

## COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY COTSWOLD GROUP NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2024



### JULY VISIT

A group of us visited the National Collection of Penstemon held by Richard Marshall in Bishops Cleeve on the 24th July, spending a delightful afternoon in a stunning garden not only full of penstemons, but many other herbaceous perennials, the phlox and salvias also being a particular feature. The garden is bigger than appears from the modest front and is divided up into different areas, with the penstemons shown in the setting of the garden. Richard has had to rebuild his collection after the devastating winter of 2022. His advice is now not to put stock plants in the ground - he keeps them frost free in a cold frame over winter. He recommends not to put small plants out in the ground, but to get them up to 1 litre size before planting out and then not beyond the middle of summer. Some varieties are much more resilient than others. As a bonus, we each came away with a couple of plants!

((Owner Richard's garden photos above)).

Many collection holders will open their gardens to visitors on request. You can search by location or plant species on the Plant Heritage website: <https://www.plantheritage.org.uk/national-plant-collections/search-the-national-plant-collections> The site will tell you of any visiting arrangements and best times to go.

Gloucestershire has 34 national collections, found in a range of locations from its arboretums at Batsford and Westonbirt, to HMP Eastwood Park; commercial fruit growers Charles Martell and Son; Hartpury Heritage Trust; and in King Charles's

Highgrove Garden; as well as those belonging to many individual enthusiasts, including our previous Chair, David Simpson, with his tradescantia.

## **FUTURE VISITS**

**THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 1PM – 5PM**

**CHARLTON DOWN HOUSE, CHARLTON DOWN, TETBURY, GL8 8TZ**

On Thursday 15th August we will visit Charlton Down House. This is a NGS Open Day which means Natalie hasn't got to worry about getting a certain number to warrant opening by arrangement at a time of year when lots of people are away or spending time with family. The garden is also open on the 8th and the 29th if you can't make that date.

Let Natalie know if you are able to make the 15th and we will arrange a time to suit to go together or meet up there.

Home-made teas. Cash payment preferred for refreshments.

Adult £7.00. Child free.

These are extensive country house gardens in 180 acre equestrian estate. Formal terraces, perennial borders, walled topiary garden, enclosed cut flower garden and large glasshouse. Jubilee copse. Rescue animals. Ample parking.

### **A closer look...**

When the current garden owners, Neil and Julie Record, took on the 180 acre estate in 2009, they wished the domestic elements of the garden to be extended, incorporating a cutting and vegetable garden to serve the house as well as developing the formal gardens into a series of 'rooms'. Just eleven years later, and it has been transformed.

In early summer the cutting garden overflows with roses, irises, alliums and peonies. These fresh blooms are produced to adorn the main house and the surrounding cottages, ensuring the celebration of summer spreads to every corner of the estate. In the formal gardens, foxgloves, alliums, camassias, geranium, and sweet rocket are set before traditional topiary yew – creating dreamlike layers of colour and texture. There is an elegance to the garden. From its gentle colour palette to the masterfully arranged pots of tulips, the mature wisteria billowing in the breeze and the rich herbaceous borders, this is a garden with a promising future ahead of it.

**ON MONDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER WE HOPE TO GO IN A TOTALLY OPPOSITE DIRECTION IN TO WORCESTERSHIRE TO SHUTTIFIELD COTTAGE, BIRCHWOOD, STORRIDGE, WR13 5HA.** This garden opens for 'By Arrangement' visits from April to 29 September.

Home-made teas. Adult £5.00. Child free.

Superb position and views. Unexpected three acre plantsman's garden, extensive herbaceous borders, many unusual trees, shrubs, perennials, colour themed for all year interest. Anemones, magnolias, bluebells, rhododendrons, azaleas and camelias in the spring. Large old rose garden with many spectacular climbers. Small deer park, and walks in a 20 acre wood containing wildlife ponds and wildflowers.

***Please let Natalie know if you intend to go so we can co-ordinate our arrangements. Email: [natalie@lestones.plus.com](mailto:natalie@lestones.plus.com) or telephone 01242 602384.***

**NB If you missed our June visit to the lovely Kings Cottage and Bolter's Farm in Chilson, OX7 3HU, or would like to see how they develop later in the season, they are open again for the NGS on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> August from 2 – 6pm.**

### **OTHER GARDENS OPEN LOCALLY UNDER THE NGS IN AUGUST**

There are numerous gardens open during August from Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> until the end of the month, some weekdays and others at weekends. Browse the NGS website for details [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk) or pick up a copy of the Yellow Book or its local free booklet.

New to the scheme this year are Thyme, Little Orchard, and Wicks Green Farm, while great favourites, such as Highnam Court, the Garden at Miserden, Kiftsgate, and Stanway Fountain and Water Garden, all have open days for the charity.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Thyme** – the very productive kitchen gardens serving the two restaurants on the Southrop Estate. Southrop, Lechlade GL7 3PW

11 – 4 Adults £5; children free. Restaurant places can be booked.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August Little Orchard**, in Kempley, Dymock GL18 2BU 4 acre wildlife friendly garden with countryside views. Trees, ornamental borders, rose garden and cottage gardens, as well as a productive orchard, ponds and wildflower meadow.

1-5 Adults £5; children free. Home-made teas.

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Wicks Green Farm**, Wicks Green, Longney GL2 3SP The 1 ½ site has well stocked borders, raised vegetable beds, a spring-fed pond and an orchard with old pear varieties.

11-4 Adults £5 CASH ONLY; children free. Refreshments available and home-made pickles to buy.

## DO YOU HAVE THE BUG?

**'Do you have the bug' is a Stroud-based project to promote our everyday wildlife.** It started life as a quarterly online magazine posted on various social media platforms and back issues can be viewed or downloaded now by clicking on the website images at [www.footprintdesignstroud.co.uk/do-you-have-the-bug](http://www.footprintdesignstroud.co.uk/do-you-have-the-bug)

While it retains roots in the Stroud area with stunning photographs and illustrations, it looks at insects in the wider world too.

**Another site to explore is Bug Life** – [www.buglife.org.uk/](http://www.buglife.org.uk/) the only organisation in Europe dedicated to the conservation of invertebrates. Among other information, you can view insect highways and see what people have been doing to help pollinators, nationally and locally.

## STROUD BUZZ CLUB

**Did you know that there is a honeybee hive with observation windows in the Walled Garden of the Museum in the Park in Stroud?**

There are free monthly meetings, of Stroud Buzz Club there, usually with a guest who has a specialist knowledge, to promote the understanding in adults and children of the importance of pollination and especially, of the honeybee.

The August meeting is on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Contact [Peterdawnlead@aol.com](mailto:Peterdawnlead@aol.com) or call Peter on 07768881950 for more information or follow them on Facebook @BUZZCLUBSTROUD. Support for schools is also available.

**You could help wildlife by becoming a Bee Saver** with Friends of the Earth. Visit [www.foe.uk/wild-about-nature](http://www.foe.uk/wild-about-nature) to order a Bee Saver Kit which includes bees' favourite wildflower seeds and guides full of handy tips.

## DON'T FORGET!

***If you go to the Walled Garden, there is the museum with the first lawnmower to visit too, and, until 1<sup>st</sup> September, the exhibition 'Photosynthesis' by Cleo Mussi & Fiona Haser Bizony***

Zero-waste ceramic artist Cleo Mussi joins forces with ethical horticulturalist and organic flower farmer Fiona Haser Bizony to create a botanical, floral seasonal display.

## ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE IN AUGUST AT NATURE IN ART:

**6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Monoprint and mixed media artist, Felicity Robinson**, with expressive, organic abstract art

**20<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Sculptor Graeme Tucker** who works in wood, metal, ceramics and card.

**24<sup>th</sup> August features a workshop with Jo Beal on Experimental Drawing From Nature**, one of the many art and craft courses run throughout the year. For full details of the programme and to book go to [www.natureinart.org.uk](http://www.natureinart.org.uk)

Remember you can see the splendid **2024 British Wildlife Photography Awards** exhibition at Nature in Art until 1<sup>st</sup> September.

**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

## DID YOU KNOW?

**25<sup>TH</sup> AND 26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST IS PERSHORE'S PLUM FESTIVAL.** Go to [www.pershoreplumfestival.org.uk](http://www.pershoreplumfestival.org.uk) for full details of events and recipes for all things plummy.

**THE NATIONAL TRUST HAS COMMITTED TO PLANTING 20 MILLION TREES BY 2030.** It has already planted 1 million since 2020. You can help by donating £5 for a sapling to be planted [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/plant-a-tree](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/plant-a-tree)

**'SLIMERS' IS A NATIONAL SLUG RESEARCH PROGRAMME** - Strategies Leading to Improved Management and Enhanced Resilience Against Slugs is a three-year £2.6m research project involving more than 100 UK farms and six industry partners, funded by DEFRA.

Have a look at <https://www.harper-adams.ac.uk/news/210107/watch-multimillion-pound-slug-research-project-features-on-bbc-news> Details are available on [www.slimers.co.uk](http://www.slimers.co.uk) of how you can help by sending in slugs (humanely)!



## **WE HAVE SOME VERY OLD VILLAGE SHOWS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND AUGUST IS A TRADITIONAL MONTH FOR FETES AND SHOWS.**

**Why not try Bisley Flower Show and Fete, an annual event for more than 100 years!**

Gates open at 1pm on 24<sup>th</sup> August with the crowning of the flower queen and king at 2pm in The Show Field, off Cheltenham Road, Bisley, near Stroud, Gloucestershire GL6 7AX

This traditional village flower show and fete includes a marquee with fruit and vegetables, home baking and preserves and crafts; various stalls and a number of games and attractions. Adults £2, children free

**Or try the similarly venerable Winchcombe Show - back once again on Bank Holiday Monday 26th August** from 12.30 to 5pm in the grounds of Winchcombe School. Greet Road, Winchcombe, Cheltenham GL54 5LB

Like Bisley, the show has a long heritage – starting with a flower show in 1860 held at Sudeley Castle. This show joined forces with the Winchcombe Agricultural Show and continues today - with just a break during the Second World War. There are over 50 trophies to win including the impressive Cavendish House Rose Bowl.

The range of attractions includes Punch & Judy; a Dog and Geese display; dog show; juggling; and classic vehicles; as well as the traditional competition tent and stalls, both indoors and out.

## **THERE IS ANOTHER CHILLI FEST!**

In Buckinghamshire, Waddesdon Manor, an extraordinary National Trust property built for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, has more than the splendour of the house and the lovely gardens to lure you this summer – a **Chilli Fest from 30<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September**. There will be chilli and other stalls from a range of producers, along with barbecues, live music and children's entertainment.

You can also book an Eythrope Walled Garden Tour with your Grounds Admission every Wednesday until 9th October.

Waddesdon, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP18 0JH [www.waddesdon.org.uk](http://www.waddesdon.org.uk)

## **THE MALVERN FLOWER SHOW**

Natalie has been asked to write an article on our Malvern Spring Show experience for the national CGS magazine – look out for that.

**Don't forget the Malvern Autumn Show**, with its astonishing displays of vegetables among all other things horticultural, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September.

### **SOW, SAVE AND SHARE; DIVIDE AND MULTIPLY; REUSE AND RECYCLE.**

Those were the 3 slogans on our stand at the Malvern Flower Show. The first two slogans were expanded with free information leaflets we put together ourselves from talks we enjoyed last year on seed saving and plant division. The notion of sharing was extended further with ideas for encouraging children to share your enjoyment of gardening.

The leaflets complemented the range of national CGS information leaflets and proved extremely popular. If you would like copies of any of the local leaflets: '**Tips for Increasing Your Plants**'; '**The Young Gardener**'; and '**Gardening for Wildlife**', just let us know.

We will include tips for recycling and reusing in our next newsletter. ***Please let us have your best tips to share with members.***

### **CONTACTING US:**

You can email us: Robert: [robert@lestones.plus.com](mailto:robert@lestones.plus.com)

Natalie: [natalie@lestones.plus.com](mailto:natalie@lestones.plus.com)

Sue: [sueatwillowbank@gmail.com](mailto:sueatwillowbank@gmail.com) or text 07796 106579

Or telephone : 01242 602384.

Or join us on our WhatsApp Group: Send Sue your mobile number to join.

Or look at our website: <https://cotswoldcgs.org.uk/>