

Wednesday, 15th July 2026

Self-drive visit to two Hardy Plant Society members' gardens.

The Maples, Watts Quarry Lane, Somerton, TA11 7JD

Paul Cumbleton and Colin Everett

Paul and Colin have developed their half acre mature garden over the past ten years. There are three greenhouses dedicated to Fritillaria species, South African winter flowering bulbs and the third is used for propagation and summer veg. The garden is filled with herbaceous plants, there are ponds, a crevice garden holding alpine collection, a small area of bog garden and small woodland area.

Paul Cumbleton was head of the Alpine Department at RHS Wisley Garden for 11 years before taking early retirement in 2015. Paul has written articles for the Alpine Garden Society journal, *The Plantsman*, *The Garden* magazine and other publications, and his regular blog about his team's work at Wisley was widely read and appreciated. He presented a talk to Somerset HPS in October 2024 titled 'Bulbs from the Winter Rainfall Area of South Africa.'

The Maples will be open from 10.00 am with an introductory talk at 10.30 about the garden and plants. Paul and Colin will be available to answer questions about the plants and their care. Parking is available in the layby across the road or on the driveway. We will limit entrance to the garden to up to 20 people at a time. There will be a £5 entrance fee which will be donated to the Somerset Wildlife Trust.

You may wish to bring a picnic for between the garden visits or visit one of the local pubs for lunch, which include The Lime Kiln, Knole, nr Long Sutton, Langport (01458 241242) or The Devonshire Arms, Long Sutton, Langport, TA10 9LP (01458 241271). Pre-booking is advised.

The Zephyrs, Martock Road, Long Sutton, Langport, TA10 9LW

Dick and Sue Sheppard

A mature garden created over the past twenty years with a huge variety of herbaceous plants and a big walnut tree. Dick describes the garden as containing "a bit of all sorts". The agapanthus and salvias will be flowering.

Please park around the green or in the Village Hall car park. Zephyrs will be open from 2.00 pm and refreshments will be available. The entrance fee will be £5, to include the

cost of refreshments, and this will be donated to the charity Perennials.org.uk which helps people in horticulture.