

COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY COTSWOLD GROUP OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



Asparagus berries at Snowhill

OCTOBER OPEN GARDENS

Most small private gardens close by the end of September, but that still leaves you all the large gardens, such as those of the National Trust, Painswick's Rococo Garden, and Sezincote, for example, and the arboretums at Westonbirt, Batsford and the Forest of Dean

. Check their opening hours as many reduce times and days over autumn and winter!

NGS OPEN GARDENS

Cotswold Garden Flowers, one acre of stock beds with many rare and unusual plants for sale, has its last NGS opening of the year on **Wednesday 14th October** from 11am to 4pm. This is not a garden, but a working nursery and on NGS open days it provides guided tours and light refreshments. Admission £5. Sands Lane, Badsey, Evesham WR11 7EZ

Contact info@cgf.net or 01386 833849. Visit www.cotswoldgardenflowers.co.uk

If you are near Oxfordshire, there is Midsummer House, Woolstone, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7QL open on Friday 2nd October from 2pm to 5pm.

Midsummer Garden was designed by Justin Spink for his parents in 2015. In 2018 Mike and Ann Collins continued designing and planting the garden. There are rare plants in the garden and over the road there is a newly-planted arboretum and a nature reserve established in 2019, with spectacular views of the Uffington White Horse.

Admission £5; child free. Home-made teas and refreshments for sale in aid of the village church.

Woolstone is a small village off B4507, below Uffington White Horse Hill. Take the road towards Uffington from the White Horse Pub.

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/>



Quince fruit at Snowhill

POLLENARIUM BY LUKE JERRAM AND PNEUHAUS

10th October: A new artwork by Bristol artist Luke Jerram and design studio Pneuhaus will be on display for one day only before going on tour around the country.

Seen from outside as a giant pollen grain, inside Pollenarium uses more than 100 lenses, each working as a camera obscura, to reveal an upside-down mosaic of the local landscape, showing just how bees see the world. Luke said "It's a bit like going inside a bee's head."

A Bug's Life: Luke will also be in conversation on site with Nick Wray, curator of Bristol Botanic Garden, for a discussion about pollinators, creativity and the health of our planet inspired by Pollenarium.

2:30 - 3.15pm. Ticketed event - free but you should reserve your place because of limited capacity.

Shanta Studio, Sloane Robinson Building, Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus, Cattle Market Road, Bristol BS1 6AZ

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/news/2026/september/major-artwork-coming-to-new-university-of-bristol-campus.html>

University of Bristol, University Square, Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus, Bristol

CGS COTSWOLD GROUP WINTER EVENTS

All of the following will take place at 3.15pm in the Abbeyfield Community Centre, Winchcombe. More dates to follow!

Thursday 12th November (in the Langley Room) Rob Jones will demonstrate how he constructs his garden bird, bat and bug boxes and boot removers from reclaimed/salvaged wood.

Members will be invited to join in and will be able to purchase the completed items which have proved very popular in other local talks. Prices start at £10.

See www.bobbajay.com for more details of the designs of his boxes.

Thursday 14th January Marion Stainton "Good Companions - extending interest in a small garden". Marion Stainton is a horticulturist with an interest in sustainable, environmentally friendly gardening, including pest management, vegetable growing, plant & garden history and the science behind plants and their uses. She has been involved in planning domestic, commercial and community horticultural projects.

Thursday 14th February Film Show by Kate Peake, an award-winning and entertaining celebration of the wealth of local garden designs, featuring highlights of gardens in Gloucestershire and surrounding areas. A registered drone operator with the Civil Aviation Authority, Kate has extensive footage of the Gloucestershire countryside and gardens, with which she has been making entertaining, informative and visually beautiful short films about Gloucestershire for the past 10 years.

SMALL GROUP VISITS 2027

Thursday 22nd April 2027 Our first visit will be to **Silverwood in Church Lane, Toddington, GL54 5DN** in the afternoon.

Jane and her husband will give us a guided tour of their garden, and Jane will demonstrate willow craft. Completed willow animals, birds, insects and baskets will be available to see and purchase – and tea, coffee and cake provided. More details nearer the time!

NATURE IN ART

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

www.natureinart.org.uk/artcourses

For full details of the 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

Wild Exhibition 20th October to 15th November from 10am to 5pm

The exhibition is a showcase for Cotswold Craftsmen across a range of disciplines with each maker offering their own interpretation of the wild world around us - ancient woodland forms, botanical structures, animals, and landscapes. The craftsmen explore in different media the textures and materials found.

STROUD'S MUSEUM IN THE PARK WALLED GARDEN (GL5 4AF)

Admission to the Museum's walled garden is free, although donations are very welcome. You can also keep up-to-date with events and activities there via the museum website. Volunteers maintain the garden and share their work in a blog on that site. <https://museuminthepark.org.uk/walled-garden-volunteers-blog/2026/9/15/walled-garden-volunteers-blog-september-2026>

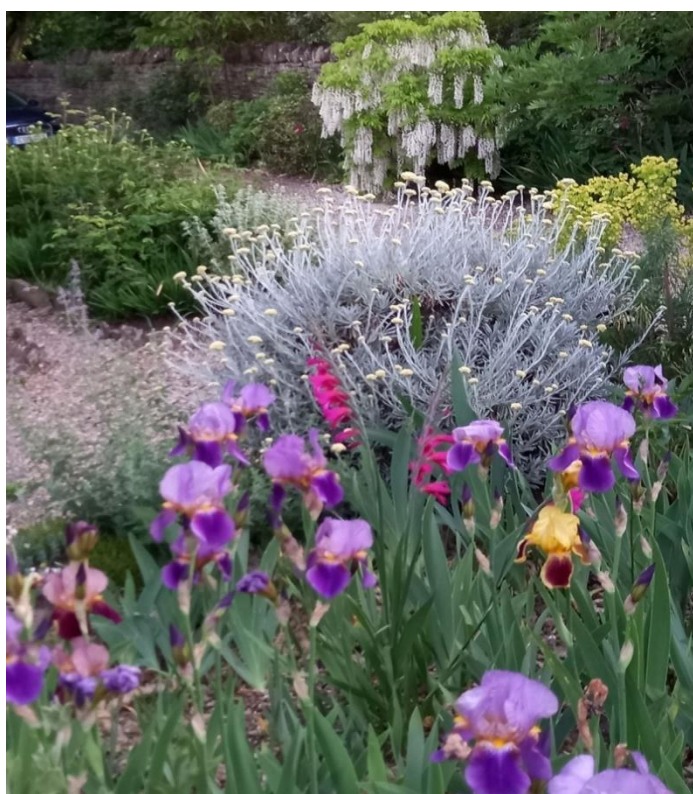
Volunteer Philippa entered some of her iris photographs into the West and Midlands Iris Group Virtual Show 2026 winning 1st (and 2nd) prize in the 'Garden section' of the

competition! You can see all the entries by visiting
<https://www.westandmidlandsirishgroup.org.uk/show2026/show-2026.html>

You can also view Budding's first lawnmower inside the museum, inspired by the cloth machines in the local mills. The Museum is open Tuesday to Sunday, 10.00am to 4.30pm weekdays and 11am to 4.30 at weekends, closing from 2nd November until 21st December.

MEMBERS' GARDENS

NAN'S GARDEN



Nan says:

"I have gardened my 100 ft. long space on Cleeve sand for the last 37 years. So many metamorphoses in that time - from lawn to gravel and from cottage garden medley planting to that for dry conditions.

I mainly grow Corsican hellebores, euphorbias, peonies, irises, roses, *Lychnis coronaria alba*, jasmines, bay and *Magnolia grandiflora*. My notional palette of green and white is blasted by colour in May and June from the irises and roses. My pots have *Hesperantha* "Ice maiden" and Mrs Sinkins and Mojito white pinks with a blast of colour in May from vivid tulips.

With so many plants to propagate from, I can sell them for animal charities and aim to make £1,000 per year.

The longest serving member of my garden is the medlar tree which fruits well every year and a Jury's Yellow camellia (actually cream) which is 12 ft. high and in a pot.

My bêtes noires are box leaf caterpillars and suckers from the bay, quince and roses.”



CAROL'S GARDEN

Carol says:

“Twenty years ago, our new-build Cotswold stone house came with a bare, uncultivated 70x16 metre paddock. Years of planning; digging, planting and nurturing followed, and by this June our garden was finally ‘coming into its own’ and flourishing.

Perched on a hill above the infamous local village, our house sits at the eastern end of the plot facing almost directly west. Raised vegetable beds and fruit trees thrive in that area. Creating shelter from winter winds, whilst retaining the beautiful views has always been a balancing act.

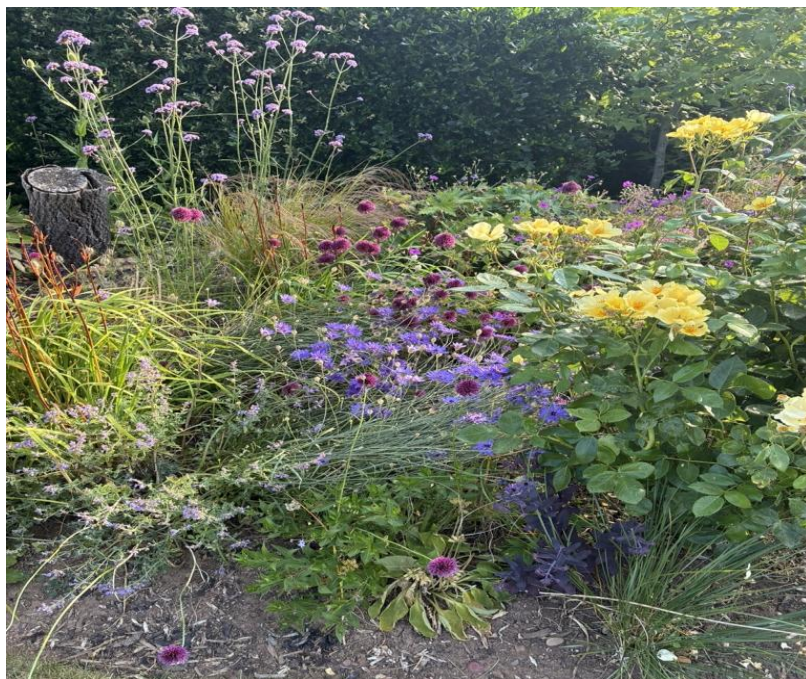
Our garden's orientation gives it 2 distinct aspects: the north-facing shady side retains moisture and is home to hydrangeas, Kolkwitzia, Deutzia, Syringea and Spireas along with hellebores, numerous common spotted orchids and thousands of spring bulbs.



The south-facing side is sunny and dry, with Cotswold brash soil that drains freely. We have never watered this side, choosing to work with the soil and natural conditions. Dominated by an ancient ash tree it hosts a wonderful display of ornamental grasses, autumn flowering perennials and shrubs (Rudbeckia, Callicarpa, Salvia, Echinacea and Sedums). Three 'Tottering by Gently' roses flower all summer long.



Elsewhere, David Austin roses are abundant in the flowerbeds, with Veronicastrum, Verbena, Roxanne geranium, Agapanthus, Iris syringe, Phlox and many more. Our garden is a haven for insects and birdlife: robins, green spotted woodpeckers, great spotted woodpeckers, sparrows, blackbirds, goldfinches and wrens are all frequent visitors.



All went well through the first heatwave, the second and the third. The fourth, however, began to cause real damage, while the fifth, accompanied by Thames Water's hosepipe ban, proved to be the final straw.

Now, thanks to the recent rainfall we are slowly bringing the garden back to life, but with future climate changes in mind."

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 Gill, Nan and Carol. Email yours to Sue!

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

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Robert: robert@lestones.plus.com

Sue: sueatwillowbank@btinternet.com

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