

# BLOSSOM TRAIL 2020

A delightful year round journey  
throughout the Vale of Evesham



[www.valeandspa.co.uk/blossom](http://www.valeandspa.co.uk/blossom)



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# SPRINGTIME IN THE VALE

The Vale of Evesham and its neighbouring area has been famous for its fruit and vegetable growing since Medieval times and is known to be some of the most productive horticultural land in the country.

For a few weeks between mid-March and mid-May the roadsides along the 50 mile AA signposted Blossom Trail are ablaze with colour.

The spring Blossom Trail can be enjoyed in many ways - as an adventure in your own time or as a fun-filled organised day out. To enhance your experience further, this publication focuses on the horticultural highlights the area has to offer throughout the rest of the year - award-winning parks, garden centres, nurseries and farm shops (many with cafes) selling outstanding local produce and home cooked delicacies. From April to June this will also include the famous Vale of Evesham Asparagus - whose prestige has gained it PGI European Protected Food named status.

Be sure to read about the blossom as it will provide you with information as to when each type can bloom, as well as an interesting fact about each type that can be found along the trail.

# ABOUT THE BLOSSOM

For almost four decades the Vale of Evesham Blossom Trail has been recognised as one of the top 'wonders of spring' and can be experienced on foot, by bike, car or coach.

The term Blossom is given to a cluster of flowers that bloom on any plant - this can include magnolia, hawthorn, blackthorn and ornamental cherries.

Blossom trees however, tend to be associated with the fruiting (Prunus genus) varieties - these include cherries, plums, apples, pears, peaches and crab-apples.

Blossom provides pollen to pollinators such as bees who initiate the cross pollination necessary for the trees to reproduce by producing fruit. The colour of the blossom that can be seen throughout the Vale of Evesham range from the delicate white of pear, plum, orange, some cherry and most almonds; to the variable degrees of pink via apple, peach and cherry.



Throughout the Blossom Trail you will find there are many different varieties of blossom, below are some of the different types you can find during spring time in Worcestershire's Vale & Spa.

The blossom of apple is usually tinged with pink and an apple orchard in May is surely the most beautiful site in the farmed landscape. Apples are pollinated by all sorts of insects including long-horn beetles, malachite beetles, butterflies and solitary bees.



The pure white plum blossom is on show for a very short period in April and attracts an assortment of pollinators including hoverflies, dagger-flies, bee-flies and small beetles. Plum orchards once dominated the landscape around the Vale but only a few of these special places now remain.



Large old pear trees can be seen along roadsides and in hedgerows dotted through the Vale. The majority of these big trees produce small pears used for making perry. The bark of a pear tree divides into small rectangular sections making it quite distinctive.



The first fruit blossom of the year. Often planted as hedgerow shrubs or as small trees in orchards. An important early nectar source for honeybees which will have used up their stored honey over the winter.



The delicate blossom is not such a common sight in the Vale nowadays, being mostly restricted to hedgerows and along water courses. All of the old Damson trees in the Vale are infected by a fungus Taphrina insititiae which causes twiggy growths known as Witches' Brooms.



A common shrub turning hedgerows white in early spring. The abundant blossom attracts many pollinators including hoverflies and bumblebees.



For more information visit: [www.valeandspa.co.uk/blossom](http://www.valeandspa.co.uk/blossom)

# THE VALLEY



Looking for a family shopping experience with a difference? Look no further than The Valley - just 2 miles from Evesham, Worcestershire.

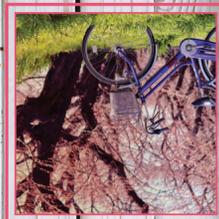
Green-fingered visitors can indulge at Blue Diamond Home & Garden. Fashionistas can pick up some new threads at Outdoor and Country and Fat Face and if home interiors are your thing, a visit to ProCook is a must.

All kinds of cyclists can test their skills in Boardman Bike's Performance Centre alongside their showcase bike shop.

Board the Evesham Vale Light Railway and chugg through picturesque countryside before stopping off to set the little ones free at The Valley Castle Adventure Playground.

If all that fun has worked up an appetite, you will be spoiled for choice at The Applebarn Restaurant, Coffee #1 or The Crafty Cuppa.

The Valley is the perfect place to shop-till-you-drop and relax, plus with free parking all week, there's no reason not to pay a visit.



A delightful gear round journey throughout the Vale of Evesham

2020 BLOSSOM TRAIL

# EXPLORING THE BLOSSOM TRAIL



## Cycling

Cycling around the Blossom Trail couldn't be easier. The National Cycle Route 442 is perfectly situated to enjoy the blossom - the route travels from Worcester to Evesham via Pershore, taking you through quiet villages and country lanes. It really is the best way to get close to nature.

To help you get around the route, there are a number of blue Spring Blossom Trail signs to look out for on junctions. To assist, a GPX file of the route is available to download from our website - [www.valeandspa.co.uk/cycling](http://www.valeandspa.co.uk/cycling)

If cycle events take your interest, the Blossom Trail Bikeaway is a great opportunity for an enjoyable ride whilst raising money for local charities. Taking place on Sunday 19 April and starting from Hampton Ferry in Evesham, three differing lengths can be chosen that lets you loose in the countryside with the blooming blossom.

For more information on the event visit: [www.bikeawayventures.co.uk](http://www.bikeawayventures.co.uk) or call 01386 565564.

## Walking

If you would like to enjoy the wonderful countryside by foot then Worcestershire's Vale & Spa makes an ideal location. By offering a range of routes, from long, short, easy or difficult, there is something that allows everyone to enjoy the views. Many of these routes are signposted and can be easily found and followed to allow you to take in the wildlife without getting lost.

The walking routes are easily accessible and can be located all around the trail - marked by a black walking sign. From here, you can follow the arrows and signs that will take you over stiles, along bridleways, through stunning fields of blossom and orchards filled with colour.

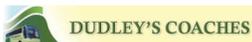
Along the way you'll cross many other trails which you could find yourself exploring, including:

- The Wychavon Way
- The Shakespeare's Avon Way
- The Millennium Way
- The Cotswold Way

For more information visit: [www.valeandspa.co.uk/walking](http://www.valeandspa.co.uk/walking)



## Coach Tours



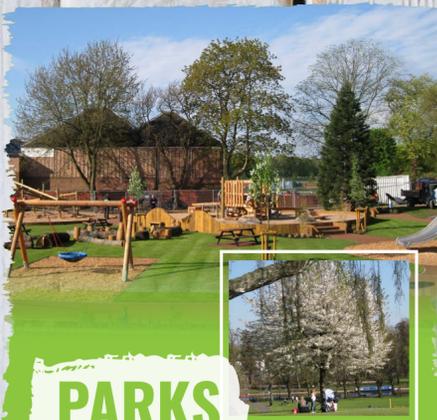
Having your very own tour guide is another great way to experience what the Vale has to offer. They will be able to give you fascinating historical and entertaining facts about blossom, as well as the area, which is famous in more ways than you might think.

Take the opportunity to explore some of the beautiful towns and villages that hold their own wonders and leave you wanting to come back. This tour will pick up from various points throughout the county on Thursday 9 and 16 April.

Booking is essential. For details call Dudley's Coaches - 01386 792206

A GPX file of the route is available to download from our website for use with a Sat-Nav or smart phone. It allows you to follow the route accurately whichever method you choose to explore the trail.

# PARKS



Whilst enjoying your visit to the area to experience the Blossom Trail, a trip to one of the award-winning parks is a delightful addition to your itinerary. Located in the centre of Pershore and Evesham, the Green Flag parks are bursting with colour when in full bloom.

- Children will be entertained with an exciting variety of play equipment and splash pads
- Look out for the unique art pieces
- Simply chill out and relax in the idyllic surroundings
- Marvel at the majestic historic buildings

For more information on our parks and their facilities - including those not on the trail, visit [www.valeandspa.co.uk/parks](http://www.valeandspa.co.uk/parks)

## General Information

Tel: 01386 565373  
Email: [info@valeandspa.co.uk](mailto:info@valeandspa.co.uk)  
[www.valeandspa.co.uk](http://www.valeandspa.co.uk)

## Tourist Information Centres

**Broadway**  
Tel: 01386 852937  
Email: [info@visitbroadway.co.uk](mailto:info@visitbroadway.co.uk)

**Droitwich Spa**  
Tel: 01905 774312  
Email: [heritage@droitwichspa.gov.uk](mailto:heritage@droitwichspa.gov.uk)

**Evesham**  
Tel: 01386 446944  
Email: [tic@almonry.ndo.co.uk](mailto:tic@almonry.ndo.co.uk)

**Pershore**  
Tel: 01905 843896  
Email: [tourism@pershore-tc.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@pershore-tc.gov.uk)



## Where to find us:

The M5, M42 and M50 motorways are on the doorstep, as are mainline rail links from London Paddington and Birmingham. Overseas connections are well catered for, with nearby airports including Birmingham, East Midlands and Bristol.

01386 565373  
[info@valeandspa.co.uk](mailto:info@valeandspa.co.uk)



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ONLY 2 MILES FROM EVESHAM





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### Clive's of Crophorne

The Heath, Main Road, Crophorne, Pershore, WR10 3NE

With fantastic views of our fruit trees in blossom from our farm shop & Café, Clive's of Crophorne has something for everyone. Whether you're looking to relax with a coffee and slice of homemade cake, sample our delightful homemade breakfasts and lunches or shop locally sourced produce in our farm shop and butchery we have something for everyone.

Open Tuesday - Saturday 9am - 5pm  
Sunday 10am - 4pm (closed Monday)

T: 01386 860439

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### Broadway Tower

Broadway Tower, Middle Hill, Broadway, WR12 7LB

Broadway Tower is a privately-owned Cotswold destination set within 50-acres. Enjoy a tasty lunch at the Morris and Brown Café before climbing the Tower to explore the exhibitions and enjoy breath-taking views spanning 16 counties.

Feeling energetic? Hire an e-bike from our Tower Barn visitor centre or unwind with coffee and cake.

The "secret" Nuclear Bunker is open on weekends from April - October and our herd of Red Deer are always on show.

Morris & Brown cafe	9am-5pm	T: 01386 852945
Broadway Tower	10am-5pm	T: 01386 852390
The Tower Barn	9.30am-5pm	T: 01386 572284

www.broadwaytower.co.uk

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### Ellenden Farm Shop & Farmhouse Kitchen Café

Evesham Road, Harvington, WR11 8LU

"A farming family with a passion for quality, price & service"

Come and enjoy a meal in our Farmhouse Kitchen café prepared by our in-house chef, using produce from our own and other local farms, with beautiful views of the blossom in our traditional apple, pear and plum orchards. Our shop stocks a range of home-grown and locally produced food and drink, including our own highly regarded beef and lamb, local asparagus, and eggs laid by our hens. We also sell a range of local beers, wines, ciders and gifts. Shop open daily 9am - 6pm; Café from 9am weekends and 9.30am weekdays. Hot food served until 3pm; teas and coffees until 4.30pm (4pm Sundays)

T: 01386 870296 | E: shop@EllendenFarmShop.co.uk  
www.ellendenfarmshop.co.uk

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### Wayside Farmshop

50 Pitchers Hill, Wickhamford, Evesham, WR11 7RT

Fresh local produce daily. Vintage style tearoom serving breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea. Asparagus and plum specialists.

Situated on the A44 between Broadway and Evesham.

Follow us @waysidefarmshop on Facebook and Instagram  
T: 01386 830546  
www.waysidefarmshop.com

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### Revills Farm Shop and Farmhouse Café

Bourne Road, Defford, WR8 9BS

The best home grown asparagus. Local produce and goodies from further afield!

Great café, seasonal menus, coffee, tea, all day breakfast, lunch, homemade cakes, scones. Winter months sit by the fire. Summer sit outside and admire the views.

Enjoy a beer, cider or glass of wine. Come out for a bike ride. Friendly staff, ample parking. All you need in one place.

T: 01386 750466 | www.revillsfarmshop.co.uk

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### Mill Lane Nursery

Mill Lane, Drakes Broughton, Pershore, WR10 2AF

A family run, traditional nursery growing and selling a variety of plants and garden essentials.

We have an extensive range of shrubs, trees, cut flowers, perennials, bedding and basket plants, pots and compost for all seasons to keep your garden looking great.

We have a helpful team who can provide quality service and advice to ensure your plants will thrive in your own garden. Why not pop into Mill Lane Nursery? The place for plants!

Opening hours: Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm; Sunday: check website for seasonal opening times.

T: 01905 841650 | www.milllanenursery.co.uk

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### Birlingham Nurseries

Upper End, Birlingham, Nr Pershore, WR10 3AA

Not just a garden centre! We are a local friendly family run business. Home grown asparagus, usually the earliest in the Vale.

Birlingham Nurseries - Variety of perennials, shrubs, herbs, seasonal bedding, summer vegetable plants, compost, seeds, stoneware and wooden garden furniture.

Vale Vintage - Unique gifts, house and garden items. Old, new, shabby chic and reclaimed.

Pershore Log Cabins - Complement any garden guest /play room, office, workshop or man cave. Display models on site. Top quality Nordic spruce.

Open Monday - Saturday 9.30am-5pm  
Sunday 10am-4pm

T: 01386 750668 / 07973 500921

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### Chadbury Farm Shop & Café

Worcester Road, Evesham, WR11 4TD

Chadbury Farm Shop & Café is a family run business with our own home grown plums & locally sourced produce from the Vale of Evesham.

You can relax in our café with fantastic views and enjoy our seasonal menus, Breakfast, lunch, choice of homemade cakes, scones and tea cakes with vegan, vegetarian and gluten free options available.

We also have a large selection of local wines, beers, ciders, spirits and juices.

Ample parking for cars and coaches.

T: 01386 446705 | E: chadburyfarmshop@btconnect.com

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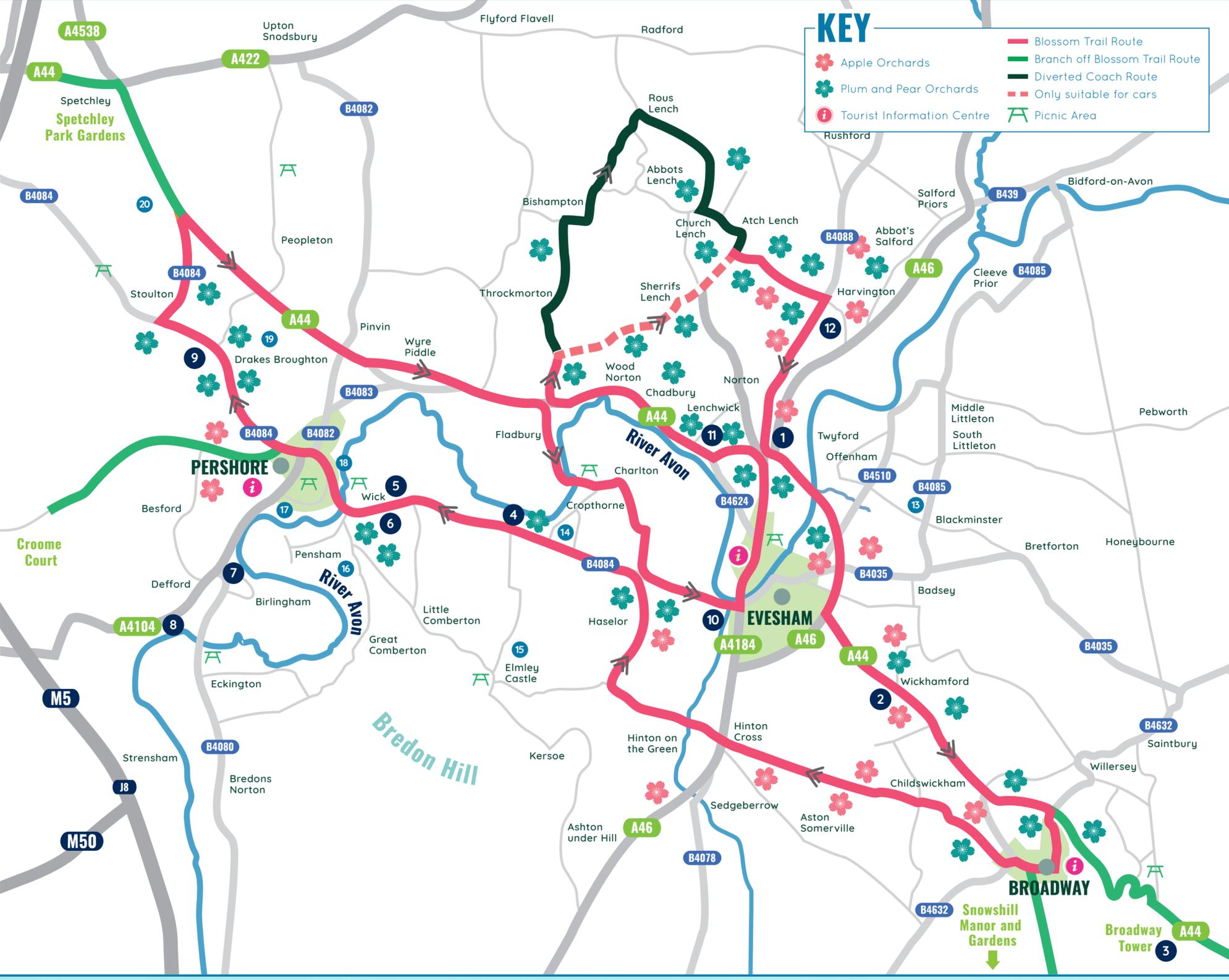
### The Real Flower Petal Confetti Company

Wyke Manor, Wick, Pershore, WR10 3NZ

Visit the colourful Confetti Flower Field!

Over 20 acres of delphiniums and cornflowers bloom on the Wyke Manor Estate for a few days each summer. It's a spectacular sight! The flowers are grown to become wedding confetti, but before they are harvested you can come and walk around the blooms, soak up the colours, beautiful views and enjoy tea and cake in our pop-up café. This unique spot is also perfect for photographers! Open 10am - 5pm daily for approx. 10 days at the end of June / early July. Please visit our website for this summer's dates, full visiting details and directions. Sorry, no dogs.

T: 01386 555045  
www.confettidirect.co.uk/flowerfields



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### Pershore College

Avonbank, Pershore, WR10 3JP

offers everything from leisure courses for adults to full-time courses for school leavers, as well as degrees in agri-tech, arboriculture and veterinary nursing. On-campus we have Pershore College Garden Centre & Nurseries, open to the public and trade, Monday to Saturday.

A national centre for horticulture on a 60-hectare site, Pershore College offers the very best in land-based learning showcased by our new main building's 'living wall', vivarium and aquaponics system. The college

www.wcg.ac.uk/pershore

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### The New Hampton Farm Shop and Café

Pershore Rd, Evesham, WR11 2NB

Traditional green grocers of the highest quality. Specialising in the finest, fresh local fruit and vegetables, pies, cakes, bread and milk,

sausages, bacon, cold meats, cheese, plants and a selection of gifts. Café selling fantastic 'Tunki' coffee, breakfasts, light lunches and real dairy ice cream.

Open seven days a week.

T: 01386 41540  
www.hamptonfarmshop.com/the-cafe

- 13 Station Garden Nurseries, Blackminster T: 01386 832698
- 14 W. J. Rowlings Nurseries, Crophorne T: 01386 860793
- 15 Wayside Nurseries, Elmley Castle T: 07816 053887
- 16 Four Acres Nursery, Great Comberton T: 01386 550357
- 17 Three Springs Garden Nursery, Pershore T: 01386 555476
- 18 The Secret Garden Centre, Pershore T: 01386 552648
- 19 Three Springs Garden Nursery, Pershore T: 01386 555476
- 20 Walsgrove Farm, Spetchley T: 01905 345371