COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY COTSWOLD GROUP NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



Gourds at RHS Rosemoor

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 11th 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.

Thursday 11th March Gardening for Wildlife with Helen Mugridge

The talk features Helen's own photography documenting how she and her husband transformed their own garden over more than two decades into a wildlife haven.

It includes how to attract and support smaller creatures at the bottom of the food chain—such as insects, bees, butterflies, frogs, newts, small mammals, and birds—rather than larger wildlife. Helen offers practical tips like leaving rough patches, log piles, letting grass grow, adding water features or ponds, and creating natural habitats in everyday or small garden spaces.

NGS GARDENS OPEN IN NOVEMBER

THE DELL HOUSE, MALVERN WELLS WR14 4HU Sunday 1st November from 11 to 5. Pre-book if you are arriving by car – www.ngs.org for information and booking.

2 acre wooded hillside garden, once a Victorian rectory garden, with magnificent trees and splendid views.
£5 admission for adult; child free. Light refreshments. www.dellhousemalvern.uk

RALPH COURT GARDENS, EDWYN RALPH, Bromyard, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR7 4LU 21st and 22nd November from 10 to 4.

Overlooking the Malvern Hills, are 15 different gardens set in the grounds of a gothic rectory, including an Italian Piazza, an African Jungle, a Dragon Pool, Alice in Wonderland and a conifer forest with elves, and a Dinosaur World. 120 seater Licensed Restaurant. £16 admission for adult; child £10.
https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/32264/ralph-court-gardens

GARDENS OPEN IN WINTER SEASON

The following large gardens are open for much of the year. Check websites for details as some will close in bad weather!

CROOME (NT) near High Green, Worcester, Worcestershire, WR8 9DW

From Monday 2nd to Sunday 15th November, the house will be open for free guided tours only, where you can join one of the knowledgeable volunteers as they bring Croome's stories to life. The landscape park is open from 9 to 5 throughout November.

01905 371006 croome@nationaltrust.org.uk

SNOWSHILL MANOR(NT) House and garden, near Broadway, Gloucestershire, WR12 7JU Open weekends only in November and with some special events:1.30 - 12 7th November the renovation of the model village and 'The Last Act' tours of the house 10.30 – 2 throughout November.

snowshillmanor@nationaltrust.org.uk 01386 852410

BATSFORD ARBORETUM, Batsford, Moreton-in-Marsh GL56 9AT Open 9.30 to 5 weekdays and 10 to 5 Sundays. https://batsarb.co.uk/

WESTONBIRT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM, Tetbury GL8 8QS
Open 9 to 4.30 every day except Christmas Day.
https://www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt-the-national-arboretum

PAINSWICK ROCOCO GARDEN, Painswick, Gloucestershire, GL6 6TH

Dog Owners: For a special three weekends this **November, 7/8th, 14th/15th and 21st/2nd**, dogs can bring their human to the garden for FREE! 10am – 4pm with last admission 3.30pm.

27th November to 2nd January Enchanted Garden by Night

01452 81320 info@rococogarden.org.uk

The garden offers a range of discounted entry offers – consult the website for these and the usual opening times: https://www.rococogarden.org.uk/plan-your-visit/#open

CGS NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CARD

You will find your national membership card on the back cover of the autumn edition of The Cottage Gardener. This is especially useful if you want to attend an out of area event and need to show membership.

CGS COTSWOLD GROUP 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!

NB Our June 2026 visit is featured in this autumn's edition of The Cottage Gardener on pages 43 and 44.

PLANNING FOR RHS MALVERN SPRING SHOW 2027

The 2027 show takes place from Thursday 6th to Sunday 9th May at the Three Counties Showground in Malvern WR13 6NW.

In recent years the Cotswold Group has had very successful stands to promote cottage gardening, winning bronze and silver gilt medals.



All being well we shall be entering again next Spring. We are delighted to announce that this is likely to be in partnership with East Lambrook Manor in Somerset to celebrate the pioneering work of Margery Fish to who did so much to share her enthusiasm of the delights of cottage garden plants. If you would like to help with the preparation, let us know.

It will be an exciting few days but also demanding, requiring us to set up, staff the stand and chat to visitors, and pack up. Any hours you can offer would be much appreciated. Contact Rob or Natalie Stone on 01242 602384. The good news is that we can offer free entrance and car parking to what is usually a brilliant show.

BUMBLEBEES IN WINTER

The autumn and winter months can be very hard times for our pollinators, but we can all do something to help them survive and thrive.

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust has put together a useful guide to show how you can create and protect hibernation spots for bumblebee queens; prepare for next year with some easy maintenance jobs and autumn/winter planting; and feed the bumblebees who do remain active over winter.

https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/resources/autumn-winter-garden-maintenance-guide

Did you know that the buff-tailed bumblebee (Bombus terrestris) will appear on our new paper money? It was a clear winner, receiving 360,399 votes from the public., thousands more than its nearest rival, the barn owl. The featured creatures will also include another gardener's friend, the hedgehog, and the puffin to represent marine life.

STROUD VALLEYS PROJECT (SVP)

The SVP is looking for volunteers to plant native trees and wildlife hedgerows in the Stroud District. They intend to plant up to 15 native tree varieties and wildlife hedgerows to improve ecological corridors, reduce soil erosion, prevent flooding, and capture carbon.

Last tree-planting season 13,070 trees were planted and SVP hope to beat that this year. If you're interested in helping to plant trees or to tell them about any land where they can be planted, please email info@stroudvalleysproject.org .

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 until 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

COMMON FARM FLOWERS NOVEMBER ONLINE WORKSHOPS

The Ranunculus and Anemone Demo Wednesday 4th November.

This will demonstrate how to grow a spectacular spring crop of ranunculus and anemones.

The Christmas Garland and Wreathing Demo Monday 9th November

This is 90 minutes long with plenty of time for questions. The fee includes a full recording so you can watch again anytime or just catch up later if you can't attend live.

The Traditional Christmas Kissing Ball Demo Tuesday 10th December

In the Christmas kissing ball demo, Georgie you learn how to make a traditional kissing ball of foliage and mistletoe designed to hang from a ceiling or beam.

Workshops cost £45 each (or £80 for the package of the two Christmas workshops) 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!

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

https://www.commonfarmflowers.com/ 01963 32883

Georgie Newbery from Common Farm Flowers georgienewbery@substack.com

DID YOU KNOW?

- **World record breakers at this autumn's RHS Malvern Show** included the heaviest pumpkin, weighing in at 1,258kilograms and the tallest cucumber plant reaching 7.598 metres. What might not have surprised you much, however, was the dandelion winning the record for the weed with the longest root at 1.127metres.

- **National Tree Week is 21st to 29th November.** The Tree Council website has details of local events as well as useful "how to" guides and other resources. www.treecouncil.org.uk

- **It is time to get your order ready for the National CGS Seed Exchange.** See page 11 of the Autumn Cottage Gardener. Keep an eye on the national website and contact Margaret Mason seeds@thecgs.org.uk with any queries

GARDENING IN A HEATWAVE – THRIVERS AND SUVIVORS



Dahlias Emily, Apple Blossom, Café Au Lait

Some plants coped with this summer's taxing conditions and some really thrived. Understandably, those in mulched beds or pots did better than most.

These are plants Cotswold Group members reported as flourishing:

Annuals generally – a great year for opium poppies.

Spring-flowering plants including foxgloves.

All succulents and alpines, including sedum, Lewisia, Aeonium and Euphorbia Myrsinites. The gravel/grit topping in their pots or beds undoubtedly helped.

Perennials including:

Achillea, Acanthus mollis, Agapanthus, Ajuga, Catananche, Cerinthe, Dahlia, Gaura, Heuchera, Nepeta, Paeony, Roses, Salvia (especially the small-leaved varieties), Sysirinchium, Verbena Baileyana.

Shrubs generally coped well having deeper roots, while those with grey or needle-type leaves loved the conditions. Abelia grandiflora, Caryopteris, Cardoon, Cordyline, Fuchsia, Helleborus argutifolius (Corsican Hellebore), Philadelphus Belle Etoile, Physocarpus Diabilo, Yucca all did well, while Ceratostigma (False plumbago) thrives in all conditions.

Herbs generally did well - lavender, marjoram, oregano, thyme, and a splendid year for rosemary.

Perennial plants Cotswold Group members reported as “coping” and should be ready for next year’s challenges:



Alstroemeria, Auricula, Geum, Hellebore, Pulmonaria, Rudbeckia.

(Some had a good first flowering, but not the continuing display of other years.)

And then there were the indestructibles!

Bergenia (Elephant Ears), Catananche caerula (Cupid’s Dart), Erigeron karvinskianus (Mexican Daisy), Euphorbia generally, Hardy Geranium, and Verbena Bonariensis – not forgetting Linaria (Toadflax) which seeds itself everywhere and does not need any water!



PERSHORE FLOWER CLUB

Thursday 19th November. Annual Christmas Demonstration

Coral Gardiner will be demonstrating "A Treemendous Christmas"!
Doors open 6.30 for 7.30 at Number 8 High Street Pershore WR10 1BG
Raffle of all arrangements and much more!
Tickets £15 from Number 8. 01386 555488

NATIONAL COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY AGM 2027

Next year's CGS national AGM will be held at Toddington Village Hall on Sunday 6th June 2027 from setting up at 8.30 to close at 2pm.

All Cottage Garden Society members are welcome to attend. As the Cotswold Group is the nearest regional group, we may be asked to help with reception and catering duties, as well as display and stalls. Volunteers to Rob Stone 01242 602384, or Sue Ellis 07796 106579 please.

More details will follow, but the usual pattern for the day is for the AGM to end by 11.30 for a talk of about 1 hour followed by a light lunch. Members then generally go on visits to local gardens in the afternoon. Details will follow in a later newsletter and in the national magazine. Guests are also welcome to attend the talk and lunch for a fee.

Our speaker will be Vanessa Berridge who not only is a prominent member of our group, and successful gardening author, but also South-West chair of the National Garden Scheme She will talk about the three generations of women gardeners at Kiftsgate, one of the major gardens in our area, and especially lovely at that time of year.

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 Natalie and Sue. Email yours to Sue!

Thanks especially to Carol, Gill, Nan, Natalie and Philip for their info about how plants fared this summer in their gardens.

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