and wooded area. Mixed colourful borders, full of herbaceous perennials. Informal and naturalistic, a rural idyll. Lots of wildlife including kingfishers, dippers, wagtails, frogs and toads. Collection of vintage tractors.

**6 BROWSIDE**

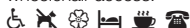
Boldron, Barnard Castle DL12 9RQ. Mr & Mrs R D Kearton. 3m S of Barnard Castle. On A66 3m W of Greta Bridge, turn R to Boldron, then proceed 1/2 m, entrance opp junction. From Barnard Castle take A67 to Bowes, after 2m turn L to Boldron. Home-made teas. Adm £2.50, chd free. Sun 27 June (1-5.30).

1 1/4 acres with unusual water features and large collection of conifers, wide range of plants and imaginative stone objects. Wonderfully tranquil seating areas. Live music from 'Northumbrian Pipers'.

**7 CHESWICK HOUSE**

Cheswick TD15 2RL. Mr & Mrs P Bennett, 1289387387, info@cheswickhouse.co.uk, www.cheswickhouse.co.uk. 4m S of Berwick upon Tweed. Turn E from A1 signed Goswick/Cheswick. Home-made teas. Adm £3, chd free. Sun 4 July (1-5.30). Visitors also welcome by appt.

Large garden, long herbaceous beds, woodland with specimen trees, croquet lawn, 60ft rill pond, formal walled garden and woodland walk. Garden undergoing a restoration programme begun in 2002 which incl. converted curling rink with pond and raised beds. Secluded garden rooms. Limited wheelchair access.

**8 ◆ CRAGSIDE**

Rothbury NE65 7PX. The National Trust, 01669 620333, www.nationaltrust.org.uk. 13m SW of Alnwick. (B6341); 15m NW of Morpeth (A697). House & garden £13.90, chd £7, garden only £9, chd £4.60. For opening details please tel or see website. For NGS: Sat 17 July (10.30-5).

Formal garden in the 'High Victorian' style created by the 1st Lord Armstrong. Fully restored Italian terrace, orchard house, carpet bedding, dahlia walk and fernery. 4 1/2 acres of rock garden with its restored cascades. Extensive grounds of over 1000 acres famous for rhododendrons and beautiful lakes.

**9 ◆ CROOK HALL & GARDENS**

Sidegate, Durham City DH1 5SZ. Maggie Bell, 0191 384 8028, www.crookhallgardens.co.uk. Centre of Durham City. Crook Hall is short walk from Durham's Market Place. Follow the tourist info signs. Parking available at entrance. House & garden £6, chd £4.50, concessions £5.50. For opening details see website. For NGS: Wed 9 June (11-5).

Described in Country Life as having 'history, romance and beauty'. Intriguing medieval manor house surrounded by 4 acres of fine gardens. Visitors can enjoy magnificent cathedral views from the 2 walled gardens. Other garden 'rooms' incl the silver and white garden, orchard, moat, pool and maze. Limited wheelchair access.



10 NEW 111 FATFIELD PARK

Washington NE38 8BP. Gillian & Peter Lund, 0191 4167923, gill.lund@btinternet.com. 1½ m SE of Washington Town Centre. Take Washington exit on A1(M) follow signs for A195 to Fatfield then follow brown signs for Art Centre 1m from Washington Town Centre. Garden will be signed from car park at Art Centre. Free parking at Art Centre. Home-made teas. Adm £2.50, chd free. Sun 18 July (1-6). Visitors also welcome by appt Aug.

Inspirational, developing garden full of yr-round colour and interest. Many plants grown from seed and cuttings to produce a large variety of interesting plants. Wildlife friendly. Limited wheelchair access.



11 FOWBERRY MAINS FARMHOUSE

Wooler NE71 6EN. Mr & Mrs A F McEwen. 2m W of Chatton, 3m E of Wooler. Signed between Wooler & Chatton on B6348. Home-made teas. Adm £3, chd free (share to Help for Heros). Sun 27 June (2-6).

Artistically and lovingly created colourful 1-acre garden, developed and planted since 1999, still evolving. Relaxed country style featuring informal beds with hardy perennials, roses and shrubs, well stocked mixed herbaceous borders. Newly designed gravel beds with grasses and drought tolerant plants. Productive vegetable garden. Small wild area being developed. Featured in 'Amateur Gardening'.



12 GORST HALL

12 South Green, Staindrop DL2 3LD. Major & Mrs William Trotter. 11m W of Darlington, 5m E of Barnard Castle. Central Staindrop, pink house opp Spar shop. Entrance down Stangarth Lane then 1st R through gates. Cream teas. Combined £3, chd free. Sun 4 July (2-5).

1-acre Queen Anne walled village garden. Well stocked herbaceous borders. 2 rose beds, shrubs, vegetable and soft fruit garden. Also open NEW **Passcott House** (Mr & Mrs E Chicken). Garden planted with small flower borders together with a little stream within a gravel garden. Vegetable plot, fruit trees and soft fruit.



13 ♦ HERTERTON HOUSE

Hartington NE61 4BN. Mr Frank Lawley, 01670 774278. 12m W of Morpeth. 23m NW of Newcastle. 2m N of Cambo on the B6342 signed to Hartington. Brown signs. Adm £3, chd free. Daily Apr to end Sept (except Tue & Thur). For NGS: Thurs 17 June; 15 July; 5 Aug (1.30-5.30).

1 acre of formal garden in stone walls around C16 farmhouse (not open). Incl small topiary garden, physic garden, flower garden, fancy garden, gazebo and nursery garden.



14 HETTON HOUSE

Wooler NE71 6ET. Mr & Mrs J Lovett. 2½ m N of Chatton. 4m E of Wooler. On B6349, signed between Chatton & Wooler on B6348. Home-made teas. Adm £3, chd free. Sun 11 July (2-6).

5 acres of s-facing mature gardens. Large mixed herbaceous, rose and shrub borders. Informal, pretty paved garden. Greenhouse, productive kitchen garden, lawns with ornamental trees and shrubs. Fine views across the beautiful Glendale Valley.



15 HEXHAM COMMUNITY WALLED GARDEN

Queen Elizabeth High School. Whetstone Bridge Road. NE46 3JB, 07795 110330, keda@hexhamyi.org.uk. 1/2 m W of Hexham. From Hexham bus str drive in a westerly direction. When you reach 3 way T-lights - Fox PH on R - turn L up Allendale Rd, after T-lights, take 2nd R turn go up lane. Car park signed. Home-made teas. Adm £2, chd free. Sun 13 June (11-5). Visitors also welcome by appt.

1/4 -acre walled garden developed by young people and community groups. Cottage garden style incl ponds, vegetables, fruit and herbaceous planting. Victorian greenhouse. Willow tunnels. Featured in 'Amateur Gardening' magazine. Partial wheelchair access, gravel paths.

**Group opening****16 NEW HIDDEN GARDENS OF CROFT ROAD**

Croft Road. DL2 2SD. 2m S of Darlington on A167. 3/4 m S from A167/A66 r'about between Darlington & Croft. Home-made teas.

Combined adm £4, chd Free. Sun 4 July (1-5).

3 very different and interesting gardens, well named as 'Hidden Gardens'. All are behind tall hedges. Oxney Cottage is a very pretty cottage garden with lawns, herbaceous borders and roses, colourful and varied unusual plants. Winner 'Best Rural Garden' - Hurworth area. Nags Head Farm has a wonderful rill running alongside a sloping garden with a variety of plants leading to a quiet peaceful courtyard. There is a large vegetable garden in which stand a magnificent glass-house where in grows 2 prolific vines. A woodland walk enhances the tranquility of this garden. Orchard Gardens is a large interesting garden of mixed planting, stump sculptures, colourful themed beds, fruit trees and different imaginative ornaments.

**17 HIGH HILL TOP**

St John's Chapel DL13 1RJ. Mr & Mrs I Hedley, 01388 537952. 7m W of Stanhope. On A689. Turn L into Harthope Rd after Co-op shop in St John's Chapel. Up hill for 1/2 m past the Animal Hotel. Garden is next house on L. Home-made teas. Adm £2.50, chd free. Sun 4 July (10-4). Visitors also welcome by appt.

See what can be achieved in an exposed garden at 1200ft. Mixed planting incl wonderful collection of sorbus, hostas, ferns, eucalyptus and candelabra primulas. Magnificent backdrop of North Pennines. More of this lovely garden has been made accessible for 2010.

**18 LILBURN TOWER**

Alnwick NE66 4PQ. Mr & Mrs D Davidson. 3m S of Wooler. On A697. Home-made teas. Adm £3.50, chd free. Sun 23 May (2-6).

10 acres of walled and formal gardens incl conservatory and large glasshouse. Approx 30 acres of woodland with walks and pond garden. Rhododendrons and azaleas. Also ruins of Pele Tower, and C12 church. Limited wheelchair access, gravel paths.

**19 LOUGHBROW HOUSE**

Hexham NE46 1RS. Mrs K A Clark, 01434 603351, patriciaclark351@btinternet.com. 1m S of Hexham. Take B6306 from Hexham, signed Blanchland, after 1/4 m take RH-fork. After a further 1/4 m you come to another fork, lodge gates are in intersection. Garden 1/2 m up the drive. Adm £3, chd free. Visitors welcome by appt. Min 6 visitors.

Woodland garden with rhododendrons, azaleas and hosta bed in the quarry. Bog garden with pond. Old-fashioned roses, 3 herbaceous borders, large area of lawns. Extensive kitchen garden and paved courtyard. Developing wild flower meadow with specimen trees. Home-made jams & chutneys for sale. Mentioned in Good Gardens.



20 10 LOW ROW

North Bitchburn, Crook DL15 8AJ. Mrs Ann Pickering, 01388 766345. 3m NW of Bishop Auckland. From Bishop Auckland take A689 (N) to Howden Le Wear. R up Bank before petrol stn, 1st R in village at 30mph sign. Adm £2.

Visitors welcome by appt all year (not Tues).

Quirky original garden with 90% grown from seeds and cuttings. Extensive views over the Wear valley. An amazing garden created without commercially bought plants or expense. Totally organic and environmentally friendly. A haven for wildlife. Beautiful through the year from snowdrops to autumn leaves.

**21 MINDRUM**

nr Cornhill on Tweed & Yetholm TD12 4QN. Mrs V Fairfax, www.mindrumgarden.co.uk. 6m SW of Coldstream, 9m NW of Wooler. 4m N of Yetholm. 5m from Cornhill on Tweed on B6352. Cream teas. Adm £3.50, chd free. Sun 20 June (2-6).

Superb garden with old-fashioned roses; rock and water garden; shrub borders. Wonderful views along Bowmont Valley. Approx 3 acres. Or more if you like to wander by river. Plants galore. Very limited wheelchair access, gravel and steep paths, one electric buggy maybe available.

**22 MOORBANK BOTANIC GARDEN**

Claremont Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4NL. University of Newcastle. 3/4 m from Newcastle Haymarket. W end of Claremont Rd, just E of Cat & Dog Shelter. Shared entrance with Town Moor Superintendents Farm (blue gate). 12 mins walk up Claremont Rd from Exhibition Park entrance r'about. No parking in garden. Teas. Adm £2.50, chd free. Sun 28 Mar (2-5); Evening Openings wine, Wed 19 May; Thur 8 July (5-8) Sun 24 Oct (1-4).

3 acre university botanic garden with collections of rare conifers, rhododendrons, sorbus, pond, perennials, herb garden, meadow. Extensive plantings under glass with tropical plants, succulents, insectivorous plants. Many original collections, originally from Kilbride Gardens, Corbridge. Outside plantings maintained with volunteer help. Guided walks around the garden. Limited wheelchair access.

**23 NEWBIGGIN HOUSE**

Blanchland DH8 9UD. Mrs A Scott-Harden, 01434 675005, descottharden@aol.com. 12m S of Hexham. From Blanchland village take Stanhope Rd. 1/2 m along narrow rd follow yellow signs up tarmac drive into car park. Adm £3, chd free. Sun 25 July (2-5.30). Visitors also welcome by appt end May, Jun & Jul, coaches permitted.

5-acre landscaped garden at 1000ft, started in 1996 and is maturing beautifully. Old-fashioned herbaceous border, peonies, shrubs, roses, bog and wild garden incl wild rose walk. Magnificent collection of unusual trees and shrubs. Very good cafe open for teas in village. Partial wheelchair access.

**24 OCHRELANDS HOUSE**

Hexham NE46 1SB. Mr & Mrs J F C Festing. 1m S of Hexham. From middle of Hexham turn S on B6306 towards Slaley. After approx 1m turn R on crest of hill signed Ochrelands Workshops. Car park 100yds on L. Adm £3, chd free. Sat 5 June (2-5).

Garden of approx 3 acres. You enter through an area of specimen trees and shrubs underplanted with bulbs. Pond. Pass through orchard and small kitchen garden to sweeping lawns with mixed borders, terracing and more formal rose garden.



Please remember that most gardens are private property. They are open through the generosity and enthusiasm of their owners and have not been designed for the visiting public. When requested, please stay on the marked paths, avoid hazards and take care to avoid damaging plants. Thank you for your cooperation and enjoy your visit.

A TASTE of BEEKEEPING

Sundays 6th June and 11th July



photo © Sue Scott

A one-day course in south Northumberland specifically designed for those with little or no previous knowledge of bees or beekeeping.

See how the honeybee lives and works, and find out about the management of a colony of bees and the harvesting of their honey.

£80 per person, including provision of a sandwich lunch and loan of protective clothing.

**For more details or to book,
telephone Jane Lewis (01661) 886219
or email
tasterdays@stamfordham.biz**

25 THE OLD VICARAGE, HUTTON MAGNA

nr Richmond, N Yorkshire DL11 7HJ. Mr & Mrs D M Raw. 8m SE of Barnard Castle. 6m W of Scotch Corner on A66, Penrith direction. Signed Hutton Magna R. Continue to, and through, village. Garden 200yds past village on L, on corner of T-junction. Home-made teas. Adm £3, chd free. Sun 18 Apr (2-5.30).

S-facing garden, elevation 450ft. Plantings, since 1978, now maturing within original design contemporary to 1887 house (not open). Cut and topiary hedging, old orchard; rose and herbaceous borders featuring hellebores in profusion, with tulips and primulas. Large and interesting plant stall.

**26 OLIVER FORD GARDEN**

Longedge Lane, Rowley, Consett DH8 9HG. Bob & Bev Tridgett, 07818 451 079. 5m NW of Lanchester. From Castleside approx 1m S on A68 turn L to Lanchester 1/2 m on L. From Lanchester B6296 signed Satley approx 2m turn R at Woodlea Manor, garden 2.9m on R. Light refreshments & home-made teas. Adm £3, chd free. Sun 6 June (1-5). Visitors also welcome by appt. Please phone to arrange first.

Spectacular 1 1/2 -acre maturing woodland garden (7yrs old) planted mainly for bark colour including rare acers, stewartia, betula and prunus some unlikely to be seen elsewhere in the NE. Stream and bog garden. Japanese maple and dwarf Rhododendron garden. 80 square metre rock garden containing a significant collection of dwarf conifers. Insect nectar bar. Orchard and 1 1/2 acre upland meadow. Annual wildflower area and a bed of coloured stemmed willows planted to mimic the colours of the rainbow. Featured in NE Life and Living magazines and the Journal.

**27 25 PARK ROAD SOUTH**

Chester le Street DH3 3LS. Mrs A Middleton, 0191 388 3225. 4m N of Durham. A167 N towards Chester le Street. L at roundabout (Durham Rd) to town centre. 1st R for parking and rear access to garden only. S from A1 - 3rd roundabout then R as above. Home-made teas. Adm £2.50, chd free (share to St Cuthbert's Hospice, Durham). Sun 13 June (1.30-4.30). Visitors also welcome by appt. May to Aug, groups of 10+.

Plantswoman's garden with all-yr round interest, colour, texture and foliage. Unusual perennials, grasses, shrubs and container planting. Cool courtyard garden using foliage only. Small front gravel garden. New planting and gazebo for 2010.

**28 ♦ RABY CASTLE**

Staindrop DL2 3AH. Lord Barnard, 01833 660202, www.rabycastle.com. 12m NW of Darlington, 1m N of Staindrop. On A688 8m NE of Barnard Castle. House & garden £9.50, chd £4, concessions £8.50, garden only £5, chd £3, concessions £4. For opening details please tel or see website.

C18 walled gardens set within the grounds of Raby Castle. Designers such as Thomas White and James Paine have worked to establish the gardens, which now extend to 5 acres, display herbaceous borders, old yew hedges, formal rose gardens and informal heather and conifer gardens.

**29 RAVENSFORD FARM**

Hamsterley DL13 3NH. Mr & Mrs J Peacock, 01388 488305, peacock@ravensford.eclipse.co.uk. 7m W of Bishop Auckland. From A68 at Witton-le-Wear turn off W to Hamsterley. Go through village & turn L just before tennis courts. Home-made teas. Adm £3, chd free. Sun 18 July (2.30-5). Visitors also welcome by appt groups of 10+, no coaches.

A return to a summer opening date for this garden of varied areas and moods displaying colourful herbaceous beds and a true plant-lover's range of ornamental trees, shrubs and flowers. There are 2 ponds, orchard, sunken garden and children's play area. Live music in the background. Featured in 'Living North'. Limited wheelchair access.



Group opening

30 ROMALDKIRK GARDENS

Teesdale DL12 9DZ. 6m NW of Barnard Castle. On B6277, 2m S of Eggleston. Cream teas. **Combined adm £3, chd free if accompanied by adult. Sun 13 June (2-5.30).**

A group of 9 gardens of great variety clustered around the village greens with their interesting old fashioned village water pumps and the attractive church of St Romald in the centre of the village. Some are typical cottage gardens with herbaceous borders, one a walled garden with climbers, lawn and interesting shrubs, another larger garden incls a pond and grotto, one has lawns, rockery, shrubs and a recently created gravel garden. Another garden which is well established has an attractive design of lawns, pond, herbaceous borders, trees and shrubs. Wheelchair access to some gardens.



Allotments

31 SMITHFIELD ROAD ALLOTMENTS

Darlington DL1 5UQ. Darlington Borough Council. 200 yds from main railway stn in Darlington. From clock entrance of stn turn L into Park Lane to 1st Xrd, then L into Smithfield Rd. Teas. **Adm £2, chd free. Sun 1 Aug (11-4).**

24 interesting and varied allotments. Many gardeners will be on hand to answer questions incl exhibition growers. A variety of growing methods are evident on the allotments. Table Top sale, Gardeners Guild shop.



Allotments

32 ST MARGARET'S ALLOTMENTS

Margery Lane, Durham DH1 4QG. Diocese of Durham. From A1 take A690 to city centre/Crook. Straight ahead at T-lights after passing 4 r'abouts.

Pedestrians walk up Sutton St from big roundabout at viaduct. Allotments L in Margery Lane. Cream teas at Antioch House in Crossgate. **Adm £2.50, chd free. Sun 11 July (11-5).**

5 acres of 82 allotments against the spectacular backdrop of Durham Cathedral. This site has been cultivated since the middle ages, and was saved from development 20yrs ago, allowing a number of enthusiastic gardeners to develop their plots which display a great variety of fruit, vegetables and flowers. Display relating to the Save Our Allotments campaign of 1988-90. Featured in Country Living, 'Daily Mail'.



33 THORNLEY HOUSE

Thornley Gate, Allendale, Northum NE47 9NH. Ms Eileen Finn, 01434 683255, enquiries@thornleyhouse.co.uk, www.thornleyhouse.co.uk. 1m W of Allendale. From Allendale town, down hill from Hare & Hound to 5th rd junction, 1m Thornley House is big house in field in front. Teas. **Adm £3, chd free (share to Brooke Charity for Working Animals). Sun 30 May (1-5).**

Visitors also welcome by appt all year round.

Unusual 1-acre garden consisting of woodland, stream, pond, vegetable and fruit garden, rose avenue and mixed planting. A feline theme is evident throughout this child-friendly garden. Seek and find quiz is available for family fun. Maine Coon cats and ornamental animals enhance this garden. Live classical music.



NGS gardens are identified by their yellow road signs and posters. They are selected as gardens of quality, character and interest.

Group opening

34 THORPE GARDENS

DL12 9TU. 5m SE of Barnard Castle. 9m from Scotch Corner W on A66. Turn R at Peel House Farm Shop signed Wycliffe and Whorlton, 1m from A66.

Home-made teas. **Adm £3, chd free. Sun 20 June (2-5).**

Charming hamlet, 3 cottage gardens, one approx 1/4 acre with some unusual plants. Incl Thorpe Hall, a large interesting garden in the course of development by a professional designer, new walled kitchen garden open. Wood Carving Demonstration. Partial wheelchair access.

**35 ♦ WALLINGTON**

Cambo NE61 4AR. The National Trust, 01670 774389,

www.nationaltrust.org.uk. 12m W of Morpeth. From N B6343; from S via A696 from Newcastle, 6m W of Belsay, B6342 to Cambo. **House & garden £9.20, chd £4.60, garden only £6.40, chd £3.20. For opening details please see website. For NGS: Suns 23 May; 12 Sept (10-7).**

Walled, terraced garden with fine herbaceous and mixed borders; Edwardian conservatory; 100 acres woodland and lakes. House dates from 1688 but altered, interior greatly changed c1740; exceptional rococo plasterwork by Francini brothers.

**36 WHALTON MANOR GARDENS**

Whalton NE61 3UT. Mr & Mrs T R P S Norton, www.whaltonmanor.co.uk.

5m W of Morpeth. On the B6524, the house is at the east end of the village and will be signed. Home-made teas. **Adm £3.50, chd free. Sun 4 July (2-5).**

The historic Whalton Manor, altered by Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1908, is surrounded by 3 acres of magnificent walled gardens, designed by Lutyens with the help of Gertrude Jekyll. The gardens have been developed by the Norton family since the 1920s and incl extensive herbaceous borders, 30yd peony border, rose garden, listed summerhouses, pergolas and walls, festooned with rambling roses and clematis. There will be a television in the tea room for the Wimbledon Final. Partial wheelchair access, some stone steps.

**37 WOODLAND COTTAGE**

Duckpool Lane, off Market Lane, Whickham, Gateshead NE16 4TH. Mrs B Savage, 0191 496 0678, woodlandcott@aol.com. 2m S of Newcastle. On A1, climb ramp to Metro Centre but drive opp direction on local rd signposted Dunston/Whickham - bear L follow rd for 1/2 m. Duckpool Lane is off Market Lane. Opp Poachers Pocket PH (park in car park). **Adm £3, chd free (share to Multiple Sclerosis). Suns 6, 20 June (12-4). Visitors also welcome by appt in small groups, max 10 visitors.**

This is a flower arranger's garden full of vibrant early summer colour. Most plants have been chosen for their garden merit, interesting texture and colour. Small yet packed with perennials, small ornamental trees and evergreens carefully planted along pathways, transforms a small family garden into a layout with stylish design.

**38 WOOPERTON HALL**

Alwick NE66 4XS. Mr & Mrs Robert Fleming. 6m S of Wooller. Signed off the A697. Home-made teas. **Adm £3.50, chd free (share to Eglington & Old Bewick Churches). Sun 6 June (1.30-5.30).**

Rescued from the brink and restored over the last 12yrs this country house garden has something for everyone:-sweeping lawns with glorious views and mature trees, overflowing mixed borders and roses, mouth watering fruit and vegetables. Rhododendron and azalea walk and wild pond garden (undergoing new planting). Music group playing throughout the afternoon. Limited wheelchair access, gravel paths and steep slopes.



Discover a garden near you and help raise £millions for charity

Every year over 3,600 gardens across England and Wales open on behalf of The National Gardens Scheme, generating over £2.5 million each year for nursing, caring and gardening charities.



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How you can support the NGS

Visit a garden - you may have a chance to meet the owners, ask questions about planting or attracting wildlife, before relaxing with a cup of tea and home-made cake.

Open your garden - our local volunteers visit new gardens to talk about what's involved in opening for the NGS.

Volunteer with us - help and training is given and although knowledge of gardens is always helpful, the main requirement is for good organisational skills and to enjoy working as part of a team.

Make a donation - give to the NGS and help not just one charity, but many. To make a donation visit www.justgiving/nationalgardensscheme.co.uk

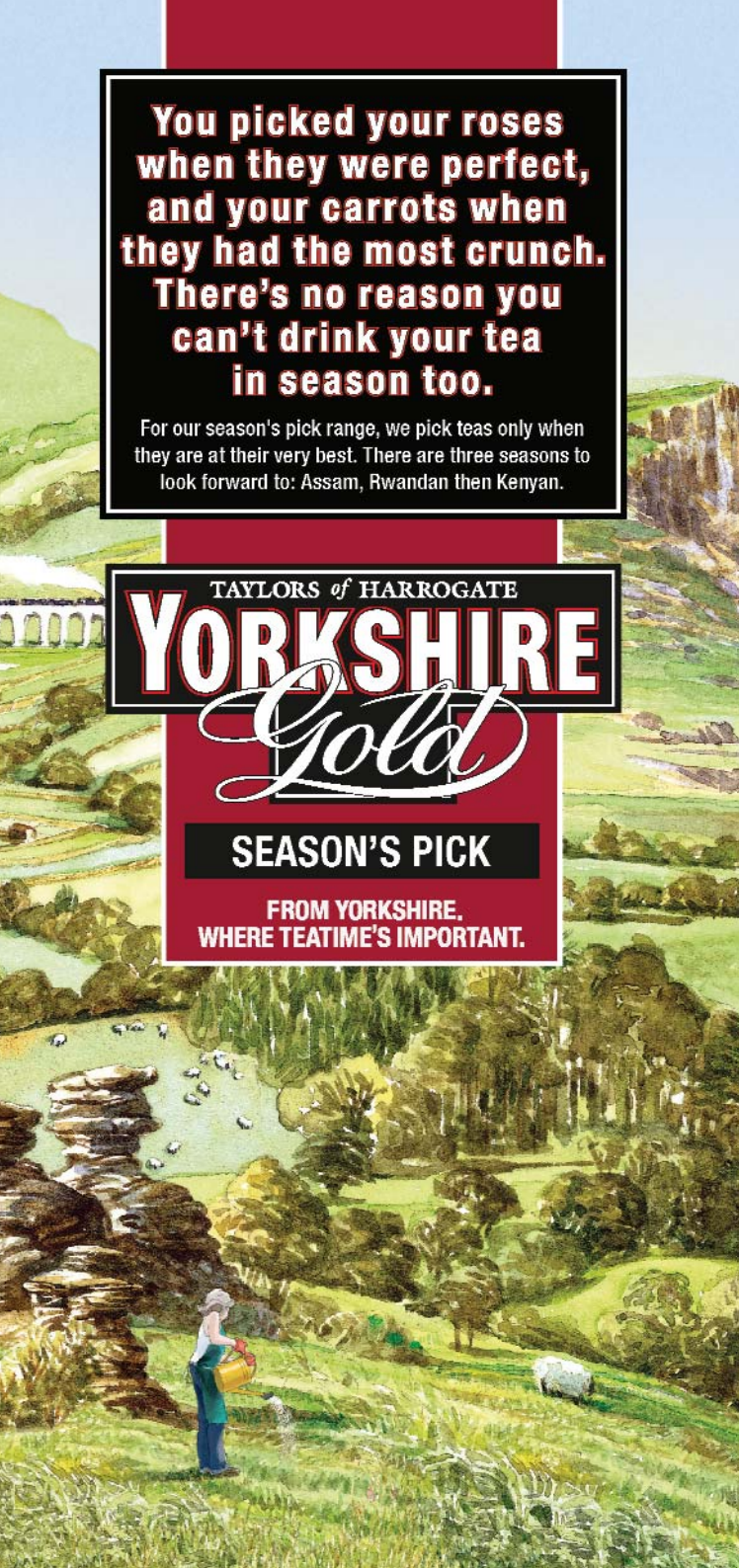
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Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales

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