

COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY COTSWOLD GROUP JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER



SMALL GROUP VISIT IN JULY

Natalie proposes that this month we visit the Old School at Langford, GL7 3LF, 3 miles north east of Lechlade. This is a small formal garden designed in 1973 by Hardy Amies, with advice from Rosemary Verey and Alvilde Lees-Milne. It has a collection of old roses, including Rosa de Rescht, Ferdinand Pichard, Rosa Mundi, and Etoile de Holland.



Admission costs £12 including teas, coffee or glass of wine or soft drink.

Several dates are possible, either Monday 21st or Wednesday 23rd seems most likely. Let Natalie know your preference! Email natalie@lestones.plus.com or call 01242 602384.

NGS GARDENS IN JUNE

In June, members also report enjoying:

Campden House, outside Chipping Campden, has 5 acres of garden around a 17th century house and tithe barn, all within parkland. There are mixed border, lakes and ponds in a hidden valley, along with woodland walks, croquet lawn, walled garden and a vegetable garden – all managed by the same on-site gardener for 32 years!

Tower Close



Campden House



Rockcliffe

Some members also visited Rockcliffe and Tower Close.

Rockcliffe in Upper Slaughter has eight immaculate acres of garden with many different areas, including herbaceous border, topiary, croquet lawn, terraces, pool and an impressive vegetable garden. Fruit cage envy!

Tower Close, Snowhill, is the impressive achievement of 2 Canadian owners who have transformed a steep, grassy hillside in a stunning location into a delightful, quirky garden with both formal and wilder areas, a big pond and stream, and viewpoints throughout.

TRINITY COLLEGE OXFORD GARDENS SEASON

Tuesday 1st July Walk around Trinity's famous gardens with Head Gardener Kate Burtonwood and her team on hand to discuss the replanting of the Woodland Garden, Library Quad, lawns and borders. Optional cream teas!

£10 or £18.50 including cream tea. 01865 305305 www.ticketsoxford.com

NGS GARDENS (www.ngs.org.uk/) OPEN IN JULY



Awkward Hill Cottage

After the flurry of June openings, July is a quieter month for National Garden Scheme openings. High summer is much more challenging for gardeners than the abundant joys of May and June, but there are some hidden gems to be enjoyed. We particularly recommend:

A group opening at Arlington and Bibury, GL7 5ND (Combined admission, £12; child, free). New to the scheme this year are Long Cottage, a courtyard garden with ingenious ideas for making the most of a small space, and Pudding Hill Barn, a large country garden, sloping down to the River Coln, with both formal and informal planting. Longstanding opener is Awkward Hill Cottage, a wildlife-friendly terraced

country garden above Bibury, with a pond, gravel garden, mixed borders and shade planting.

The gardens will be open on Wednesday 2 July (3-7.30pm) and Sunday 6 July (10am-2.30pm). Pre-booking essential, on www.ngs.org.uk. Awkward Hill Cottage is also open by arrangement for groups of 10 to 30 until 20 July.

Also new to the National Garden Scheme this year, is **HMP Leyhill, near Wotton-under-Edge, GL12 8BT, opening on Saturday 26 July (10am-4pm; £8)**. This is a very heartening garden, with many different areas, including perennial borders, an alpine rockery and a commercial horticulture centre. The focus is on providing an environment to promote physical and mental well-being for prisoners nearing release. **Pre-booking on www.ngs.org.uk is essential for the guided tours.**

Opening on Saturday 19 July, **The Stables**, Hyde Lane, Cheltenham, GL51 9QN (1-5pm; Adult, £6; child, free) is a remarkable new garden of just over half an acre.



Against the backdrop of Cleeve Hill, it has been created from a bare site over the past five years, very much under the influence of the Dutch designer Piet Oudolf. The garden wowed the crowds when it opened for the first time last year with its bold planting of swathes of colourful perennials intermingled with great bands of grasses. An acre of wildflower meadow is separated from the garden by a mature native hedge. It's very different from anything else in the Gloucestershire portfolio and well worth a visit.

WINCHCOMBE GREEN TRAIL

Previously an Open Gardens walk, this event now includes other green spaces in Winchcombe to highlight the importance of nature in all its diversity. Win Green Town is organising the Winchcombe Green Trail on **Sunday 6th July 1pm to 5pm** in collaboration with Isbourne Arts. Start the trail at Isbourne Arts where doors open at 12.30. Stalls, refreshments and children's treasure hunt. £5 per person; children free. Join us there!

VILLAGE OPEN GARDENS

There are various village open garden events throughout the summer. **Prestbury opened 16 gardens over 2 days** in June, ranging from modern stylish designs to traditional cottage gardens and others displaying the owner's pottery or a local willow-weaver's craft.



On the 21st and 22nd June, Blockley opened 9 of its gardens under the NGS, ranging from small cottage gardens to mill conversions and new builds made to suit the existing grounds. A warm welcome everywhere from knowledgeable owners – and great plants for sale in the village hall - if you could get past the cakes first!



In July, you can visit 9 Open Gardens in Broad Campden, near Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire on Saturday 5th from 11.00am to 4.00pm. £7 adults; children free. Cash payment preferred. Refreshments in the village hall.

https://www.opengardens.co.uk/open_gardens_in_gloucestershire.php

GARDENING FOR WELLBEING AT GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL

Every Wednesday, 10.30am outside the front of The Cathedral, for an hour of gentle gardening, followed by a drink and cake paid for by the Cathedral, Gardening for Wellbeing is a welcoming and inclusive activity where participants can make friends, learn skills and take steps towards improving their wellbeing

Formed in 2020 during the pandemic with support from Adult Education as just a 6 week course, the group has blossomed over the last five years because the original participants were so keen for it to continue.

The group is a great opportunity to increase your gardening knowledge and build new friendships in a relaxed and calming environment. It's aimed at anyone whose health and wellbeing needs a boost. The organisers are keen to expand the group and welcome new members. All participants are registered formally as Cathedral volunteers – and it is clear that they make a real difference to the Cathedral grounds!

If you are interested in joining or know someone who could benefit from being part of the group, please get in touch with reception@gloucestercathedral.org.uk or call 01452 528095.

NATURE IN ART

Nature in Art hosts many exhibitions and provides art and craft courses throughout the year, some with a plant focus, such as **Simon Williams “Accurate Botanical Painting” on 18th and 19th July.**

For full details of this year’s programme and to book go to www.natureinart.org.uk
A38 Twigworth Gloucester GL2 9PA **2 miles north of Gloucester on A38.SatNav**
Postcode: GL2 9PG. Tel. 01452 731422

THE GARDEN MUSEUM – CECIL BEATON’s GARDEN PARTY

Until 21st September, usually open all week from 10 – 5, but check website for temporary closures and admission prices!

This exhibition shows how horticulture pervaded Beaton’s creative life from fashionable party floral arrangements to the designs for My Fair Lady. It includes diaries, photographs, design sketches and dresses.

<https://gardenmuseum.org.uk/> 5 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7LB

DID YOU KNOW?

- **A survey found that 54% of people aged between 18 and 34** said they preferred visits to a garden centre to visits to nightclubs. (Really?)
- **The Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage, has been inspired by the Gardens of Heligan** to write his new collection **Dwell**. Lines from his Dwell poems can now be seen on 3 installations in the Heligan grounds.
- **2025 has been a bumper year for aphids.** Of course, you noticed that – but there is an aphid now causing distorted buddleia leaves. If you see that, the RHS asks that you send information to its website.
- **The Big Butterfly Count** is a nationwide citizen science survey and the world’s biggest survey of butterflies. Take part between 18th July and 10th August. To find out how, go to:
<https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>

STROUD VALLEYS PROJECT JULY EVENTS

For Children:

Mini Beasties at the Museum: Friday, July 4th, 2025, 10:00 am – 11:30 am.

This event focuses on mini beasts and includes crafts and stories for toddlers and preschoolers.

Froglets at Paganhill - Mini Beasts: Friday 18th July 10:30am to noon.

Look into **the wonderful world of mini beasts!** At Froglets, toddlers and preschoolers can take a closer look at the wildlife on our doorstep and join in with craft activities and stories. Open to children between 2 and 4, who must be accompanied by an adult. ***Both are free events, but places are limited so booking is essential.***

For Adults and Older Children:

Glow Worm Walk: Tuesday, July 9th, 9:45 pm – 11:30 pm.

Stroud Valleys Project and ecologist Ivi Szaboova lead this night-time wander in Stroud's Bisley Road Cemetery to see these remarkable insects in their natural habitat. You'll find out about the life cycle of glow worms, and why they emit such an eerie aura.

Due to the late timing of this walk, it's **not** suitable for young children. No dogs, please. Specific location details will be provided upon booking.

Marvellous Moths of Nympsfield: Tuesday 15th July 9:30am to 11:00am

Local expert Graeme Davis will lead this trapping and observation session to help you see up close the beauties of the moth world. No moths will be harmed during the event!

NB SVP say: We work part time, so there may be a slight delay before you receive your email with details about the session.

info@stroudvalleysproject.org or call 01453 753358

<https://www.stroudvalleysproject.org/events>

Stroud Valleys Project and the eco shop, 8, Threadneedle Street, Stroud, GL5 1AF

COACH TRIPS

If you want to venture further afield, but can't drive or don't want to, it is worth looking at local coach firms.

Marchants, for example, offer day trips to places such as **Oxford and Waterperry Gardens, (3rd July and 18th September)** where there are splendid college gardens, the oldest botanical garden in Great Britain (founded 1621) and just outside at Waterperry, once the first horticultural college for women, you will now find a diverse and interesting garden.

There are also trips to the **Hampton Palace Garden Festival on 5th July** and the **Autumn Malvern RHS Show on 27th September**.

Marchants 61 Clarence Street, Cheltenham, open Monday to Friday 9.30am – 4.30pm

<https://www.marchants-coaches.com/> 01242 257 714

PEONY PERFECT: THE BARBERY GARDEN TOUR & GROWING STUNNING PEONIES WITH NAN LEECH

Many of you will know Nan from her plant sales in aid of animal charities and will have seen her at gardening meetings. This is your chance to see a tour of Nan's garden with journalist Olivia Balaban and admire the stunning peonies, roses, wisteria and campanula:

https://youtu.be/41P5vM_UwnM?feature=shared

COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY AND COTSWOLD GROUP SUBSCRIPTIONS

The national subscription used to run from October each year for 12 months; now it is a rolling subscription from the date you join of £15 for one person or £18 for 2. The Cotswold Group subscription is an additional £5 for one person or £7 for 2.

For your national sub, you get a quarterly magazine, also available as an audio version The Talking Cottage Gardener; a website; access to the annual seed exchange; the opportunity to join specialist groups such as the Aquilegia and Snowdrop Groups; and the chance to promote cottage gardening at shows across the country.

For your Cotswold Group sub, you get a monthly newsletter by email about a wide range of events which might interest you; the opportunity to join small group garden visits from spring to autumn; talks or workshops in the colder months with free refreshments and plants for sale; a WhatsApp group to exchange news, ideas or spare plants and equipment; and a website to store our documents.

If you have not renewed your membership for this year – or aren't sure – email Natalie at natalie@lestones.plus.com or call 01242 602384.

Please let us know of any changes in your contact details.

NB If you have chosen not to renew, this July edition will be your last newsletter from the Cotswold Group.



One of the many lovely peonies at Kiftsgate this summer

TO SEND ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER, OR WITH ANY QUERIES, CONTACT:

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Text 07796 106579 to join our **WhatsApp** group