

Barnsley House, near Cirencester, is hosting a series of horticultural events throughout 2011 to honour the legacy of the garden's designer, Rosemary Verey. The speakers include Verey's daughter, Davina Wynne-Jones, whose 'Herbs for Healing Garden' is right next door to Barnsley House. See our *What's On listings* each month for upcoming events, or visit barnsleyhouse.com/gardens for full details.



This eco-friendly Paper Pot Press caught our eye among Cox & Cox's new introductions this spring. It easily transforms newspapers into little pots for seedlings – simply wrap strips of newspaper around the wood and press this into the disc. The price per press is £10.50 excluding p&p. For more details, call 0844 858 0744 or visit coxandcox.co.uk

Editor's Choice

Our editorial suggestions for a month outdoors include the Discover Spring fortnight at Westonbirt Arboretum and a fabulous settle from which to enjoy your garden...



Don't miss Westonbirt Arboretum's Discover Spring fortnight which includes a Discover Spring exhibition in the Great Oak Hall (Friday 22-Monday 25 April), guided Spring walks (also over the Easter weekend) and a traditional Silk Wood Spring Fair from Friday 29 April to Monday 2 May. For full details, visit forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-spring

Calling all gardeners: April's speaker at Wootton Village Hall is the eminent gardening writer (and New College academic) Robin Lane Fox. He is sharing his expertise at an evening talk on Friday 8. Tickets are £6. For bookings: 01993 810937 / woottontalks.co.uk



This green oak Settle is ideal for keeping the spring breeze at bay when you are sitting outdoors. It is made by Marnie Moyle (pictured here) who also hand carves it with the inscription of your choice. This particular settle has some charming words taken from Alice in Wonderland, "Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast." We also love Marnie's Simple Bench, which is featured on this issue's front cover. Green Oak Furniture: 01635 281786 / greenoakfurniture.co.uk



Uplighting trees can create dramatic effects

GARDEN DESIGN TIPS

EFFECTIVE GARDEN LIGHTING

Lighting your garden can radically enhance and prolong the pleasure you receive from your outdoor space, allowing you to enjoy it on even the darkest of nights. After all the hard work that goes into a garden's creation, it is important to properly plan, design and execute any outdoor lighting and electrics before starting. We asked Andrew Smith of locally based lighting consultants Lightmaster Direct for his expert hints and tips for lighting your garden and outdoor space...

1. Planning

Think about how you use the garden and the features you most want to highlight. Make provision for lighting at an early stage of any

garden design, bearing in mind where the cables will run. A lighting designer can help you create a stunning design. ▶

2. Effects

Consider each area of the garden and where you'll need separate security lighting. The main areas might be the driveway, pathways and steps, accent lighting to trees, sculptures, statues and water features. Ambient lighting for entertaining areas such as terraces and patios is also important.

3. Less is More

The contrast between light and dark is most important in a garden design and a loss of subtlety could mean your garden ends up looking more like Disneyland. Similarly, if you choose to use coloured LEDs, the effect is far more dramatic when used sparingly.

4. Types of Fittings

Pathlights and uplights are used to highlight steps, paths and driveways. Water features can look most effective at night, particularly when the garden is reflected, but you may well need expert help. Passive Infrared Sensors (PIRs) can be used to turn lights on when triggered by movement.

5. Energy-efficiency

Long life energy-efficient LED lights can be very effective and durable in a garden. Steplights, pathlights and downlights are particularly well-suited to the use of LEDs. However, take advice and ensure that you are using the right LEDs, otherwise you risk being disappointed with the final effect.


6. Quality of Fittings

Poor quality light fittings can be more susceptible to the elements and let in water – so be particularly careful when buying in-ground uplighters. You should also look for a fitting which carries at least a five year guarantee. It always pays to fit good quality light fittings sourced from a recognised manufacturer.

7. Workmanship

Water and electricity don't mix, so make sure the cabling is carried out by qualified electricians! Fittings made of stainless steel, copper, brass or powder-coated aluminium will last a long time if properly installed and maintained.

8. Regulations

...need to be borne in mind. For example, building regulations may require a certain number of low energy light fittings to be used, automatic switch-off when not in use and a maximum 150W for floodlights. 



Step lighting



Cross lighting

For more information and inspiration, visit lightmaster-direct.co.uk or call Lightmaster on 01608 682115




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