

COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY COTSWOLD GROUP OCTOBER 2023



GARDEN VISITS

This is the time of year when many gardens close to the public, but autumn specialists such as The Picton Garden and Old Court Nurseries, (Walwyn Road, Colwall, Herefordshire, WR13 6QE) and our local arboretums at Batsford and Westonbirt are splendid this month. The larger gardens such as those of the National Trust, the Painswick Rocoo Garden and Sezincote are still open too.

You will still find some gardens open under the National Garden Scheme, including Picton on the **16th October**. Browse <https://ngs.org.uk/> for gardens to visit and online opportunities.

Westonbirt Arboretum lost 5,000 trees in its Silk Wood to ash dieback in 2020/2021. It has now received £249,359,000 from the National Lottery and £100,8600 from other charities towards a replanting project, with a target to raise another £350,000. The replanting is intended to be a community project with volunteers, community groups and schools. If you would like to be involved, contact Oscar Adams, the Westonbirt Project Manager, oscar.adams@forestryengland.uk

OUR NEXT SMALL GROUP VISIT

This will be to Bourton House, Bourton-on-the-Hill, Moreton-in-Marsh GL56 9AE on the afternoon of the 19th October. Bourton House garden is one of the highlights of the autumn season in Gloucestershire with stunning borders and we plan to visit on the afternoon of Thursday 19th October. Thanks to box blight the knot garden has now been replaced with an ornamental grass garden and more wildflower areas have been introduced. The highlight is always the colourful planting in the borders with many tender perennials and always something one hasn't seen before. Admission is £9 per person, but they are part of the Gardener's World 2 for 1 card so bring your card if you have one. There is a pop up cafe for teas and homemade cake.

Contact Natalie (natalie@lestones.plus.com or 01242 602384) if you want to join us for meeting up arrangements.

COURT HOUSE GARDEN, STRETTON ON FOSSE

In September we had an afternoon visit to Court House, an old farmhouse next to the church at Stretton on Fosse. Carpets of cyclamen glowed in the autumn sun and there was still abundant colour in the borders. A large kitchen garden to one side is cleverly made to look wider by a zigzag box hedge and trained fruit trees, although sadly they are having some problems with box blight. A natural pond and winter garden then lead to an orchard, fern area and rose garden. The owner showed us around and then left us to look at our leisure and we finished with tea on the terrace.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE GARDEN OPEN FOR NGS IN OCTOBER

Thursday 19th October Special Plants, Greenway Lane, Cold Ashton, South Gloucestershire, SN14 8LA

This is an architect-designed ¾ acre hillside garden with stunning views and exotic plants, which was started in autumn 1996. It has gravel gardens for borderline hardy plants and a black and white (purple and silver) garden, as well as a hot border and annual, biennial and tender plants for late summer colour. There are also a vegetable garden, orchard, spring-fed ponds and a bog garden, plus a woodland walk and allium alley. Annual, biennial and tender plants are used for late summer colour.

10.30 – 5pm Adults £5; child free. Home-made teas.

CHELTENHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL

The annual Cheltenham Literature Festival is now on until the 15th October 2023.

Events include some of particular interest to gardeners and plant lovers:

Monday 9th October 3.30 – 5pm Feathers and Flowers with Arthur Parkinson and Sarah Raven at the Daffodil with afternoon tea.

Tuesday 10th October

10-11am How to Read a Tree with Tristan Gooley

2 – 3pm The Ways of the Woods with Tristan Gooley, Daniel Mason and Daniel Hahn

Wednesday 11th October 4 – 5pm. Secret Gardens: A Private Tour with Tim Hubbard and Victoria Summerly, exploring the secret gardens of the Cotswolds and Cornwall

For more information, pick up a brochure from Waterstones, and book online at cheltenhamfestivals.com/literature or ring 01242 85027 or call in at the site on Montpellier Gardens.

GARDEN GNOMES

Love them or loathe them? Do they have a place in your garden? Garden gnomes were banned from “serious” garden shows such as Chelsea, which barred coloured sculptures in 1990. However, Jekka McVicar was known to smuggle Borage, her own gnome, into her displays there.

Garden gnomes were first produced in 19th century Germany by sculptor Philip Griebel. Made of clay (and eventually resin and plastic by the 1970s and 80s), these gnomes were called Gartenzwerge or garden dwarfs. However, some say the ancestors of our gnomes were actually Ancient Roman figures.

Did you know:

- Ex Prime Minister John Major’s father sold gnomes?
- Lampy, one of the original German gnomes is probably the oldest surviving gnome in the world. Brought home in 1847 with 21 others by Sir Charles Isham, he survived the gnome cull by Isham’s daughters. Lampy is insured for over a million pounds and can be found at Lamport Hall in Northamptonshire.
- If you venture down to Devon, you can make a detour near Clovelly to an extensive and weirdly entertaining gnome reserve at the Merry Harriers garden centre at Woolfardisworthy, Bideford EX39 5QH



Please let us know of topics of interest to you and gardens you would like to visit as part of a small group to help us plan future programmes and newsletters.

Suggestions so far include a small group visit to Rodmarton Manor; the opportunity to go to other members' gardens to share ideas; and a members' WhatsApp group to post details of surplus plants, seeds, pots and garden equipment. We are already following these ideas up – give us more!