



THE REMARKABLE DR. WITHERING

250 years ago in 1776, Wellington-born physician and botanist Dr William Withering published his groundbreaking work *The botanical arrangement of all the vegetables naturally growing in Great Britain*. Known simply as *Withering's Botany*, this was the nation's first modern scientific plant compendium - or 'flora' - and became the standard text on botany for almost a century.

Coordinated by Wellington H2A and Wellington Town Council, *Flora 250* marks this anniversary with a varied programme of events taking place across the year here in Withering's hometown. It is a celebration of a remarkable man, the plant life that he studied and the beauty of the natural world around us - from ancient woodlands to our own back gardens.

Events are being organised and hosted by several local groups and booking arrangements vary. More events may be added, so keep an eye on lovewellington.co.uk or follow Love Wellington on social media for any programme changes across the year.



Fri 20- Sat 21 March: Blooms & birdsong – A Spring Art Exhibition

Wellington Community Art Gallery, 8-10 Duke St, 10.30am-3pm (plus meet the artists, 6.30-8pm on 20 March)

Wellington Community Art Gallery hosts its seasonal exhibition, celebrating the beauty of springtime. Free entry.

Sat 21 March: Gardeners' Jumble Sale

Arleston Community Centre, 10am-1pm

Get growing this spring and summer with tools, seeds, pots & plants. To book a £5 pitch email adrienne.taylor@wellington-shropshire.gov.uk.

21 March: Beginners Art Workshop – Cherry blossoms & chirping birds

Wellington Community Art Gallery, 8-10 Duke St, 2.30pm-3.30pm

Friendly, relaxed workshop for adults/families. £10 per person including all materials and light refreshments. For details and booking email wellingtoncommunityartgallery@gmail.com.

Sat 28 March: Healing oils of The Bible – faith, science & scent

House of Prayer Church, 8-10 Duke St, 6-8.30pm

From frankincense and myrrh to hyssop and cedarwood, The Bible is filled with botanical treasures that were used in worship, healing, and spiritual life. Find out more at this workshop hosted by Richard Molli. For details and booking email hopadmin@hopchurch.org.uk.

Fri 3 – Sat 11 April: Wellington Sunflower Trail (all around the town)

Find the sunflowers springing up in shop windows around Wellington for Easter. Hosted by Love Wellington in support of the Lingen Davies Sunflower Appeal. Trail maps available from the Wellington Orbit.

Thu 16 April: William Withering – Eminent son of Wellington

Wellington Community Library, 7.30pm

Another chance to hear local historian Diana Clarke's 2025 talk exploring how the son of a Wellington apothecary-surgeon rose to become one of the most accomplished doctors, botanists and medical scientists of his age. Free of charge but donations welcome. Wellington History Group's Special Paper on Withering will be one sale priced at £2.

Sat 18 April: Seed-Swap Saturday

Wellington Community Library, 11am-12.30pm

If you've got a favourite plant in your garden, bring some seeds to exchange with other green-fingered folks. Children are invited to plant a sunflower seed to take away. Supported by Cllr Davis & Cllr Cook's Pride funding. Free entry, no booking required.

Sat 25 April: Fun with Flowers

House of Prayer Church, 10am-12pm or 1.30-3.30pm

Guided by retired florist, Nina Lucas, you will be shown how to make your own floral arrangement as a table centrepiece or to hang on a door. No experience required. Free of charge but donations welcome. To book, email hopadmin@hopchurch.org.uk.

Sat 23 May: A Botanical Browse with Mark Duffell

Admaston, Shawbirch & Dothill (meet Admaston House), 3-5pm

Join experienced botanist Mark Duffell as he explores the hidden treasures of Dothill & Shawbirch Local Nature Reserve. In 2023, Mark added over 190 species to the record for the site, including 11 previously unrecorded in Shropshire. Email fdlnr.admn@gmail.com for inquiries.

Fri 29 May: Ketley up close

The Millennium Nature Reserve (meet at carpark by Jenko's) 2pm start

Ecologist Chris Hogarth leads a walk around the fascinating habitats of Ketley where industrial landscapes forged in Withering's lifetime have now been reclaimed by nature. Part of Telford Walk Week. Book online at wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk.

Sun 7 June: Charity Sunflower Walk from Wellington to Shifnal

Meet at Wellington Leisure Centre, 8.30am for a 9am start

Led by Gunther Bedson - 'the Shifnal Rambler' - this 13-mile walk will raise funds for the Lingen Davies Sunflower Appeal. Starting from Wellington it will take in varied habitats of The Ercall and Telford Town Park before ending with a barbecue at the Park House Hotel, Shifnal. For information and registration visit lovewellington.co.uk.

Sat 13 June: Wellington Midsummer Fayre

All Saints Church and Market Square, 10am-3pm

Dr Withering takes pride of place in this year's costumed procession - first recorded in 1773. Amongst all the usual music, dance and drama of the Fayre, make floral hair decorations or buttonholes at the Flora 250 stall, restock your garden at the plant stall, and learn about pollinators with Alison's travelling beehive. Free entry. Organised by Wellington H2A and All Saints Church. See wellingtonh2a.org for details.

Sat 13 June: Film - The Madness of King George

The Wellington Orbit, afternoon and evening screenings

The case of a confused king confounded the 18th Century medical establishment - and saw the Prince of Wales plot to take the throne. Round off a day at the Midsummer Fayre with this 1994 BAFTA-winning drama by Alan Bennett and starring Nigel Hawthorne, Helen Mirren and Rupert Everett. See wellingtonorbit.co.uk for details and tickets.

Mon 15 June: Make your own... Georgian nosegay

Wellington Community Library, 10am-12pm

No fashionable 18th Century lady would leave home without her nosegay - a small bouquet of fragrant flowers and herbs designed to mask the unpleasant smells of the street. Join floral artist Amanda Goode and make your own. Supported by Cllr Davis & Cllr Cook's Pride funding. Free entry but book in advance via library@wellington-shropshire.gov.uk or speak to library staff.

Sat 27 - Sun 28 June: Wellington Open Gardens Weekend

A rare chance to take a tour of at least 10 private gardens around the town, including free entry to National Trust Sunnycroft. In aid of Shropshire charity Community Resource and supported by Love Wellington. For details and tickets visit lovewellington.co.uk.

Fri 3 July: Wellington in Bloom

Judging takes place for this year's competition to find the most green-fingered Wellingtonians. To see the categories and enter, visit lovewellington.co.uk.

Sat 15 August: Another Botanical Browse with Mark Duffell

Admaston, Shawbirch & Dothill (meet Admaston House), 3-5pm

Same time, same place but different plants to discover. A second outing with experienced botanist Mark Duffell as he leads this late-summer tour of Dothill & Shawbirch Local Nature Reserve. Email fdlnr.admn@gmail.com for inquiries.

Fri 28 - Sat 29 August: Summertime! A Summer Art Exhibition

**Wellington Community Art Gallery, 8-10 Duke St, 10.30am-3pm
(plus meet the artists, 6.30-8pm on 28 August)**

Wellington Community Art Gallery hosts its second seasonal exhibition of the year. Free entry.

Sat 29 August: Jack Green's Have-A-Go Gardening Show

Market Square, 11am

Jack Green the Gardener brings his highly interactive children's show to Market Square as part of Wellington Town Council's Urban Scarecrow Festival. Free entry, no booking required - and you might even get to take home a plant to grow on your windowsill!

Sat 29 August: Beginners Art Workshop - sunflowers & scarecrows

Wellington Community Art Gallery, 8-10 Duke St, 2.30-3.30pm

Friendly, relaxed workshop for adults/families. £10 per person including all materials and light refreshments. For details and booking, email wellingtoncommunityartgallery@gmail.com.

Sat 12 September: Masquerade Ball & Assembly

Venue to be confirmed

A taste of Bridgerton comes to Wellington! It's 12th September, 1797, and the Witherings are celebrating their silver wedding anniversary. Join them for an evening of music and dancing, courtesy of the Gracechurch Historical Dancers. Their majesties King George and Queen Charlotte will also be in attendance. See lovewellington.co.uk for venue and ticket details.

Tue 15 September: A walk around Withering's Wellington

Wellington town centre (meet All Saints Church); 10am-12.30pm

Join local historians Rob Francis and Marc Petty on this time-travelling tour of 18th Century Wellington and explore the town that Dr Withering knew - its streets and buildings, its characters and customs. Part of Wellington Walking Festival. For details and booking visit wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk.

Tue 15 September: Ketley up close

The Millennium Nature Reserve (meet at carpark by Jenko's) 2pm start

Ecologist Chris Hogarth leads another walk around Ketley where industrial landscapes forged in Withering's lifetime have now been reclaimed by nature. Part of Wellington Walking Festival. For details and booking visit wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk.

Fri 18 September: A Fungus Foray

Ercall Wood, 11am start (meet at Ercall Wood Car Park)

Withering's Botany drew attention to the rich diversity of fungi in the British Isles - and you don't have to go far to see that diversity on show. Join John Ratcliffe as he heads deep into Ercall Wood on the hunt for fungus of all shapes and sizes. Part of Wellington Walking Festival. For details and booking visit wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk.

Thu 1 October: Planting Words

The Gratitude Cafe, Duke St; from 7pm

Marking National Poetry Day, this informal event invites you to come along and share your favourite nature-inspired poems - or even one you've written yourself. Guests can sign-up for speaking slots on the night. This is a pay-as-you-feel event with refreshments available. Contact The Gratitude Cafe for details.

Sat 3 October: Harvest Swap & Sale

The Gratitude Cafe, Duke St; from 1pm (and serving food all day)

Seeds and cuttings, fruit and veg, chutneys and preserves – bring them to exchange or find them here to buy. Accompanied by a specially themed menu all day. Contact The Gratitude Cafe for details.

Wed 28 October: What's your poison? A Halloween Quiz

The Red Lion, Holyhead Rd; 7-9pm

The ghost of Dr Withering leads a night of quizzing on everything from poisonous plants to malevolent medics. £2 per player, maximum six players per team.

Fri 6 – Sat 7 November: The Fruitful Season- An Autumn Art Exhibition

Wellington Community Art Gallery, 8-10 Duke St, 10.30am-3pm (plus meet the artists, 6.30-8pm on 6 November)

Wellington Community Art Gallery hosts its third seasonal exhibition of the year celebrating the colours of Autumn. Free entry.

Sat 7 November: Beginners Art Workshop – A Flowering Romance

Wellington Community Art Gallery, 8-10 Duke St, 2.30-3.30pm

This session takes its inspiration from the botanical illustrations of Helena Cookes, Withering's wife and collaborator. Friendly, relaxed art workshop for adults only. £10 per person including all materials and light refreshments. For details and booking, email wellingtoncommunityartgallery@gmail.com.

This programme is accurate as of 6 March 2026. Please check for updates and additions across the year at lovewellington.co.uk.

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