

COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY COTSWOLD GROUP SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



SMALL GROUP VISIT TO LITTLE ORCHARD, SLAD

After our extraordinary July visit to Hardy Amies's garden, Natalie met the challenge of organising another impressive visit for us in August with our trip to Little Orchard in the lovely Slad Valley. Again, we met remarkable, hospitable owners who were happy to talk us through their creation of both house and garden. Rod was a professional cidemaker, so a bonus is the onsite cidery with tastings available and bottles for sale.

Rod and Terry have transformed one acre of steep, grassy hillside into terraces whose garden rooms include raised vegetable beds, herbaceous borders, and both a Mediterranean and a Japanese garden. There are hot tubs, water features, statuary, old farm implements, a shepherd's hut and lovely old stone troughs – and, of course, the splendid views.



Both house and garden reflect the Rod's passion for reclamation yards and recycling and his skill at repurposing objects for both – for example, the fine decorative iron girders which now support the ceiling of the sitting room. The house was built piecemeal when their budget allowed enough for another room or wall or feature to be added - and it is all their own work! What was once a tiny bungalow is now a stunning large house with indoor swimming pool and beautiful views across the valley.

If you missed this opportunity, the garden usually opens in May for the National Garden Scheme.

LOCAL NGS GARDENS OPEN THIS MONTH

Wednesday 17th September 10am – 3pm Lords of the Manor Hotel, Upper Slaughter GL54 2JD

Next to the River Eye, the garden includes a walled garden, wildflower meadow, , herb garden and bog garden, as well as a croquet lawn and courtyard.

Admission £8; child £5. Light refreshments available in the hotel, but you must pre-book if you would like afternoon tea: reservations@lordsofthemanor.com
www.lordsofthemanor.com 01451 820243

Wednesday 10th September 11am – 4pm Cotswold Garden Flowers, Sands Lane, Badsey, Evesham WR11 7EZ

This is the Brown family's working nursery with one acre of stock beds with thousands of plants, many of which are unusual and rare. Guided tours available on the day.

Admission: £5; child free. Light refreshments. 01386 8333849
www.cotswoldgardenflowers.co.uk

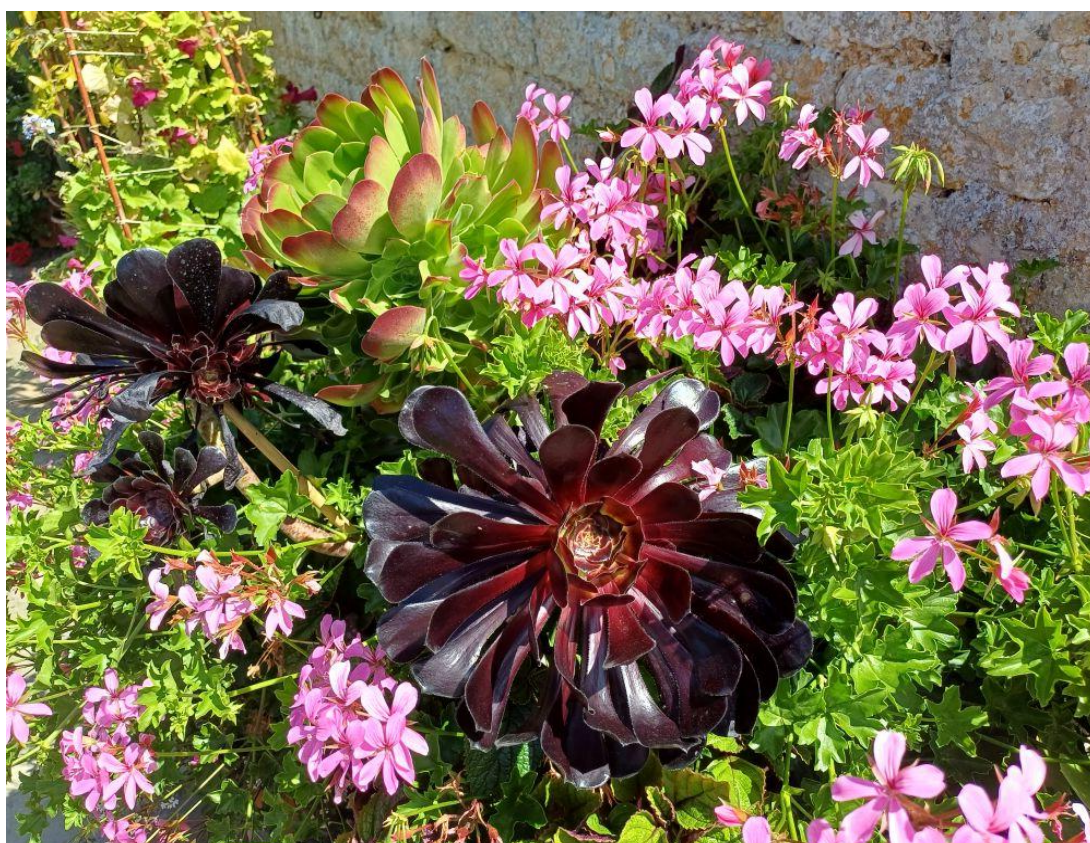
RARE PLANT FAIR

7th September 11am – 4pm Adwell House, near Thame, Oxfordshire OX9 7DQ

£7 entry for fair and garden. www.rareplantfair.co.uk

THE POWER OF TREES AT KEW

The huge sensory outdoor digital artwork **Of the Oak** and the **Power of Trees exhibition** in Kew's Shirley Sherwood Gallery continues **until 14th September**.



NATURE IN ART

Nature in Art hosts many exhibitions and provides art and craft courses throughout the year, some with a plant focus.

On until September 7th: The splendid **British Wildlife Photography Awards exhibition** has returned with this year's winners.

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

TRINITY COLLEGE OXFORD GARDENS SEASON

Tuesday 9th September 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!

Broad Street Oxford OX1 3BH

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

FLOWERS AND THE MAKER

10th – 14th September at Rodmarton Manor

This is the 4th Crafts Alive 5 day festival. It celebrates not just the skills and creativity of Gloucestershire Guild members, but those of visiting exhibitors and florists in this lovely Arts and Crafts manor house. There will be collaborative work between florists and artists, with others taking inspiration from the house and grounds. As well as demonstrations, workshops, and talks, you have the chance to explore the exhibition in house and grounds. Original work will be on sale – as well as locally-made food and drink.

For more information and to book timed tickets, contact: www.guildcrafts.org.uk

BROADWAY

- **HORTICULTURAL & CRAFT SHOW**

Saturday 13th September on the village green. www.broadwayhcs.co.uk

- **FOOD FESTIVAL**

Sunday 14th September 10am – 4pm.The Green, Broadway WR12 7AA . Free admission. www.broadwayfoodfestival.co.uk

THE GARDEN MUSEUM – CECIL BEATON EXHIBITION until 21st September

This exhibition shows how horticulture pervaded Beaton's creative life from fashionable party floral arrangements to the designs for My Fair Lady.

<https://gardenmuseum.org.uk/>

1ST YEO VALLEY ORGANIC GARDENING FESTIVAL

Thursday 18th to Saturday 20th SEPTEMBER

‘SOWING THE SEEDS’

This celebration of gardening will take place in the Yeo Valley Organic Garden, Somerset, bringing together “expert gardeners, budding enthusiasts, and curious novices for a vibrant gathering of horticultural knowledge and an exploration of nature-friendly practices.”

Speakers over the 3 days include Arit Anderson, Charles Dowding, Alys Fowler, Georgie Newberry, Sheila Mas, Tom Massey, Becky Searle and Frances Tophill.

For full programme details, go to: <https://yvogardenfestival.co.uk/>

MALVERN AUTUMN SHOW

'Harvesting the best of Autumn'

26th, 27th and 28th September from 9am to 6pm, with last admission at 4pm.

This includes the RHS Flower Show and the Canna UK National Giant Vegetables Championship and specialist seed suppliers.

Early booking discounts, weekend passes - and all under-16s free, just 85p booking fee per ticket for them.

For more details or to book: www.malvernautumn.co.uk or call 01684 584900 for general enquiries or for the booking hotline call free 0344 338 5400.

ONLINE DEMOS AT GEORGIE NEWBERRY'S COMMON FARM FLOWERS

Georgie Newberry is an author, flower-grower, florist, RHS Floristry judge and RHS gold medal winner.

Tuesday 9th September 5pm Dahlia Hand-Tie Demo

Georgie will demonstrate how you can take your dahlias from your garden (with a discussion on their particular demands when cutting and conditioning them) and put these gorgeous flowers centre stage in your cut flower arrangements.

Tuesday 23rd September 5pm Sweet Pea Demo

Get ahead with sweet peas sowing for your next crop! Georgie will talk you through the varieties she's planning to grow next year and all the practical details: the best way to prepare the ground; how many to sow; how often to sow; how many flowers per plant you can expect; how to achieve long stems; and how long you can expect the plants to go on flowering.

Tuesday 30th September 5pm Foliage For Floristry Demo

This session is designed to give you the confidence to cut a wide selection of foliage from your garden, and inspire you to plant more to make a really useful collection to give both your garden and your floristry a real wow factor.

All cost £35 each and last approximately 1.5 hours

NB If you can't make the date, you can access recordings of the demos within 7 days of the original date.

<https://www.commonfarmflowers.com/collections/online-demos/>

georgienewbery@substack.com

COMING SOON

PERSHORE COLLEGE NURSERY HUGE PLANT SALE

Thursday 2nd October to Saturday 4th October 10am to 4pm. Trade nursery open to the public on those days - with discounts available.

www.pershoregardencentre.co.uk

N.B. Pershore Broad Street Market is also on Saturday 4th from 9am to 2pm with 30 stalls selling local produce and crafts.

POPPIES AT THE CATHEDRAL

17th to 25th October: 'Poppy Fields', another impressive light and sound installation by Luxmuralis, is coming to Gloucester Cathedral . Commemorating the first and second world wars, it explores the true cost of human conflict, while offering a message of peace and hope.

The installation features evocative artworks projected across the cathedral's spectacular spaces accompanied by poetry narrated by Oscar-winning actor Eddie Redmayne.

For more information, or to book tickets, visit <https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/>

DID YOU KNOW?

- **You can help Harvest Mice**, now on the Red List for endangered mammals in this country. Just download the survey pack from the Mammal Society Website and the free Mammal Mapper App. Then survey between October and March in areas of long grass and reed beds to spot their distinctive spherical nests. No prior experience needed! Send your survey back – even if it is a nil return.
<https://mammal.org.uk/current-research/national-harvest-mouse-survey>
- **A London grapefruit tree** brought from Grenada to Battersea by the late Marline Anderson in the 1980's now has a Tree Protection Order after a

campaign by local residents. Probably the only one of its kind outside Kew, it has become a landmark and a memorial to Marline.

- **The Coronation Community Orchard Scheme**, funded by the Government, has supported numerous tree planting projects in Gloucestershire, including at Alderton, Bishop's Cleeve, Gretton, Stoke Orchard, Tewkesbury Nature Reserve, and Winchcombe School. They include many different varieties of fruit trees including apple, pear, greengage and cherry.
- **The Alderton/Toddington area was once known for its fruit production** and had the biggest jam factory in the country.
- **Beetroot has the highest sugar level of any vegetable and also has many beneficial properties for your health with high levels of nitrates and antioxidants.** See, for example, <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/health/nutrition/ingredient-focus-beetroot>
- **It is the 75th anniversary of Greenfingers**, the charity which creates gardens for children's hospices. It is creating 4 new gardens this year for children, their families and carers. <https://www.greenfingerscharity.org.uk/>



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

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Phone: **01242 602384**

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

We would especially like to know what topics you would like for our autumn and winter season of talks or demonstrations.



Bourton House Garden, lovely all year round.