

**COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY COTSWOLD GROUP OCTOBER 2025
NEWSLETTER**



'Molly the Witch' peony seed heads

OUR AUTUMN / WINTER PROGRAMME

SMALL GROUP VISIT

Our last small group visit of the year will be on the afternoon of Monday 13th October to Ravelin, a 60 year old garden of half an acre with winding paths, hidden areas, plentiful seating and views across fields and the Malvern Hills. This garden continues evolving and is a delight for gardeners, plant lovers and flower arrangers alike. The wide variety of unusual plants, hellebores, hardy geraniums, aconitum, heucheras, Michaelmas daisies, grasses and dahlia, plus a 55 year -old weeping silver pear tree, provides year-round colour and interest.

Ravelin is thought to be built on medieval clay pottery works in the royal hunting forest and you will see small pottery pieces interspersed with sedum planting. Some of the unusual plants collected by the owner have been propagated and are available to buy.

Ravelin, Gilberts End, Hanley Castle Worcestershire WR8 0AS

Contact Natalie if you would like to go - we just need to let the owner know numbers - and for further details and to arrange any lift shares. There is ample roadside parking.

01242 602384 or email natalie@lestones.plus.com

TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

The 2025/6 programme will start in November and monthly events take place, as previously, at the Abbeyfield Community Centre in Winchcombe on Thursdays between 3.15 and 5pm. There is free onsite parking; refreshments are provided; and there are always plants for sale, free gardening information leaflets and free seeds available.

The programme is:

13th November Bodnant Gardens, the splendid National Trust garden developed over 150 years in the foothills of Snowdon Rosanne Jarvis

Rosanne is the Groups' Co-ordinator of our national body, the Cottage Garden Society.

4th December Success with Seeds and Cuttings Nick Morgan

Nick retired to Gloucestershire after 23 years working in key roles within the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) as RHS Horticultural Specialist and Superintendent of the RHS Garden Wisley glass and propagation departments. He has been a member of the RHS Tender Ornamental Plant Committee; trained as an advisor by the Independent Standards Organisation (BASIS) for pesticides, fertilisers for amenity horticulture; and holds the RHS Master of Horticulture award.

15th January 2026 The Honey Bee and Bee Keeping Brian Miller-Hall

Brian has been keeping bees for 16 years and currently manages 12 hives. He will give a high-level insight into the fascinating life of honey bees and the role of the beekeeper.

12th February 2026 Auriculas and Primulas Ingrid and John Millington

Ingrid and John run Hillview Hardy Plants near Bridgnorth, their specialisms including auriculas and primulas. In 2022 they won their first RHS Gold Medal at Malvern Spring Fair and in 2023 they were the Master Growers at the show. Their talk will look at just a few of the 100's of primulas available, followed by a foray into the lovely world of auriculas.

2026 GARDEN VISITS

We intend to start our 2026 season in March. Let us know of any gardens - or types of garden - which you would especially like to visit.

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.

LOCAL GARDENS OPEN IN OCTOBER



BOURTON HOUSE GARDEN is now open from Tuesday to Friday, 10am – 5pm until 31st October. This lovely garden at a 1700s estate has many features to enjoy across the seasons including fine topiaries, colourful plantings, an interesting shade house and extensive views across the countryside. There is also a self-guided woodland walk next to the car park.

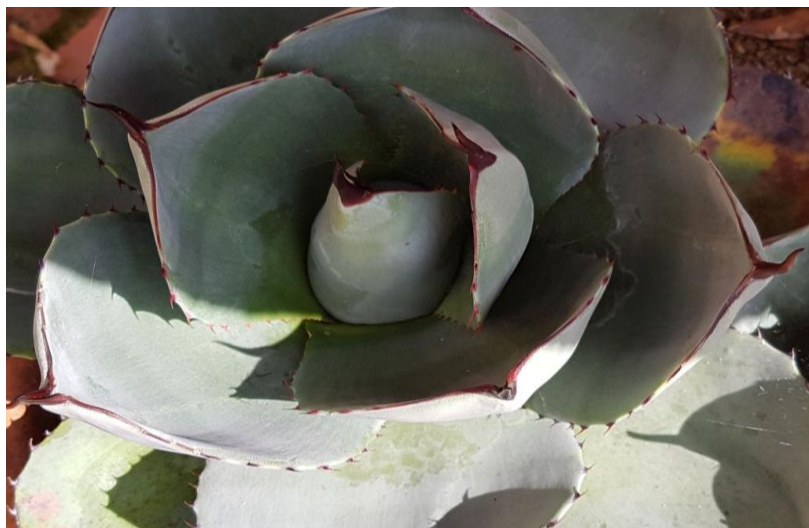
Bourton-on-the-Hill, Moreton-in-Marsh GL56 9AE Tel. 01386 700754
<https://bourtonhouse.com/>



PAINSWICK'S ROCOCO GARDEN was designed in the 1740s as an English country gentleman's pleasure garden. It is open from Thursday to Sunday 10am to 5pm throughout October. <https://www.rococogarden.org.uk/> Free entry for RHS members until November and Gardeners World 2 for 1 welcome until November too. Painswick GL6 6TH 01452 813204 info@rococogarden.org.uk

ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY'S GARDEN

AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Wick, Pershore WR10 3JP



The garden is open all year round and entry is free to the public from 10am to 4pm Monday to Thursday.

It was set up in 1999 and was redeveloped in 2022 with different areas, including:

- The Beginner's Bed showcasing easy-to-grow alpines suitable for those who do not have much experience in growing mountain plants
- The Trough Collection displaying alpines and small shrubs ideal for growing in containers
- The South African Bed will have both perennials and bulbs. Many of these species are hardier in the UK than previously thought.
- The Alpine House has plants which require protection from winter wet but are frost hardy. Cushion plants festoon the tufa wall, while other species of choice alpines grow together with bulbs from different parts of the world.
- The Tufa Bed grows some species which are difficult either in the garden or in pots but thrive if grown in tufa, a type of rock which provides a perfectly drained environment while retaining enough moisture for plants.
- The Scree and Calcareous Woodland aim to grow many different alpines that would fail in standard alpine garden soils
- The Mediterranean Bed was new in spring 2022, planted with climate change in mind. Plants here will survive with little or no irrigation at all.
- The Rock Garden has easy alpines which give colour over an extended period from February to August.
- The Woodland has plants which prefer acid conditions and flower in spring or autumn when there is less shade. Irrigation allows these plants to thrive under large trees
- The Crevice Garden was designed and built by renowned Czech gardener Zdeněk Zvolánek.

NGS VIRTUAL GARDEN VISITS

Most gardens are closed, or closing shortly, to garden visits – but that doesn't stop you from browsing gorgeous gardens from your armchair. The National Garden Scheme started collecting virtual visits during lockdown and continues to add to this great resource. You can visit gardens further afield than you might normally venture and choose by garden type – e.g. cottage gardens or those of famous designers, for example. This is a free resource, although donations to the NGS are encouraged.

<https://ngs.org.uk/discover-more/lifestyle/virtual-garden-visits-cottage-gardens/>

ALL YEAR VISITS

The bigger gardens such as RHS and National Trust sites and our Gloucestershire arboretums, and, of course, botanical gardens, generally stay open longer than smaller gardens, some all year round, only closing in times of dangerous weather.

WHY NOT TRY:

THE ARBORETUMS AT BATSFORD, WESTONBIRT AND COLEFORD.

You may not know the last of the three, but the Cyril Hart Arboretum in the Forest of Dean (formerly known as the Speech House Arboretum) is home to over 200 tree species. It offers good, easy walking.

THE NATIONAL TRUST'S PROPERTIES such as the landscape garden at **Croome Park**, **Hidcote Garden** or its Dutch water garden at **Westbury on Severn**.

- **CROOME PARK, a Capability Brown landscape garden**, is fully open until the end of October from 9am to 5pm for the grounds and from 11am to 4.30pm for the 18th century house. It moves to reduced opening hours in November. *Near High Green, Worcester, Worcestershire, WR8 9DW*
- **HIDCOTE** offers special events in October, including a bat trail, Tai Chi, and a sculpture exhibition in both house and grounds with over 200 exhibits. For full details, go to <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/gloucestershire-cotswolds/hidcote/events> *Hidcote Bartrim, near Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, GL55 6LR*
- **WESTBURY ON SEVERN'S FORMAL 17TH CENTURY DUTCH WATER GARDEN** is open from Wednesday to Sunday 11am to 5pm throughout October. *GL14 1PD*

HERGEST CROFT AT KINGTON IN HEREFORDSHIRE has spectacular views towards the Black Mountains. Open daily until 2nd November from 11am to 4.30pm, it has 70 acres of gardens, parkland and woodland with national collections of maples, birches and zelkovas, as well as 130 'Champion' trees, the tallest and largest of their kind in the UK.

NB Its autumn plant fair is on Sunday 12th October.

01544 230160 gardens@hergest.co.uk Ridgebourne Road, Kington, HR5 3EG

OXFORD BOTANICAL GARDENS, Rose Lane, Oxford OX1 4AZ

The oldest in the UK, established in 1621, this houses over 5,000 different plant species. There are 7 display glasshouses as well as a walled garden.

Open every day from 10 to 5pm, except in adverse weather such as high winds, it is good to visit in October, both indoors and out. The long autumn border, for example, is designed to be at its best in September and October, with its strong colour

contrasts of leaves and flowers. Special pruning techniques are used to encourage large foliage on the shrubs and create an extended flowering season for the perennials. Look out too for the vivid red glow of the dawn redwood in the walled garden.

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/>

NATURE IN ART

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

For full details of this year's programme and to book go to www.natureinart.org.uk

25th and 26th October 10am – 5pm Gift and Craft Fair with 45 stall holders. £3 entry. (Free to children under 8 and Friends of Nature in Art.)

A38 Twigworth Gloucester GL2 9PA **2 miles north of Gloucester on A38.SatNav**
Postcode: GL2 9PG. Tel. 01452 731422

DID YOU KNOW?



There are species of tiny wasps which lay their eggs in oak buds, causing swelling galls around the developing acorns. Round swellings are often called oak apples. The wrinkled gall pictured above, the knopper gall, is unusual in that it means the acorns will never germinate.

These knopper gall wasp larvae (*Andricus quercuscalicis*) overwinter in the gall, then hatch as female wasps and must find Turkey oaks to lay their eggs. Those hatching from Turkey oaks can be male or female and seek English pendunculate oaks to host their larvae.



You may also spot fluffy round galls on roses, usually wild varieties, which are also caused by wasps, the *diplolepis rosae*. This is called rose bedeguar gall or - more appealingly - robin's pincushion or mossy gall.

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

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