

COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY COTSWOLD GROUP NOVEMBER 2023



GARDEN VISITS

Our last scheduled visit for the year, to Bourton House gardens, was cancelled because of the wet conditions. Suggestions for next year's programme please!

This is the time of year when many gardens close to the public, but our local arboretums at Batsford and Westonbirt are splendid this month. The larger gardens such as those of the National Trust at Hidcote, Croome and Snowhill; the Painswick Rocoo Garden; and Sezincote are still open in November, as are the Botanic Gardens at Birmingham, Bristol and Oxford. Many of these have programmes of talks, activities and exhibitions too, but some openings may be limited, so check with the venue before setting out!

National Trust's Croome was the first landscape garden designed by Capability Brown and his first major architectural venture too. The grounds are lovely to wander through at all times of year, although they were shut for a few days in October owing to the heavy rainfall.

Inside the old house you will find temporary exhibitions. Currently, there is a Thomas Bewick display of his bird and countryside engravings, with magnifying glasses provided for you to enjoy the fine detail. This is on until 18th February 2024.

The 'Threads' display of textile work from the Worcester-based group celebrates "all that is wonderful about the world" through the varied medium of stitch. There are arched structures for the four seasons, on the theme of 'My Happy Place'. As for many CGS members, the "Happy Place" is often the garden. There are felted birds on feeders, a splendid Green Man, and numerous textile plants and flowers to admire. The exhibition runs until 8th January 2024.



For more information, visit:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/worcestershire-herefordshire/croome>

Winchcombe Gardening Club: Margie Hoffnung will give a talk "**Garden Visiting - A Very British Tradition.**" Wednesday 15th November at Abbey Fields Community Centre 7.00 for 7.30 Visitors £1.

The National Garden Scheme Annual Lecture – What Garden Visiting Does for Us with Robin Lane Fox – Thursday 23rd November at 7pm. £18

Join in person or online for the NGS Annual Lecture. This year it is given by Robin Lane Fox, English, gardening writer and the gardening columnist for the Financial Times, as well as English classicist and Ancient World historian.

Virtual Visiting!

If the weather is a deterrent or your local gardens are closed, don't forget the opportunity to visit online via the NGS website: <https://ngs.org.uk/virtual-garden-visits/>

You can choose from 14 themes, including Cottage Gardens, Cotswold Gardens and Country Gardens – all available free, although a donation to the charity is encouraged.

Too Late For East Lambrook Manor Gardens?

This splendid English cottage garden was created by the celebrated 20th-century plantswoman and gardening writer, Margery Fish. Her passion and skill combining old-fashioned and contemporary plants to create a garden of great beauty rightly gained the gardens Grade 1 listed status. The gardens surrounding the house have been open to the public most of the year and included an excellent specialist hardy plant nursery.

However, the house and gardens are now up for sale with Savills for £2,250,000 and the brochure says that they not being sold as a business. While it seems that the nursery will now close, it is not clear whether the gardens will continue to be open to the public as previously. They will obviously have to be maintained in accordance with their listing, but that does not require public access. This would be a great loss.

Too late for Amateur Gardening, the oldest English gardening magazine, which ceased publication this October, owing to increased costs both of publishing and the seeds given away with each edition.

Looking Forward

The RHS Show at Malvern 2024: The national Cottage Garden Society would like to be represented at Malvern next May and have asked whether we would be interested in helping with a stand, perhaps in collaboration with another local CGS group. If you would be prepared to help design, set up or staff the stand, for which support you would, of course, get free entry to the show, let us know.

The 1st large RHS Urban Garden Show will take place next year from 18th – 21st April 2024, entirely under cover, in what was the old Mayfield railway warehouse in Manchester. This venue, most recently used for music, is adjacent to Manchester's first new park in 100 years and handy for transport links such as Manchester Piccadilly Station. Tickets are now available online. For more details go to <https://www.rhs.org.uk/>

WhatsApp Group

It was suggested that we might usefully start a WhatsApp group so that folk can share (or benefit from) spare plants, surplus produce and equipment.

If you would like to try this, send your name and mobile phone number to Sue by text 07796 106579 or email sueatwillowbank@btinternet.com .

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 in 2024; and the opportunity to go to other members' gardens to share ideas. We are already following these up – give us more!

