



Issue 5  
April 20th

*FOVG Valley Gardens Watch  
during the Covid19 restrictions*



*Hanami 'blossom viewing' Festival Issue:*

*All images, apart from Washington DC, taken this week in Valley Gardens*

Did you know that Valley Gardens has 60 cherry trees of several varieties which blossom continuously from late February through to late April, early May? ... I counted them on one of my walks this week! This year we cannot picnic under them, so here are some interesting facts and pictures from here and abroad.



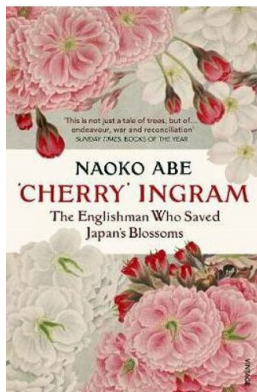
*Lovliest of trees, the cherry now  
Is hung with bloom along the  
bough,*

*And stands along the woodland ride,  
Wearing white for Eastertide  
A E Houseman*



## Interesting Facts:

### Collingwood 'Cherry' Ingram (1880 – 1981)



Cherry Ingram was a British ornithologist, plant collector and gardener, who became the world authority on Japanese Cherry trees by 1926. He is best known for reintroducing the great white cherry back into Japan, raised from cuttings taken from an old tree in the UK, which he named ' Prunus serrulataTai Haku.'

The book by Naoko Abe about him is available in Harlow Carr library. Harrogate's famous cherry-tree walk is mentioned, and also how two more horticulturalist Chris Sanders a 21<sup>st</sup> century Sakura (Japanese Chery) expert, and Chris Lane met on a plant ID course at Harlow Carr. They went off together to search for rare flowering cherries at nurseries and gardens throughout Europe. Chris Lane at Witch Hill Nursery, Sittingbourne holds a collection of 350 varieties; so you could say that none of this would have happened if they had not met at Harlow Carr.

### Hanami in Washington DC

Every year Washington DC holds a three week National Cherry Blossom Festival. The Yoshino Cherry trees (*Prunus x yedoensis*), a beautiful cherry which surrounds the tidal basin in a protected area called the Golden Zone, were gifted in 1912 by the Mayor of Tokyo. A Haiku (Japanese poetry style) competition is held every year with the best ones printed onto coloured boards and placed along the viewing route. This year's winner has been sent by my Washington correspondent and we share it here with you.

*I understand the moon was present during the day around the time of this year's festival*

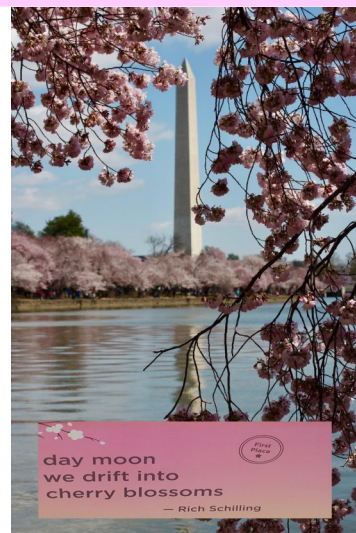


Image by Frances Wellings



### Sakura Cherry Trees Project

As part of the Japan – UK Season of Culture over 5000 cherry trees will be planted in UK parks, gardens and schools.

Donated by the Japanese Government, and planted by the local communities. Harlow Carr is in receipt of some of these which have, we think, already been planted.