



# Garden Notes - Easter 2024

*Head Gardener Steve Lannin (@SteveLannin)*

A very warm welcome back to the garden from all of the team at Iford.

Gardens, for me, represent a vision of Eden, a little piece of earthly paradise, and for it to be enjoyed, it must be shared. We're all really excited to share the garden with you this year.

I'm sat in the loggia in the early morning sunshine. It's Thursday 28th March and a storm is brewing. For the last few weeks, the garden has been a hive of frenzied activity as the first flush of growth has well and truly got underway. Today may go some way to undoing much of that good work, but such is life in the garden.

Back in 2020 a group of Japanese flowering cherries were planted into a rough bank above the orchard. Those cherries are, storm willing, flowering beautifully at the moment and can be found by following the winding paths up through the orchard which culminate in a viewpoint looking across the valley. Over the next few years we will be adding Japanese quince and rambling roses to the cherry bank, but it will remain a wild, semi cultivated hillside which supports a wide range of birds, insects, reptiles and amphibians.

Along the Great terrace the dark purple tulips are having their moment contrasted against the lime green of the euphorbia. The wisteria buds are fattening nicely, hinting at what delights there are to come. There are three varieties of tulips on the great terrace which are planted to offer a continuous display from the start of the tulip season

right until the end, they are; Havran, Negrita and Ronaldo.

I'm probably most excited at the moment by the rill garden, which until recently was a rather dark and uninspiring space. Some determined efforts to control the weeds and swathes of home-grown perennials, both grown and planted by Alison our propagator, have kick started a transformation of the space, with many plants like the primula and pulmonaria inspired by Peto's original planting.

Other things not to be missed include the last chance to appreciate Tim and Zoe's beautiful rose training before the artistically trained limbs are hidden behind a veil of leaves. Another of my favourite moments is seeing the snake's head fritillaries under the Lime trees, their amazing checkerboard petals never fail to inspire wonder in me.

It would be easy to think of this calm before the storm as being a little like the last few days in the garden before we open and season begins, but it's actually very much the other way around.

The frenetic storm of winter work ends in the calm of our Easter opening. In that way then these first few days of the new season are the calm after the storm, with the promise of warm, floriferous weeks ahead.

**Steve Lannin**, Head Gardener  
*@SteveLannin* on Instagram



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Head Gardener Steve Lannin (@SteveLannin)

## Coming up at Iford...

### *In the Garden:*

#### **80th NGS Opening - £9.50pp booked online**

20<sup>th</sup> April – join us for our 80<sup>th</sup> year opening for the National Garden Scheme

#### **Iford Plant Sale – 20th April**

In the café courtyard don't miss the opportunity to talk to our propagator Alison Clarke and purchase plants (of all sorts!) grown here at Iford.

#### **'Behind the Scenes' tour with Steve Lannin - includes walled garden visit and hot drink £32pp**

10am – 11:30 am (with garden entry until 4pm)

25<sup>th</sup> April; 22<sup>nd</sup> May; 26<sup>th</sup> June; 25<sup>th</sup> July;

29<sup>th</sup> August; 26<sup>th</sup> September

*Winter behind the scenes tours will then continue when the garden is closed.*

#### **Evening Champagne tour of the garden with owner William Cartwright-Hignett (6pm) - £45**

24<sup>th</sup> May

Delve into the fascinating history, architecture and design of the garden in this special tour.

*Why not follow your tour with a Supper Club...*



**BOOK NOW – SCAN  
THE QR CODE**

## *Iford Jazz Festival 20 – 23 June:*

#### **Cloister Concert: An Evening with Elaine Delmar tickets from £68pp**

20<sup>th</sup> June 18:00 – 21:45

#### **Scandi jazz on a Summer's night - The Martin Sjöstedt Trio with special guest vocalist Ian Shaw tickets £48pp**

21<sup>st</sup> June 18:00 – 22:30

#### **A Night with Blue Note tickets £55pp**

22<sup>nd</sup> June 18:00 – 22:30

#### **3 course jazz lunch in Iford Manor Kitchen with the Karen Sharp Duo tickets £60pp**

22nd June **SOLD OUT**

23rd June 11:30 – 14:30

**LIMITED AVAILABILITY**

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## *In the Restaurant:*

#### **6 course tasting menu Supper Clubs £65pp**

*- includes welcome drink*

*- different seasonal menus each time*

12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> April

10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> May

7<sup>th</sup> June

5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> July

*Friday supper clubs continue year-round. More dates will be released later in the year.*