

COUNTRY LIFE

EVERY WEEK

SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

Her Majesty The Queen



1926–2022





Ode to the English garden

KEATS got it wrong. Autumn is not only the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, but also of gardens, as the glorious hues of Japanese acers, oaks and cherry trees come to fiery life. Some of the season's best colours are showcased in another autumn 'fruit', *Brilliant English Gardens*, by long-time COUNTRY LIFE contributor Clive Nichols, which is published next week. The book is a cavalcade across 27 glorious gardens from Devon to Northumberland and promises to be a treat for gardeners' eyes, according to our Gardens Editor Tiffany Daneff: 'Clive Nichols's

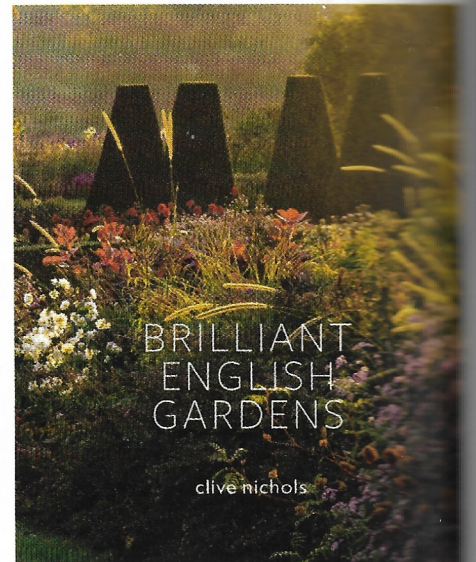
photographs are imbued with his innate understanding and love of both gardens and plants, bringing to both a warmth and light that makes the viewer stop in their tracks.'

Mr Nichols came up with the idea for the publication because he wanted to show the beauty of gardens in England he had photographed over the past few years. 'I felt that it was time to showcase my photographs in a big format, so the book is mostly double-page-spread images rather than some of those small, postage-stamp-size pictures you see in books that don't really have much impact.' He did face a challenge, however: 'I was

leaving out some many great photographs—even with 320 pages in the book.'

Having photographed gardens in every season and conditions, he reveals that 'in autumn, they tend to have more atmosphere than in the summer. As a rule, the mornings are misty and foggy as moisture levels at night increase, which makes for atmospheric photos as the sun burns through. Trees, shrubs, grasses and perennials change hue dramatically, too, which adds richness to the palette of colours'. CP

Brilliant English Gardens is published by Clearview Books on September 19, at 20



Top: The parterre, Pettifers, Oxfordshire. Above: The Old Rectory, Quinton, Northamptonshire



Above: **The Rotunda, Thorp Perrow Arboretum, Yorkshire.**

Below: **The Stroll Garden, Morton Hall, Worcestershire**

Top autumn garden's

Arundel Castle, West Sussex (www.arundelcastle.org), for a bold splash of pink (dahlias), yellow (rudbeckias) and orange (cannas)

Winkworth Arboretum, Surrey (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/winkworth-arboretum), for almost every conceivable autumn colour

Malverleys, East End, Hampshire (www.malverleys.co.uk), for a breathtaking show of exotic plants

Chatsworth Arcadia & Woodland Rockery, Derbyshire (www.chatsworth.org), for a glorious modern woodland

Gordon Castle Walled Garden, Fochabers, Morayshire (www.gordoncastle.co.uk), for a profusion of cherry trees in blazing hues

Thenford Arboretum, Brackley, Northamptonshire (www.thenfordarboretum.com), for its colour and important collection of oak trees

Gresgarth Hall Gardens, Caton, Lancashire (www.arabella-lennoxboyd.com), for a fiery display of *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, liquidambar, *Cornus kousa* and berberis

The Newt, Hadspen, Somerset (www.thenewtinsomerset.com), for the magnificent apple trees and grasses



Good week for

Leicestershire ospreys

Ospreys have successfully bred at Belvoir Castle for the first time in 200 years, following an eight-year-long biodiversity project

The birds and the bees

Not that kind—flora and fauna in Cumbria are making the most of a new, 42-acre urban wildlife haven on a former golf course

Great crested newts

Yorkshire farmers and landowners are to be offered funding to create and restore ponds, under plans drawn up by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England

Record breakers

Taunton School students—some as young as 12—have swum the English Channel, raising funds for their community pool in Somerset, which is at risk of closure

Pocket-size predators

A pine marten was sighted in Kingston, Greater London, for the first time in more than a century

Bad week for

Welsh birds

Cases of bird flu have been reported near Arthog, Gwynedd, in Wales's sixth outbreak in 12 months

Tastemakers

Hopes that the former Prime Minister's garish golden wallpaper might have had its day in the sun have been dashed. Apparently, No 10's new incumbent is leaving it as it is—it seems she has more pressing matters to deal with

Wasting food

Aldi is following Waitrose, Sainsburys and Asda by removing best-before dates from myriad products, in a bid to tackle food waste

Eco warriors

The 2019 ban on fracking will be lifted to allow drilling for shale gas (if there is local support)

Lincolnshire lorry drivers

Residents in Grimsby have called for stricter measures to stop tall vehicles being driven underneath a very low bridge. Four drivers recently underestimated its height, resulting in four roofless vehicles

RP and AEW