

Not all the titles mentioned in this Newsletter are held by all RHS Libraries: please consult our online catalogue [www.rhs.org.uk/libraries](http://www.rhs.org.uk/libraries) for details of availability, or contact a member of the Library staff.

## A Good Read

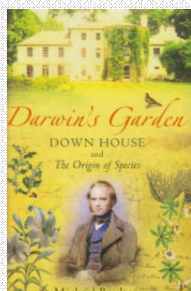
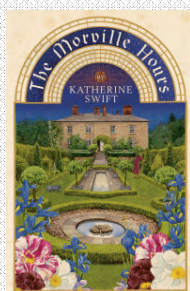
The Library is a store of surprising and fascinating discoveries: in the lower foyer at Lindley Library, London is a collection of garden related fiction and garden writing – all for loan. John Sherwood's Celia Grant series features a garden centre owner – and amateur sleuth – in mysteries such as **The hanging garden** (1992) and **The Sunflower plot** (1990); or you can follow the investigations of widowed florist Bretta Solomon in **Roots of murder** by Janis Harrison (1999).



If you like intriguing dramas, try Diana Saville's **Capability's Eden** (1999), in which the central character is challenged to re-create the Garden of Eden.

Next to the fiction is a collection of garden literature. Enjoy Monty Don's company over a decade of his gardening experiences in **My Roots** (2005), or accompany Elspeth Thompson in her life as an **Urban gardener** (1999). A new anthology of the best writing from **Hortus** magazine is compiled by David Wheeler in **Hortus Revisited** (2008). Most issues of the 21 years of **Hortus** magazine can be borrowed – just ask the Wisley Library Enquiry Team.

Recent non-fiction titles promising a good read include Katherine Swift's story of her Shropshire garden: **The Morville hours**, and Michael Boulter's **Darwin's garden: Down House and**

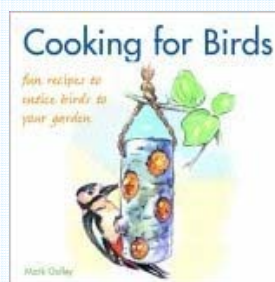


**the Origin of Species.** For another angle on Darwin's story, seek out **HMS Beagle: the story of Darwin's ship** by Keith Thompson (2003).



## Winter Wildlife

Daunted by Christmas catering, unappreciative guests and mounting leftovers? Try **Cooking for birds** instead. Mark Golley's book is packed full of ideas to tempt birds into your line of vision and children into the kitchen. With your garden guests coming back for seconds you might need **Birds in your garden** (RHS/Wildlife Trusts 2007) to answer any tricky questions. Budding birders could be persuaded to try the **BBC's Guide to British garden birds and their songs** (2008) for long journeys with a difference.



## CHRISTMAS OPENING AT RHS LIBRARIES

Lindley Library, London: closed 24-28 December, and 1- 4 January 2009. The Library will close at 5pm on 23 and 30 December and at 4pm on 31 December.

Wisley Garden Library: closed 15 December – 1 January inclusive.

Harlow Carr, and Hyde Hall Garden Libraries: closed 15 December – 4 January inclusive.

Rosemoor Garden Library: closed 22 December – 1 January inclusive.

Please note there will be no late opening in London on Tuesday 23 or 30 December.



We wish all our readers a Happy Christmas

## Contact Details

### Lending and Reference Libraries

#### Lindley Library, London

80 Vincent Square, London  
020 7821 3050

Open Mon–Fri 10am–5pm, Tues to 7pm

Email: [library.london@rhs.org.uk](mailto:library.london@rhs.org.uk)

#### Wisley Library

RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey  
01483 212428

Open 11am–4pm daily

Garden Library and Science Library open  
until 5pm Mon–Weds for staff use.

Email: [library.wisley@rhs.org.uk](mailto:library.wisley@rhs.org.uk)

#### Harlow Carr Garden Library

Harrogate, Yorkshire

Open Monday–Friday, 11.30–3.30pm

Sat 2–4pm (March–October)

Email: [library.harlowcarr@rhs.org.uk](mailto:library.harlowcarr@rhs.org.uk)

### Reference Libraries

#### Hyde Hall Garden Library

Rettendon, Essex

Open daily 12noon–4pm (3pm Oct–Feb)

Email: [library.hydehall@rhs.org.uk](mailto:library.hydehall@rhs.org.uk)

#### Rosemoor Garden Library

Gt. Torrington, Devon

Open daily 12noon–4pm

Email: [library.rosemoor@rhs.org.uk](mailto:library.rosemoor@rhs.org.uk)

## Take a Closer Look...

The Picture Library has been working closely with the RHS Images team and recently completed the first phase of a long cherished project to make the Society's images more accessible to the public.



A selection from the Library's unique collection of early prints and drawings is now available to buy as high-quality prints and canvases,

together with photographs of plants and RHS gardens. Do take a look at the initial selection of 250 images, which can also be ordered from the website [www.rhsprints.co.uk](http://www.rhsprints.co.uk).



## Hand-Crafted Inspiration

With the onset of dark evenings and Christmas looming fast, this might be the time to try something creative at home, either for the satisfaction of learning a new skill or to make a special gift. Each RHS Library holds arts and crafts titles – all inspired by the garden. Here are a few that have been popular.

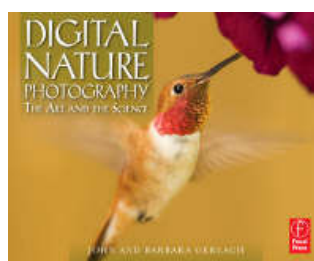


Natural decorations for Christmas always look beautiful and **Malcolm Hillier's garlands** (1994) and **A book of flower garlands** by Fiona Barnett (2003) are good inspiration. For those of you planning hand-crafted presents Pamela Westland's **Gifts from the garden** (1998) might provide some ideas.

If you like to stitch, browse the titles at shelf number 746 for both the beautiful and bizarre. At Wisley **Helen M. Stevens' embroidered gardens** (2006) and **The art & embroidery of Jane Hall: reflections of nature** (2007) are full of amazing projects.



Now may be the time to get to grips with your computer, your camera and your photograph collection. **Digital photography masterclass**



by Tom Ang (2008) and **Digital nature photography: the art and the science** by John and Barbara Gerlach. (2007) could be useful tools to set you on your way.

If you're inspired to try woodcraft and create outdoor furniture and other gifts, **Turning green wood** by Michael O'Donnell (2000) may be the answer. Try your hand at willow weaving, with guidance from Truus Stol and Janny Roelofsen in **Willow weaving** (2004) or watch a master at work in **Making living willow sculptures: a step-by-step DVD** by Steve Pickup (2006).

Nature and gardening inspires a wealth of crafts. We hope there's one to tempt you.

## Taste of Autumn Show

The Library took part in Wisley's hugely successful Taste of Autumn show in October. We met hundreds of visitors and were able to spread the word about the Library. Lots of members joined the Library and borrowed books for the first time that weekend.