

# COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY COTSWOLD GROUP JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER

## MALVERN FLOWER SHOW



*Setting up*



*Adding the plants*

Well, we made it to Malvern - and to a stand alongside the professionals in the big Floral Marquee this year. (This was a real bonus as we enjoyed a greater footfall than we would have had in a separate specialist area.) Despite a number of

obstacles, we created a stand which drew great interest from visitors and a bronze medal from the RHS. The helpful judge, who came to give us feedback, spent quite some time watching our visitors and said how impressed he was with the level of interest and enthusiasm we created.

Natalie's design included flowers, shrubs, climbers and vegetables, alongside displays of seeds and information about increasing your plant stock with seed saving, division and cuttings. We also showed something of the history of cottage gardens and the evolution to a modern cottage garden style.

Rob and Sue liaised with the very helpful Saxon Print in Winchcombe to design posters and leaflets from our photos and text. A group of enthusiastic volunteers then made the whole thing possible, growing and transporting plants, and setting up and running the stall and sales table. Ireley Nursery also helped us enormously both with their practical experience and with display plants and plant sales.

The CGS table housed other information leaflets from the national society and the local group. (Slug-proof plants was a very popular title!) We provided some free starter packs for children, with sunflower seeds for family competition and easy flower seeds. The seed exchange box was there to rifle through and was well-used, as was our donations box!

The structural problems with the stand provided meant we had to improvise and adapt which was frustrating, but meeting so many interested - and interesting - folk was an enjoyable experience. We are now making a list of do's and don'ts, just in case we are ever tempted to do it again!

Our funds have been bolstered by receiving a percentage from Ireley's plant sales at Malvern - £167.40. We will also receive the £125 prize money awarded by the RHS for the stand in due course. This means that we are in a much stronger financial state and we are considering topics and speakers for this winter. Ideas and volunteers to join the committee are very welcome!

### **SMALL GROUP VISITS**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June to **Bolters Farm, and King's Cottage, Chilson, Chipping Norton**, Oxfordshire OX7 3HU at £8 a head.

**Bolters Farm** has a cherished old cottage garden restored over the last 17 years. Tumbly moss-covered walls and sloping lawns lead down to a stream with natural planting and quirky characterful moments.

**King's Cottage comprises** an old row of cottages with mature trees and yew hedging. Over the last eight years a new design and planting scheme has been started to reduce the areas of lawn; bring in planting to complement the house (not

open) and setting; introduce new borders; and encourage wildlife. A work in progress!

**On a July date (to be set nearer the time) we will visit the National Plant Collection of Penstemon - 40 Evesham Road; Bishops Cleeve GL52 8SA**

Suggested donation of £5 to Plant Heritage. National plant collection of historic cultivars displayed in a garden setting.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August Charlton Down House, Tetbury GL8 8TZ (An NGS Open Day) £7**

Extensive country house gardens in 180 acre equestrian estate. Charlton Down has formal terraces, perennial borders, a walled topiary garden, enclosed cut flower garden and a large glasshouse. There are also rescue animals and a Jubilee copse to admire. Ample parking and refreshments available.

***Please book your places with Natalie so we can confirm numbers in advance with the garden owner. Email: [natalie@lestones.plus.com](mailto:natalie@lestones.plus.com) or telephone 01242 602384. (Your friends and visitors are welcome at all events.)***

## **LOCAL GARDENS OPEN IN JUNE UNDER THE NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME**

June brings a wealth of lovely open gardens to visit in Gloucestershire – too many to list here! Browse the National Garden Scheme website for all the details.

<https://ngs.org.uk/gardens/>

**One not to miss: Stanton Village Gardens, near Broadway, Gloucestershire WR12 7NE**

**1pm – 6pm on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June** at a combined admission charge of £9 for adults and free for children.

If you have never been to Stanton, this is a chance to explore some of the gorgeous gardens of one of the most beautiful Cotswold villages. It is a delight! The plant sales and the home-made teas in various gardens are highly recommended and the Mount Inn with its spectacular views will be open for lunch. Make time to visit the pretty church of St Michael and All Angels too.

## **OTHER COTSWOLD VILLAGE OPEN GARDENS**

**Guiting Power Open Gardens (GL54 5TX) Sunday 2nd June 2024 1.00pm to 5.30pm**

Experience life behind the garden walls in this small, working, Cotswold Hill Village. Meet the gardeners; savour the setting; appreciate the vernacular architecture - and

the home made teas! There will be plants for sale from the gardens and a local specialised nursery.

All proceeds will go to support the Late Norman church.

Tickets, maps and tea tickets on the day from The Village Hall in Church Lane.

Field parking can be accessed opposite the Village Hall.

£6.00 adults; accompanied 16 years and under free.

## **SEEDLING SWAP**

**Saturday 1st June 10 – 12** at the Stroud Valleys Project Eco Shop in Threadneedle Street, Stroud GL5 1AF 01453 753358 Email: [info@stroudvalleysproject.org](mailto:info@stroudvalleysproject.org)

**Do you have any spare or unwanted seedlings?** Give them a good home through the Stroud Valleys Project's seedling swap/sale. Bring along any seedlings that you have spare and exchange them for others. Both vegetable and flower varieties are welcome.

Even if you don't have any seedlings to swap, you can still take some for a donation. It's a great way to meet other gardeners and share advice and knowledge. This event, part of the Garden Guardians project, is FREE to attend.

## **WATERPERRY GARDENS RARE PLANT FAIR**

**Sun, 9th June, 10am - 4pm Waterperry Gardens, Near Wheatley, Oxfordshire OX33 1JZ**

If you don't know Waterperry (the original Horticultural School for Ladies, <https://www.waterperrygardens.co.uk/about/> for its history!) this is your chance to explore its beautiful gardens and browse stalls staffed by experts specialising in both rare and traditional plants. £11.50 per adult, including the Gardens and Fair; Children 16 years and under free. Visit the What's On page on the Waterperry site for more information.

## **NATURE IN ART: ART COURSES IN JUNE**

**Nature in Art** is not just worth going to for the great exhibitions (and the very good cafe!) but it also runs art and craft courses. Taught in their purpose-built education centre with class sizes of 8 –12 people, it offers Floral Still Life (oil/acrylic) with Lucy Burton on 6<sup>th</sup> June and Magnolia (Colour pencil) with Karen Coulsen on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

For full details of the programme of some 40 courses throughout the year and to book go to [www.natureinart.org.uk](http://www.natureinart.org.uk)

**Nature in Art, A38 Twigworth Gloucester GL2 9PA (2 miles north of Gloucester on A38. SatNav Postcode: GL2 9PG.)**

<https://natureinart.org.uk/> Tel. 01452 731422

### **STROUD MUSEUM IN THE PARK**

**Saturday 8 June to Sunday 14 July 10 - 4.30 Tuesday to Friday 11 – 4.30**  
weekends and Bank Holidays. Closed Mondays.

#### **'Materia Metaphysica' by Fiona Owen**

This free exhibition is the culmination of a decade of herbal studies and a continuation of the 'Weeds in the Heart' project that Fiona has been working on with Stroud-based herbalist Nathaniel Hughes.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**Light into Life** by London artist Marc Quinn has opened at Kew Gardens. It consists of 17 beautiful, enormous outdoor installations, inspired by some of the stars in Kew's plant collection. Marc says it is all about taking something small and delicate and making it monumental. Steel and bronze sculptures were created from 3D scans of real plants at Kew, including some which create 5' high bonsai plants whose unexpected changes in size are reminiscent of Alice's experiences in Wonderland. Many are reflective, changing their colours with the light and the weather. Marc explained that the exhibition is called Light into Life as he believes light is what connects us all, light necessary for photosynthesis, for art and for vision.

**Plants react to anaesthetic gas.** Venus fly traps, for example, cease to respond to touch as they would normally do, as the electrical signals are blocked. The sensitive plant, mimosa pudica, is similarly affected and doesn't close its leaves and droop as it would normally when touched.

*(A teacher I knew kept a sensitive plant on his desk and would tell a naughty child to touch the plant and that if he was telling a fib, the plant would know. It never failed to startle the culprit.)*

**The Pig hotel group has bought both The Village Pub and garden designer Rosemary Verey's old house and garden in Barnsley near Cirencester.** The pub will open in early June, while the hotel will be opened later in the year. It is not yet clear what opportunities there will be to visit the famous garden.

**The Garden Against Time by Olivia Laing** describes her restoration of the Arts & Crafts walled garden created in the 1960s by Notcutts' nurseryman, Mark Rumary. However, Olivia Laing explores a much wider range of garden and landscape-related issues, including the impact of the Enclosure Acts; estates funded from slave-worked

plantations; and Capability Brown. She uses a range of literary sources to illustrate her themes.

**Dobbies run free interactive workshops for 4 – 10 year olds** in-store on the first Sunday of each month. June has garden activities linked to the National Children's Gardening Week over the half term holiday, while July will focus on worms, ants and snails and their role in nature. For more details and to book contact [www.dobbies.com/little-seedlings](http://www.dobbies.com/little-seedlings)

**Harkness Roses, the UK's oldest rose breeder and grower, has developed a range of 9 insect-friendly roses** with open flowers and protruding stamens. They call the range 'Power to Pollinators' and it includes both bush and climbing varieties. The roses have been grown for 7 years without pesticides in peat-free compost to check that they stay free of disease and are sold in recycled plastic pots. The range has been endorsed by the RSPB which will receive £2.50 for each rose sold. [www.roses.co.uk/rspb](http://www.roses.co.uk/rspb)



*Poppy sculpture in Nature in Art garden.*