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## Flower power

It's 'blooming' marvellous to report that several flower shows have now confirmed events for 2021. Here are five dates to add to your diary:

### National Flower Show

21-23 May, Hylands House CM2 8WQ

› [hylandsestate.co.uk](http://hylandsestate.co.uk)

### Blenheim Palace Flower Show

25-27 June, Blenheim Palace OX20 1PP

› [blenheimflowershow.co.uk](http://blenheimflowershow.co.uk)

### Norfolk Garden Show

16-18 July, Norfolk Showground NR5 OTT

› [norfolkgardenshow.co.uk](http://norfolkgardenshow.co.uk)

### Newbury Garden Show

31 July - 1 August, Newbury

Showground RG18 9QZ

› [aztecevents.co.uk/garden-shows](http://aztecevents.co.uk/garden-shows)

### Newark Garden Show

3-5 September, Newark

Showground NG24 2NY

› [newarkgardenshow.co.uk](http://newarkgardenshow.co.uk)

## BIKEPARK WALES ADDS FOUR NEW TRAILS

MOUNTAIN-BIKING ENTHUSIASTS will be delighted to hear that the UK's biggest bike park, BikePark Wales, is now nearing completion on four all-new trails at its purpose-built resort near Merthyr Tydfil, at the foothills of the Brecon Beacons.

The trails are an exciting mix of blue, red and black runs, as well as a major new top-secret route designed to challenge the world's best riders.

The bike park has also recently completed the UK's longest descending beginners' trail. At 5km in length, Kermit makes a perfect introduction to the sport of mountain-biking

and is aimed specifically at novice cyclists. The addition of the new trails means the resort will have a total of 44 different routes for visitors to ride – significantly more than anywhere else in Britain.

With a specialist bus service to transport riders to the head of the trails, bike and equipment hire, coaching, guiding and an on-site café, BikePark Wales offers a great day out on the mountain and is suitable for all levels of cycling ability, from beginners to pro mountain-bikers.

For more information and to book tickets, visit [www.bikeparkwales.com](http://www.bikeparkwales.com).



## READERS' TOP TOURING TIPS

- Use a rubber band on your toilet roll to stop it unrolling while you're travelling! **Mike Robinson**
- Twist guide ropes several times before pegging the awning, to stop the annoying flapping noise in the wind. **Lee Duffield**
- Bring a flask of coffee for the journey – even being stuck in a traffic jam is better with a coffee! **Debbie Birch**

We need your  
touring hacks!

Got a great tip to share? Email  
[letters@practicalcaravan.com](mailto:letters@practicalcaravan.com)



## TOURING CAT-AVAN!

Thought I'd share a photo of our caravanning cat on tour. She loves it! She had her eye on some chickens at the top of the site at Clarion Lodge Campsite, Menston, West Yorkshire.

**Tom Haworth**