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August 2025



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Dear friends and supporters,

Some of the many things people say to us when we ask if they'd like to open their garden for us are either, "I don't think my garden is good enough," or "I'm not quite ready yet!"

Recently, at an event, two ladies told us they were working towards opening for us in the future. One of their husbands suggested one might like to open one year, and the other the next, so they could help each other on the other one's Open Day. I said if they lived near each other and could encourage a few other people to take money at the entrance and help with refreshments, they could even open together on the same day.

This led us to think about how we might be able to start to build communities of such people who a) would like to start to help us raise money for charity, but b) initially just connect with each other, by supporting each other with ideas for planting for our changing climate, plant/seed exchanges, using mulch for preserving and protecting soil etc. Maybe they could start to help us and any money raised from the sale of tea, coffee or cake sold at their meeting, could potentially be donated to us in support of our children's charities?

As a national organisation, we personally may not be able to initiate groups in your particular area, but maybe you can. If this appeals to you, maybe you could have monthly or bi-monthly meetings and create a club where you live? There may be a ready made garden group near you where this happens already, that

you could talk to about Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts; or you could start your own.

As your group's confidence grows, one of you may like to become a coordinator for us and help a couple of gardens near you, work towards opening on our behalf.

Many people use Social Media, Facebook, Instagram or use What'sApp groups, so maybe you could find other people who might be interested near you. If you would like some more detailed information about our association, becoming a coordinator, or even like some Trifold Leaflets just to help you spread the word, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

If we can help in any way, we will.



Sue Lambert

President.

president@opengardens.eu

**Membership is available on-
line**

Buy now



A Day in the Life of a Garden Coordinator...

Ever wondered what it's like to help bring beautiful gardens to life — not just for your own pleasure, but for the enjoyment of others and to raise money for vital causes?

Meet Ian Warden, one of the many dedicated volunteers behind the Association 'Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts'. As a Garden Coordinator, Ian plays a key role in connecting gardeners, organising events, and building a sense of community — all while indulging his lifelong passion for plants (and a little bit of cake too....). Click [here](#) to read his story...

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A Blooming Success in Montclar

This month, we're delighted to share a story from Phil Mercer, who—along with his wife Pam—recently helped organise Montclar's first-ever open gardens event raising money for our Association. We asked Phil to tell us how it came about, and what the experience meant for their village.

[read their story](#)

Here are some dates for your diary:

03 Allier

03190 Hérisson - 2nd November – to include 2 guided visits, at 10h30 and 14h30.

16 Charente

16390 Labreuille, Montignac-le-Coq – *Something for Membership Card holders* - 24th August 2025.

23 La Creuse

23240 Besseresse, Saint-Priest-la-Plaine. 7th September.

23260 La Core, Saint-Pardoux-d'Arnet 28th September. **To note:** *This is one of our Partner Gardens, Jardin Lacore; and there will also be a Photo exhibition "Panorama of the Creuse" of work by J L Allègre. (30 photos of 2.50m x 1m).*

23160 "Journées des Plantes" at the Arboretum de la Sedelle. 18th and 19th October 2025. 10h00 to 18h00.

If you have ever thought of wanting to become more involved by opening your garden, becoming a coordinator, maybe joining our committee, becoming a Friend of OGJO, etc, please do visit us at our stand at this super event, being held at one of our Partner Gardens; and we can discuss how you can help us.

24 Dordogne

24300 Augignac. - Was new this year - continues to open by appointment only.

47 Lot-et-Garonne

47800 Montignac de Lauzun - Saturday 13th September. **New for 2025 Note:** *this is on a Saturday, not a Sunday.*

53 Mayenne

53110 Lassay-les-Châteaux - 14th September.

People continue to add dates as the season progresses, so keep checking the website for up to date information



Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts

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