

COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY COTSWOLD GROUP NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



OUR AUTUMN / WINTER PROGRAMME

The 2025/6 programme starts this month and 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.

13th November Bodnant Gardens Rosanne Jarvis: Those of you inspired by October's television series on Bodnant can learn more from Rosanne about the splendid National Trust garden developed over 150 years in the foothills of Snowdon.

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

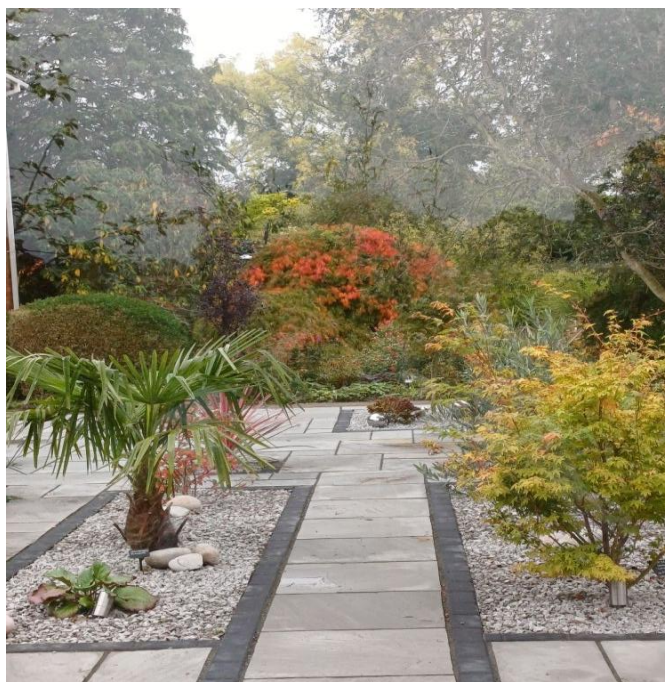
Brian has been keeping bees for 16 years and currently manages 12 hives. He will give a high-level insight into the fascinating life of honey bees and the role of the beekeeper.

Information will also be available at the meeting about ways to support our bumblebee population.

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.

SMALL GROUP VISIT



Our last small group visit of the year was to Ravelin, in the hamlet of Gilberts End, near Hanley Castle in Worcestershire. This large garden was created by the owner who has lived here for over 60 years and who still manages it - and still redesigns areas.

Her latest garden within the garden is a modern take on the paradise garden. It has a beautiful glass pergola looking out at the formal pattern of paths, illuminated water features and planting and it also frames the view behind to the fields of grazing horses.



Everywhere there was colour to admire in flower and foliage with the wide variety of unusual plants, hellebores, hardy geraniums, aconitum, heucheras, Michaelmas daisies, grasses and dahlias, and a 55 year-old weeping silver pear tree, to provide that year-round interest.

Do you have suggestions for next year's visits? Let us know!

AUTUMN COLOUR AT THE NATIONAL TRUST'S NEWARK PARK

November 1st and 2nd 10am – 4pm Enjoy the range of autumn colours in the grounds and the autumn hues of the 18th century stained glass window in the house.

Newark Park, Ozleworth, Wotton-under-Edge GL127PZ

www.newarkpark@nationaltrust.org.uk 01453 842644

THE NATIONAL TRUST'S CROOME PARK

Good for a stroll all year round, there is much more to do at Croome this winter: Croome is now sharing William Dean's 'Hortus Croomensis' with visitors. This amazing book was compiled 200 years ago by Croome's Botanic Gardener cataloguing over 6,000 species. An exhibition 'Pages From Nature' examines this remarkable legacy.

The exhibition introduces you to the people behind its pages, including the 6th Earl of Coventry, notable for his transformation of Croome and his lifelong passion for plant collecting. It also shows how the Hortus Croomensis inspired the restoration of Croome's parkland and gardens today.

For £3 you can also buy a 'Walk through the Pleasure Grounds' guidebook inspired by the Hortus Croomensis. This aims to help you experience not only the sights, but also the scents and sounds of the Georgian parkland and to understand the history behind the landscape design.

Open until 1st March 2026 generally 10am – 4pm, but check opening times of both house and grounds before setting out. Tel. 01905 371006

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/worcestershire-herefordshire/croome/events>

Croome Park, High Green, Worcester WR8 9DW

WESTONBIRT ARBORETUM

As well as all the seasonal colour, there are lots of activities to try including:

Willow Sculpture Workshop at Westonbirt £95

Saturday 15th November 10am - 4pm

Beginners welcome and all materials provided at this day course in willow work. A sculpture? A bird feeder? Choose what you would like to design and make. Zoe your tutor will be there to guide you with any technical skills you need to finish your piece. For more information email Zoe at lunaloveswillow@gmail.com or call 07828245847.

Christmas Wreath Workshop £85

Sunday 30th November 10:00am - 12:30pm

All materials provided including lots of traditional greenery so you can make your wreath as wild and natural as you like.

<https://www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/events>

DID YOU KNOW?

- Traditional apple orchards provide a mosaic habitat, good for both flora and fauna.
- We have grown over 1,000 varieties of apple in the UK.

BUT

- The UK has lost over 90% of its apple orchards since the late 1970's!

NATURE'S CALENDAR NEEDS YOU!

Nature's Calendar is a citizen science project which has been tracking the UK's changing seasons for over 20 years. Volunteers send in their records of spring and autumn milestones each year – such as the first snowdrop or frogspawn or the last oak leaf or the arrival of fieldfares.

Each phenomenon needs at least 100 records to create a reliable average and more volunteers are needed now. You don't need to be an expert – just the observations from your daily stroll or your own garden will be useful. Just download a copy of the simple online calendar which shows nature events you can record.

12 out of 13 spring events happened earlier than usual in 2024 with the first frogspawn and the first nesting blackbirds the earliest in the 25 years of the project. Spring 2025 was our warmest on record, so autumn observations are important to show the impact that has had on our nature.

For more information, www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/record

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

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