



FIELD GATE FLOWERS
THE CUT FLOWER COLLECTIVE

Field Gate Flowers &

The Cut Flower Collective weekly newsletter

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(Please note if reading this at a later date that some links may no longer be valid.)

Getting shipshape before our summer events



Good morning to you all! This time last week our floristry team were working like demons to install a wedding reception at a London venue in a very short space of time. Parking wardens aside, it was a very successful occasion, and we were thrilled to be able to contribute to Lizzie and Eric's special day. Check out [some of the photos posted here](#) by photographer Jonathan Flint.

We have a brief pause in events before I host the next Great British Flower School workshop, here at Field Gate on 8th

August, swiftly followed by our two-day Large Church Installations course and then one of the highlights of my year, [the UK Floral Retreat](#), on 16th and 17th August. Details of all these events are included further into this newsletter and there are still one or two spaces on each.

When you're hosting a party at home, you have a jolly good tidy up and clean before the event... Likewise, the team are working hard at Field Gate to make the place shipshape ahead of these events (briefly distracted by the arrival of a new shed salvaged by Mr Chandler). Flowering this week on the farm are *Veronicastrum* in pinks and whites, *Gaura* 'Whirling Butterflies', *Thalictrum* (in mauve and white), *Cosmos* a-plenty, *Amaranthus*, California poppies, *Achillea*, *Calendula*... and many more.

I hope that wherever you are, your plot continues to thrive and that you're taking the time to sit and enjoy it.

Have a great week and read on...

Roz

IN CELEBRATION OF WALLFLOWERS



At Field Gate we've grown wallflowers (*Erysimum*) every year, sowing during the summer months and planting out in early autumn for flowers the following spring. Biennial wallflowers are reliable, relatively easy to grow and come with a gorgeous scent which lures you in at a time of year when floral fragrance is still a novelty.

Originally growing in the Mediterranean, *Erysimum* has no trouble growing on rocky terrain and in the UK has adapted to

growing in wall crevices, hence the name wallflower. Their adaptability and resilience makes them ideal for growing in poor soils – so long as you don't want a manicured plot... wallflowers will grow their own sweet way. They're also popular with bees, butterflies and hoverflies, making them a top pollinating plant from early spring until mid summer.

The readily-available 'Persian Carpet' mix or *Erysimum Cheiranthus* 'Harlequin Mix' give a variety of colours but may be too vibrant if you're after more subtle hues. 'Auricula Eyed' are another popular and eye-catching variety and can still be sown this month. However, there are now a plethora of new *Erysimum* cultivars, introducing new colour palettes.

Here's some we've been eyeing up for 2026:

Erysimum 'Artists Paintbox' – a mixture of yellow, pink and purple flowers but in more muted tones than the traditional wallflower mix.

Erysimum 'Monet's Moment' – coral pink and mauve with delicate veining on the petals.

Erysimum 'x marshallii' 'Apricot Delight' – flowers range from burnt orange to paler apricot, in tall spires with a long flowering period.

Let's also not forget the merits of perennial *Erysimum* which comes in a variety of colours, including the popular pale purple of 'Bowles Mauve'. Perennial *Erysimum* will flower for several years before becoming woody but it's very easy to take cuttings from existing plants, so make sure to do this in the second or third year of growing so that you have replacements waiting in the wings.

Did you know... That some wild *Erysimum* species forcefully eject pollen from their anthers when triggered – a process known as buzz pollination. For more intriguing facts on *Erysimum*, [have a look at this Instagram post from the RHS](#).

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN LAVENDER



With our local lavender farm, [Hitchin Lavender](#), opening its doors last weekend, we've been reminded of [this article from a couple of years ago listing the loveliest lavender fields to visit in England](#) (the opinion of the Visit England writers – please don't hold it against us if yours isn't on the list!). If you're travelling anywhere near these places in the next few weeks, make time to go and bask in the lavender – bliss.

9 Idyllic lavender fields to visit this summer: <https://www.wanderlustmagazine.com/inspiration/best-uk-lavender-fields/>

THE UK FLOWER RETREAT 2025



We have just two places remaining on our UK Floral Retreat which takes place two weeks from now. Will you be joining us?

This is your opportunity to spend two days immersed in the business of flower farming, as well as taking time to relax, reset goals and restart your strategy. Whether you're dreaming of becoming a flower farmer, just starting out, a florist looking to use 'own grown' flowers, or you already have some growing experience and want to make it truly profitable — this retreat is for you.

[Hear what past participants had to say about their time with us and find out more and register here.](#)

THE CUT FLOWER PODCAST: INSPIRING GARDENS & GREEN THERAPIES



"As a GP, and a keen gardener, I have long been aware of the benefits that come from gardening and horticulture for my own well-being, but more importantly for that of my patients."

- Dr Richard Claxton



*Above: Sissinghurst garden in spring
- image copyright Richard Claxton*

If you're a long-time listener to The Cut Flower Podcast, you'll probably remember Roz's conversation with Richard Claxton, Trustee of [Greenfingers charity](#) and curator of [a web-based directory of therapeutic gardens](#).

Richard trained as a doctor at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals Medical School and went on to work in paediatrics and general practice. After a 25+ year career in medicine he retrained as a garden designer, started volunteering at Sissinghurst and subsequently became a trustee for Greenfingers charity.

Richard has recently been announced as the [new Chief Executive of the National Garden Scheme](#), taking up the role this autumn. What more excuse do we need to [redirect you to this podcast episode](#)? Richard spoke to Roz about what makes a therapeutic garden, social prescribing, and how he manages his own wellbeing whilst balancing work as a GP and his mission to share the transformative power of gardens and green therapies.

You can follow Richard on Instagram [@richardclaxtongardens](#) and the directory of therapeutic gardens [@gardening4health](#)

[The Cut Flower Podcast archive](#) now has several years of regular episodes, featuring Roz's conversations with growers, florists, photographer, environmentalists, horticulturalists and business mentors, as well as her solo 'Ask Roz' broadcasts.

Subscribe via your chosen Podcast provider (Apple/Google/Spotify etc) and you'll be sent notifications as each new episode arrives.

The Great British Flower School



Flourish on the Farm

Classic eco skills

Eco Funerals

Eco Weddings

The Great British Flower School is the eco-floristry training school run by Roz with sustainable florist Ali Conway. Flourish on the Farm is their portfolio of on-site trainings, taking place at Field Gate Farm or nearby. Courses range from half days to 2-days and include a tour of the farm.

Coming up:

Beautiful Bouquets and Meadows - 8th August (1 day) | Two classic floristry techniques, building your creative confidence and teaching you the eco-skills you'll need to add the 'sustainable' stamp to your business or hobby.

Large Church Installations - 11th and 12th August | Working in a church close to Roz's flower farm at Field Gate, this course is designed for those who have already mastered the basics of sustainable floristry on a small scale. We have just two places remaining, so if this is for you, grab your spot now!

Field to Floristry farm day – 4th September (1 day) | A morning working with Roz's horticultural team, followed by an afternoon of floristry with Ali. It sounds like the perfect day to us

Mastering Wedding Bouquets and Buttonholes – 11th October (1 day) | Master the basics of the all important wedding party flowers.

3 Day Eco-Floristry Foundation course – 16/17/18 October | From wedding wiring and buttonholes, to home flowering, funeral flowering and more, our foundation course will give you all the skills and confidence to get started or switch to sustainable floristry.

FLOURISH ONLINE

We'll be launching the Great British Flower School Autumn Term courses in September, so stay tuned for details of what's on offer and how to join.

SPRING BULB COLLECTION 2026



Low availability on ranunculus, narcissi and some tulip varieties.

Time is running out to order your spring bulbs for 2026... Here's what you need to do:

[Find all the details in the catalogue here.](#)

Place your order at <https://fieldgateflowers.co.uk/tulips/> (including ranunculus and narcissi). Once we have confirmation from the Dutch bulb suppliers (usually mid-summer), we will inform you of any changes (hopefully none, but occasionally there are bulb shortages).

You will receive your bulbs/corms in early Autumn.

It is sometimes possible for Roz to add to her pre-order but if varieties sell out we will allocate available bulbs those who ordered first.

JOBS FOR THE WEEK



Plant green manures in vacant areas

Choose plants such as *Phacelia* or Borage (pictured) that will encourage pollinators and can be used as cut flowers before being dug back into the soil.

Start sowing hardy annuals for next season:

You can either do this in modules to pot on and plant out in early autumn when established, or direct sow where you'd like them to flower next year.

Continue to prick out your Dahlias:

We've mentioned this before but we're now entering full-on Dahlia season and they're growing like mad. If you want long straight blooms for cutting you need to snip out the two side buds on each stem junction, preferably before any flowers are showing.

Start collecting sweet pea seeds.

Let sweet pea flowers go over and collect the seeds if you want to collect them from your current stock. Make sure they're completely dry and free of debris before storing in a clean paper envelope and in a cool place until you're ready to sow. If yours are still flowering but you plan to collect seeds, tie coloured wool around the stems you want to save and remember to label them so you know which seed is which.

COURSES AND MEMBERSHIPS

Any questions? Ask me in my Facebook groups:

[The Cut Flower Collection from Field Gate Flowers](#) (for anyone passionate about growing cut flowers) [Growth &](#)

[Profit in your Cut Flower Business](#) (for flower farmers or those about to embark on a cut flower business)

Membership groups:

The Best Bunch

Growth Club.

Roz