



NEWS RELEASE

Updated: 5th March 2026

BRISTOL GARDENS OPEN IN MAY 2026

We advise all garden visitors to check the National Garden Scheme website for the latest information before setting out. <https://ngs.org.uk>

MAY

Sunday 3rd

Court View, Bath, BA1 7HB.

Maria & Jeremy Heffer, www.thebathgreenhouse.com.

Drop off access only. Public car park in the village.

Open 10 - 4.30. Adm £6, chd free. Home-made teas.

2 acre, south-facing garden featuring a colourful mix of trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials and over 100 geums inc the National Collection of *Geum coccinea* and *Geum rivale* cvs. The garden offers spectacular views from terraced lawns, a box parterre, a small orchard, a productive cutting garden and a meadow area. The National Collection of *Geum coccinea* and *Geum rivale* cvs were exhibited at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2025 as part of Plant Heritage's display - 'Beauty of the National Plant Collections'.



Photo Court View

Sunday 10th

Stoke Bishop Gardens, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, BS9 1DD.

Open 1 - 5. Combined adm £7.50, chd free. Home-made teas at Oak Lodge.

4 HAYTOR PARK, MR C & MRS P PRIOR, 07779 203626,
P.L.PRIOR@GMAIL.COM

OAK LODGE, 44 STOKE HILL, BS9 1EX. JO POPLÉ.

1 SUNNYSIDE, BS9 1BQ. MRS MAGDA GOSS.

Three very different gardens all within ½m of each other. 4 Haytor Park has been lovingly created over almost 40 yrs. Wildlife in abundance with a pond and insect friendly plants. A totally peaceful haven in spite of being in a city suburb. Plenty of places to sit awhile and reflect, while spotting myriad plants for all seasons. Many arches lead to secret places, quirky features inc a bicycle wheel trellis. Oak Lodge is a country garden in an urban setting. On entering, the garden reveals its ½ acre size within a Georgian stone wall. It has herbaceous borders, hedging, mixed beds, privet trees, courtyard with potted plants, tennis court and lawns. A weeping silver birch provides a focal point whilst a shepherd's hut offers a quiet retreat. Sunnyside is an artist's C17 cottage in the heart of Stoke Bishop with part walled, cottage style front garden. Garden sculptures dominated by large magnolia, perennials, roses and spring bulbs. Courtyard garden with open studio at rear.

Sunday 10th **NEW OPENING**

Yeo Meads, Congresbury, BS49 5JA.

Debbie Fortune & Mark Hayward, debbie@debbiefortune.co.uk.

Open 11- 4. Adm £5, chd free. Visits also by arrangement 1 May to 14 Sept for groups of 5 to 25. 1¼ acres, formally laid out in C17 inc 350 yr-old cedar of Lebanon tree which fell in 2007 but is now a living feature, and a 150 yr-old lime, which is now a folly with a seat inside the base. Other trees inc acacia, ginkgo, cypresses and beech. Lead-lined pond with rill, large pond with 5 tier waterfalls, stone clapper bridge, Victorian pond, thatched summerhouse, kitchen garden, 2 greenhouses, folly, shed, orchard, herbaceous borders, rockeries.



Photo Yeo Meads

Sunday 17th

Watcombe, Winscombe, BS25 1BP.

Peter & Ann Owen, 01934 842666, peterowen449@btinternet.com.

Open 2 - 5. Adm £5, chd free. Tea, coffee & cake. Gluten-free available.

¾ acre mature Edwardian garden with colour-themed, informally planted herbaceous borders. Strong framework separating several different areas; pergola with varied wisteria, unusual topiary, box hedging, lime walk, pleached hornbeams, cordon fruit trees, 2 small formal ponds and growing collection of clematis. Many unusual trees and shrubs. Small vegetable plot.



Photo Watcombe

Sunday 24th

Mellowstones, Freshford, Bath, BA2 7WL.

Mrs Jackie Kennedy.

Open 11 - 4. Adm £6, chd free. Tea, coffee & home-made cakes.

Developed over the last 5 yrs, this 1 acre south facing hillside terraced garden is set in woodland, with wonderful views across the Frome valley. The upper level has cottage garden plants and yew hedges, a quarry kitchen and a grass path through wild flowers to the summerhouse. The Mediterranean terrace has olive trees, a gravel planting area with stepping stones across a corten steel pond. The lower terrace is a formal garden leading to a grass path which extends through the sloping wildflower orchard. Woodland and valley walks. Short distance from the canal. Featured in English Gardens.



Photo Mellowstones

Saturday 30th

Japanese Garden, Brislington, Bristol, BS4 4LS.

Martin Fitton, www.japanesegardenbristol.com.

Open 2 - 5. Adm £7, chd £3. Pre-booking essential, please visit www.ngs.org.uk for information & booking. Home-made teas.

As you walk through the gate you will be welcomed by Japanese Koi. Then take a step to another level to the relaxing Japanese garden room and tea house surrounded by acers and cloud trees. Walk past Buddha corner into the Bonsai and Zen water feature area. Continue to a Japanese courtyard through a gate to a peaceful Japanese tea garden. There you will find seating to enjoy the serene atmosphere. Please note steps to different levels means the garden is unsuitable for disabled access.

Sunday 31st

81 Combe Lane, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, BS9 2AT.

Karl Suchy, 07873 588540, karl.suchy@icloud.com.

Open 12 - 5. Adm £6, chd free. Home-made teas.

Hidden Victorian walled garden. Substantial mixed borders contain traditional and contemporary planting. Large lawns, numerous seating areas, summerhouse and French inspired patio with coppiced lime trees. Parterre and large raised Koi pond surrounded by bananas and tree ferns. Garden featured on BBC Gardeners' World, in May 2025.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About the National Garden Scheme

The National Garden Scheme gives visitors unique access to over 3,300 private gardens in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands, and raises impressive amounts of money for some of the UK's best-loved nursing and health charities through admissions, teas and cake.

Thanks to the generosity of garden owners, volunteers and visitors we have donated more than £77 million to our beneficiary charities, and in 2025 made donations of over £3.8 million. Founded in 1927 to support district nurses, we are now the most significant charitable funder of nursing in the UK and our beneficiaries include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and The Queen's Nursing Institute.

The National Garden Scheme doesn't just open beautiful gardens for charity – we are passionate about the physical and mental health benefits of gardens too. We fund projects which promote gardens and gardening as therapy, and in 2017, we launched our annual Gardens and Health Week to raise awareness of the topic. Our funding also supports the training of gardeners and offers respite to horticultural workers who have fallen on difficult times.

To find your perfect garden, visit ngs.org.uk, download the National Garden Scheme app or purchase the National Garden Scheme's Garden Visitor's Handbook, which is published annually and available via ngs.org.uk/shop and at all good book retailers.

For more see www.ngs.org.uk