

COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY COTSWOLD GROUP SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



SMALL GROUP GARDEN VISITS

Once again, apologies for the lack of small group visits this season. We do need some members to help out with ideas and planning - especially when our core group is beset by illness and injury! We are making progress, but some volunteers - at least to bridge the gap - would be very welcome. Contact Natalie or Sue if you are interested in helping.

BADMINTON ESTATE OPEN DAY

Badminton's last open day of the year is Sunday 6th September from 10am to 4pm (with last entry at 3pm) in aid of the Severn Area Rescue Association and the Church Restoration Fund.

Adults £12 in advance or £15 on the gate; seniors aged 60 and over £9.50 in advance or £12 on the gate; carers and children under 12 free.

Explore the extensive landscaped gardens, the ancestral home of the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, near Tetbury. Designed by Russell Page, the gardens offer a tranquil setting to enjoy late summer colour and inspiration.

You can admire the formal beds on the east side of the house and the South Garden with its water squares, and explore the kitchen garden, just a short stroll from the house through the park, with its propagation greenhouse.

There is the added attraction of local plant and flower sellers, and food and drink stalls plus the exhibition 'A Garden of Botanical Art' in the Old Hall, showcasing the botanical painting collection of the 1st Duchess of Beaufort.

<https://www.badmintonestate.com/>

LOCAL NGS GARDENS OPEN THIS MONTH

5th and 6th from 2pm to 5pm Cotswold Farm, Duntisbourne Abbots, Cirencester GL7 7JS.

For those of you who missed our small group visit, or to see it again later in the season, stroll the Arts and Crafts garden terraces designed by Norman Jewson and enjoy the lovely valley views.

Admission £7.50; child free. Home-made teas.

Sunday 6th 2pm to 5.30pm Brockworth Court, Court Road, Brockworth GL3 4QU.

Gardens of the manor house which was visited by Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn in 1535. Organic cottage-style planting; natural fish pond; kitchen garden once cultivated by monks.

Admission £6; child free. Home-made teas.

Wednesday 16th 10am to 3pm Lords of the Manor Hotel, Upper Slaughter, Cheltenham GL54 2JD

Classic Cotswold country garden merging with the landscape. Walled garden, wildflower meadow, herb and bog garden, by the River Eye. *NB Steps in both walled and bog gardens and no wheelchair friendly facilities in hotel owing to age and layout of building.*

Admission £8; child £5. Refreshments available in the hotel, but booking is necessary for an afternoon tea.

Wednesday 23rd 1pm – 4pm Brockamin, Old Hills, Callow End, Worcester WR2 4TQ.

1 ½ acre plantsman's garden with informal, mixed borders, next to common land. National collections of pulmonaria and some hardy geranium.

Admission £5; child free. Home-made teas. Unusual plants for sale.

MOTH DISCOVERY EVENING

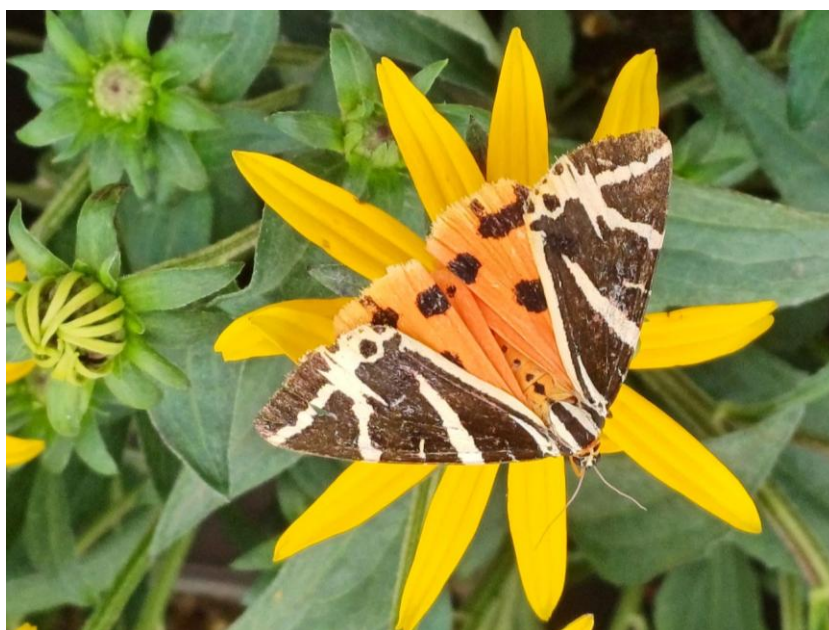
Batsford Arboretum 10th September 8pm to midnight (Leave at any time!)

Inspect, identify and help record the moths during an evening at Batsford Arboretum with moth experts to help you. £5 adult; child £3. Moreton-in-Marsh GL56 9AT.

www.batsarb.co.uk

N.B. There is a useful video 'How to make a night-time nectar bar for moths' in the RHS & The Wildlife Trusts 2026 series 'Wild About Gardens'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXXIyB8oBnw>



Moth spotted at Dobbies Garden Centre, Tewkesbury

POLLINATOR WALKS

Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetland Trust 10.30am every Thursday until 24th September. The walks (with handy tips for gardeners) take about an hour and are free, but usual admission prices apply. Meet outside the Kingfisher Café.

www.wwt.org.uk

NB There are 600 moth species in the UK and 220 kinds of bee! A wild area in your garden is good for wildlife, but there are also 22 types of pollinator which frequent short grass.

MEMBERS' GARDENS

Last month we asked members for plants which had thrived locally in this very hot summer and for information about members' gardens. We will start to compile a list of the tough plants and share some of members' gardens with you

GILL'S GARDEN



Peony Bowl of Beauty

Gill says: We have a modest garden, close to Winchcombe town centre, and have gardened here since 1984. After a wet autumn and winter the peonies and roses performed very well this year. Although it has been a summer of contrasts, there have definitely been some successful periods.



Peony White Wings and Rosa Graham Thomas on 31/05 /2026.

Moving on to the high summer, in spite of the very dry conditions, some plants have put on an excellent show. These include shrubs, none of which which received any water, such as:

- Philadelphus Belle Etoile
- Abelia grandiflora - just coming into bloom and will flower until November.
- Physocarpus Diabolo , a dark leaf form, with masses of white/ pink flowers, red berries, gradually turning to black in autumn.
- Caryopteris - blue flowers beginning to emerge, and a magnet for butterflies.

Perennials which have performed well during high temperatures include roses, agapanthus, salvia Caradonna and Clotted Cream, verberna bonariensis, sedums, and sisyrinchium.

Herbs such as lavender, thyme and marjoram have proved a magnet for insects, with at least 15 gatekeeper butterflies on the marjoram at any one time, a pleasure to see!

NATALIE'S GARDEN

Natalie says: We have been at Packhorse Cottage for ten years now. The garden is attached to the cottage, part walled and north facing, near the centre of Winchcombe. The soil is free draining and the plot just over a hundred feet long. The garden has mainly cottage garden plants with a lot of roses, many inherited from the previous owners, along with apple trees and a silver birch tree.



In June Natalie had a visit from the U3A Gardening Group and John Davis, their Chairman, wrote about the visit with photos to illustrate the tour around. The first and last photos here are Natalie's; the others John's.

By his kind permission here is John's account of the visit:

"Six of us met at Natalie Stone's garden, just off Malthouse Lane in the heart of Winchcombe. Here are a cluster of cottages and Natalie's is believed to have been converted from a cider mill attached to a former pub on Gloucester Street.

The soil in this part of Winchcombe is, unusually, free-draining loam unlike the heavy clay that so many of us have to deal with. *Dierama pulcherrimum* (Angel's fishing rod) and *Salvias* (both *Hardiness H4*) are quite happy here in sunny, relatively sheltered spots. Some of us have tried *Dierama* before without success so Natalie has offered to share seeds later in the season for those who are interested.

Nearby the pale blue *Geranium pratense* 'Painter's Palette' was looking good with *Linaria purpurea* behind. Sometimes this purple toadflax is considered a weed because it so readily self-seeds but it puts on a good show and is great for pollinators.



Two pots of alpines caught our attention, mainly for the diminutive foxglove *Digitalis obscura* 'Sunset', barely six inches high and just starting to put out a flowering spike. Further into the garden a hot border was showing *Salvia* 'Royal Bumble' and the upright clover *Trifolium rubens*.



One side of the garden is bordered by a fine stone wall dating from 1837 which marked the boundary of the old workhouse. Full use is made of this vertical space with a range of climbing roses, vines and clematis. In fact, Natalie has good number of roses, several chosen for names which have family significance. This one is Rosa 'Robin Hood'.



Beyond an archway, for the garden is larger than you might expect, is a fruit and vegetable garden with raised beds and a new Rhino greenhouse. One bed has currant and gooseberry bushes (the redcurrants looking particularly luscious)

protected by a new cage and netting obtained from www.gardening-naturally.com. The rose on the wall behind the cage is the rambler Rosa 'Viechenblau'.

Outside the cage and trained against the boundary wall and fence are loganberries and Jostaberries (Ribes x nidigrolaria) a blackcurrant - gooseberry hybrid.

Finally, we had a look at a new garden pond, dug out last winter. Like Julie's pond that we saw on our previous visit, this is still a work in progress, but already attracting wildlife."



COMMON FARM FLOWERS SEPTEMBER ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Workshops cost £45 and take place via Zoom at 5pm, but you also receive a recording which means you can enjoy them, even if you're not available at the time a session is scheduled to take place.

Once you've booked your place, you'll receive a confirmation email. Then, a few days before the workshop takes place, all the details about joining online will arrive.

NB If you don't receive this email within 48 hours or so of the workshop taking place, let them know as sometimes their emails end up in junk!

Tuesday 8th [The Dahlia Hand Tie Demo](#)

Tuesday 22nd [The Sweet Pea Demo](#)

Tuesday 29th [The Foliage For Floristry Demo](#)

There are many more events on Georgie's website, so browse:

<https://www.commonfarmflowers.com/>

Georgie Newbery from Common Farm Flowers georgienewbery@substack.com

01963 32883

GARDEN MUSEUM

If you are off to London in September, you have a chance to catch **'Benton End: A Paradise of Pollen and Paint'** at the Garden Museum on until the 20th.

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

Benton End was the East Anglian School of Painting and Drawing, set up by Cedric Morris, an artist and plantsman, and artist Arthur Lett-Haines ("Lett"). The Garden Museum has been charged with restoring house and garden, recreating Cedric's garden.

The exhibition recreates several interiors with an imaginary lunch party of Cedric and Lett; Lucian Freud (its first pupil); Elizabeth David (who visited Benton End and cooked there and whose cookbook 'An Omelette and a Glass of Wine' had Cedric's painting 'The Eggs' on the cover); Joan Warburton (an artist who also illustrated Elizabeth David's books); and Beth Chatto (Cedric's protégée as a gardener). The display includes early Lucian Freud paintings from his time there.

Cedric applied his paint-mixing techniques to iris breeding, mixing pollens as he did paints, and so created 90 new irises. His bulbs are still in the garden and descendants of plants Cedric entrusted to friends have been returning to Benton End for its restoration. Artist and expert on snowdrops and cacti, John Morley has brought back Cedric's varieties of these.

The intention is to offer day and residential courses at Benton End using the garden as a resource and to display material for which there is no room at the museum. The garden opened for just 25 days this year, hopefully to be repeated next year.

HARDY PLANTS AND BULBS FOR THE AUTUMN AND WINTER GARDEN

Sunday 27th September 2026 An Alpine Garden Society event at Arley Arboretum, Near Kidderminster, but it's not just about alpines!.

The Arboretum is an RHS Partner Garden and RHS members and AGS members benefit from the same ticket price, with non-members very welcome too for a bit more.

See the link below for details of the speakers, the programme, specialist nurseries, and how to book.

<https://alpinegardensociety.net/ags-event/autumn-delights-at-arley-arboretum-gardens>

Any questions, contact event organiser, Gail Devries: gaildevries79@gmail.com

COMING SOON! WATERPERRY'S AUTUMN FESTIVAL WEEKEND
3rd & 4th October 10.00am – 5.30pm Waterperry Gardens, Oxfordshire OX33 1LA

Gardens and Orchard Tours £4.75 per adult, or free with garden entrance and for season ticket holders.

Originally Beatrix Havergal's 'School of Horticulture for Ladies' from 1932 to 1971, Waterperry now has 20 acres of lovely ornamental gardens; a good plant centre and garden shop; gallery and museum and gift shop and tea shop.

On the festival weekend, browse the craft and food fair; take a tour of the orchards and fruit sheds; and make a behind-the-scenes visit to see the apple press in action. You can sample and buy many of their different types of juices; get expert advice and information on growing, planting, apple identification and selecting trees and rootstock.

<https://www.waterperrygardens.co.uk/event/autumn-festival-weekend-2026/>

DID YOU KNOW?

- **There are more microscopic organisms in one teaspoon of soil than there are people on Earth.**
- **There are 22 types of slugs and snails, but only 3 will damage your plants.** (A keeled slug is especially damaging, but slow worms love to eat them!) For a detailed account of slugs and snails and how best to manage them, have a look at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/biodiversity/slugs-and-snails>
- **Earwigs are an important predator, especially of woolly aphids.**

NB Photos in our newsletters are usually either from members or from the NGS. We would love more of your photos to use in the newsletter or in our show displays or information leaflets. This month's are from members Natalie, Gill and Sue and John Davis of the U3A. Email yours to Sue!

TO SEND ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER, IDEAS FOR VISITS OR SPEAKERS - OR WITH ANY QUERIES, call 01242 602384 or email:

Natalie: natalie@lestones.plus.com

Robert: robert@lestones.plus.com

Sue: sueatwillowbank@btinternet.com

Or text 07796 106579 to join our **WhatsApp** group