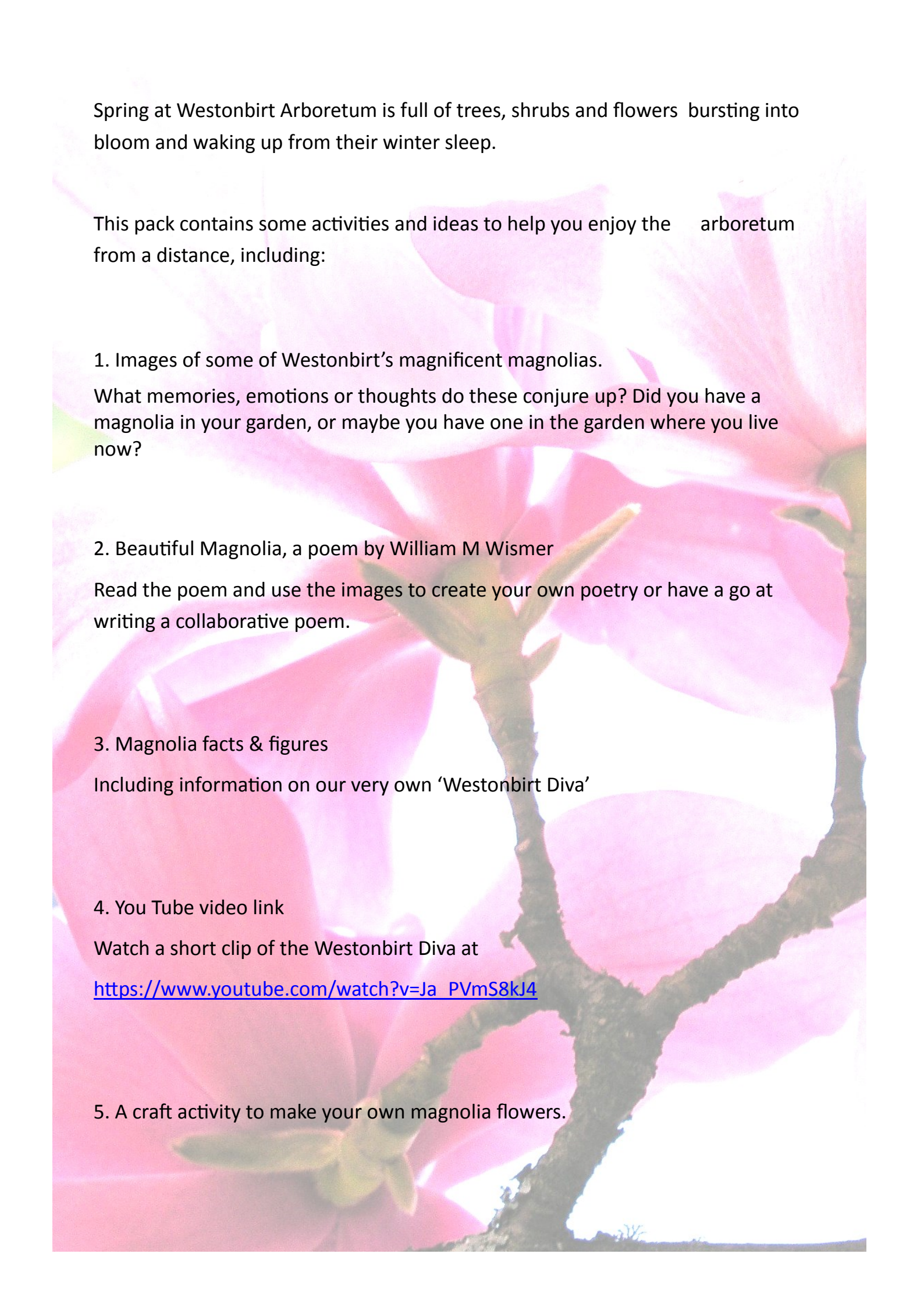


Bloomin Beautiful

Bringing Westonbirt Arboretum to you

A self led activity resource for care homes





Spring at Westonbirt Arboretum is full of trees, shrubs and flowers bursting into bloom and waking up from their winter sleep.

This pack contains some activities and ideas to help you enjoy the arboretum from a distance, including:

1. Images of some of Westonbirt's magnificent magnolias.

What memories, emotions or thoughts do these conjure up? Did you have a magnolia in your garden, or maybe you have one in the garden where you live now?

2. Beautiful Magnolia, a poem by William M Wismer

Read the poem and use the images to create your own poetry or have a go at writing a collaborative poem.

3. Magnolia facts & figures

Including information on our very own 'Westonbirt Diva'

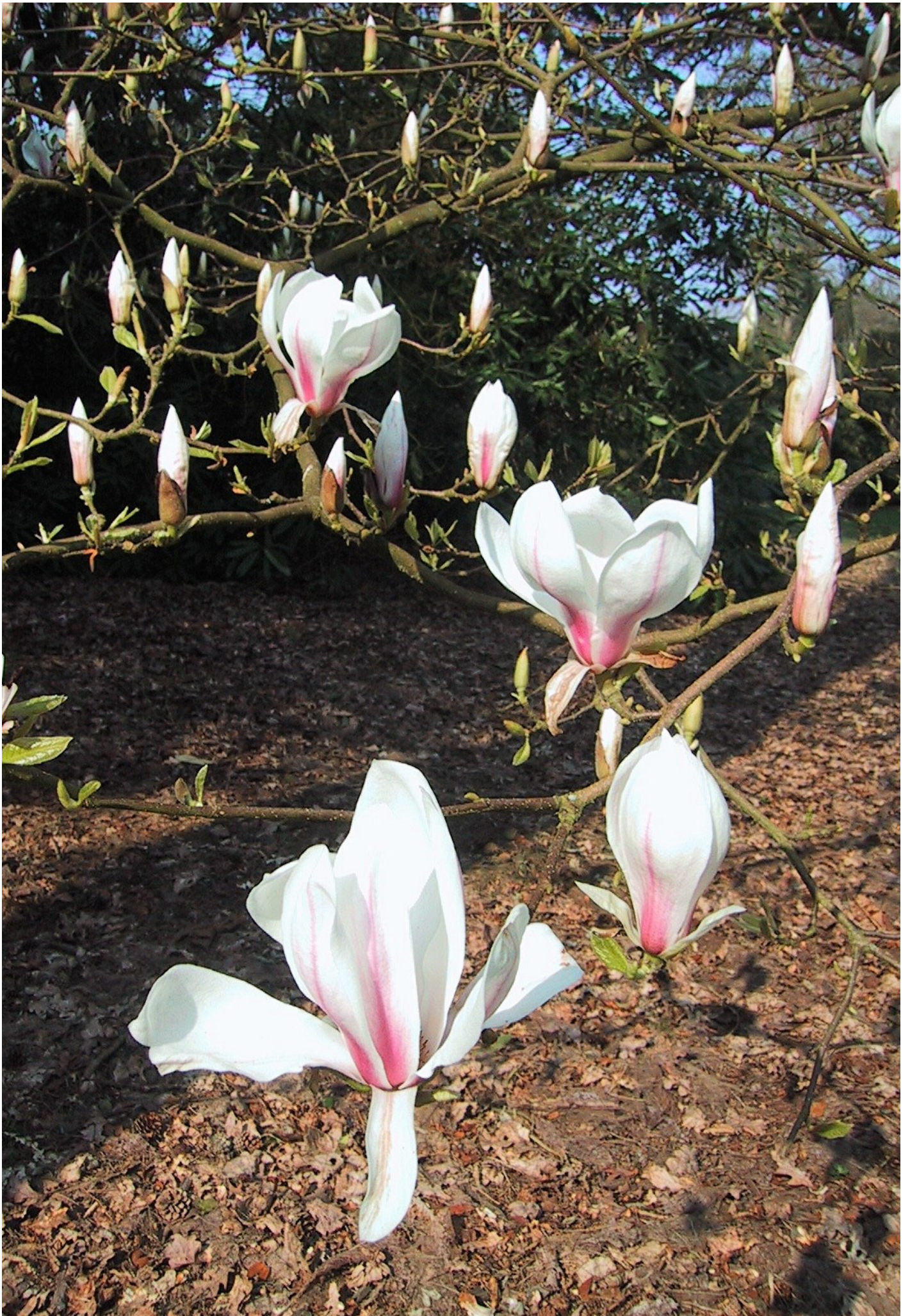
4. You Tube video link

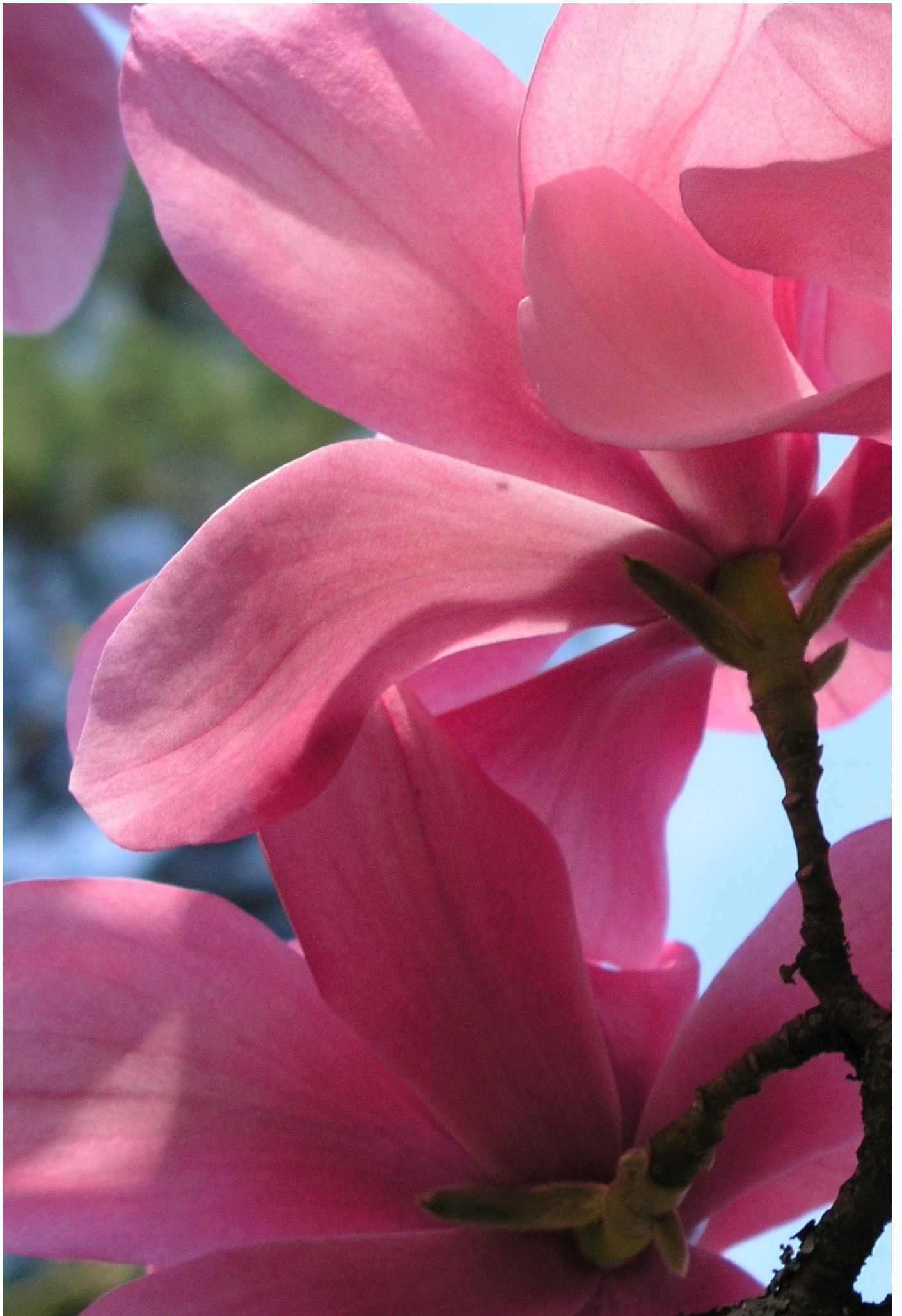
Watch a short clip of the Westonbirt Diva at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ja_PVmS8kJ4

5. A craft activity to make your own magnolia flowers.









Beautiful Magnolia

William M Wismer

Oh beautiful Magnolia, you're blossoming again
It's early Spring and there you are like you have always been
Your glorious Spring time beauty is wondrous to behold
But it is such a little while until your blossoms fold.

It only seems a day or two from when you're in full bloom
That petals start to flutter down and leave me with sad gloom
The reason I feel gloomy is that just once a year
I see your gentle beauty, then wait another year.

Upon this wondrous earth of ours are many lovely things
In spring I marvelled at the sights the kind your beauty brings
Oh beautiful magnolia, you are by heaven blessed
Spring time has many wonders but you're one of the best.

Collaborative Poems

Writing a poem can feel scary for many people. Contributing a few words or lines to a collaborative poem can help remove this barrier and uncover hidden talents.

Writing a collaborative poem can help build group cohesion through an emotional response to a shared experience.

Share the magnolia images and You Tube video clip with residents.

Ask them to describe the tree or how the images make them feel in five words and write these down. Each five word description will form a line of the poem.

Once all responses have been collected, decide how to combine them to create a collaborative poem.

Ancient blooms from time past
Still flowering even now
Delicate

Magnolia Facts & Figures

Magnolias are native to western China.

Magnolias are ancient trees which were among the first flowering plants to evolve. They were growing when dinosaurs roamed the earth.

Early species of magnolia were pollinated by beetles as bees did not exist at the time.

There are over 200 species of magnolia.

The 'Westonbirt Diva'

Westonbirt Arboretum has a very special type of magnolia, a *Magnolia sprengeri* called the 'Westonbirt Diva'. It was officially registered with the Magnolia Society in 2014.

The Diva is a champion tree, the tallest of its kind in the British Isles at 72 feet.

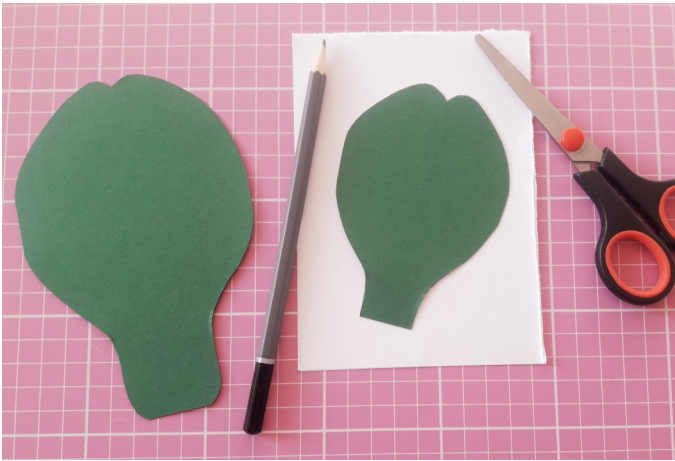
It is a direct descendant of a tree grown from seeds brought back from China in 1900 by plant hunter Ernest Wilson. It was planted at Westonbirt in 1960.

Make a Magnolia Flower



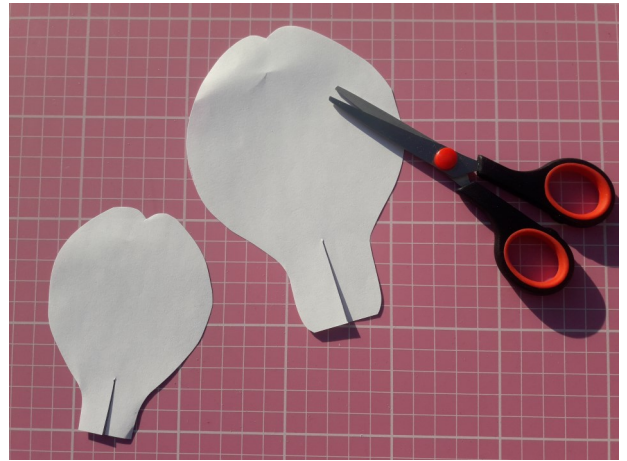
Step 1.

On a folded piece of paper, draw half a petal shape (so the middle of the petal is along the folded edge) and cut out. I used A6 for the large petal and A7 for the small.



Step 2.

Draw around the petal shapes onto card to make templates, and cut out. Use the templates to make 6 large and 6 small paper petals.



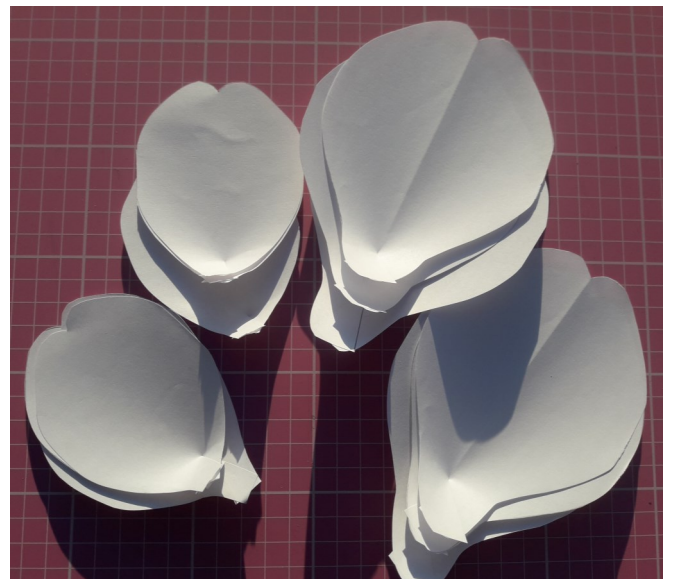
Step 3.

Make a small cut at the bottom of each petal.



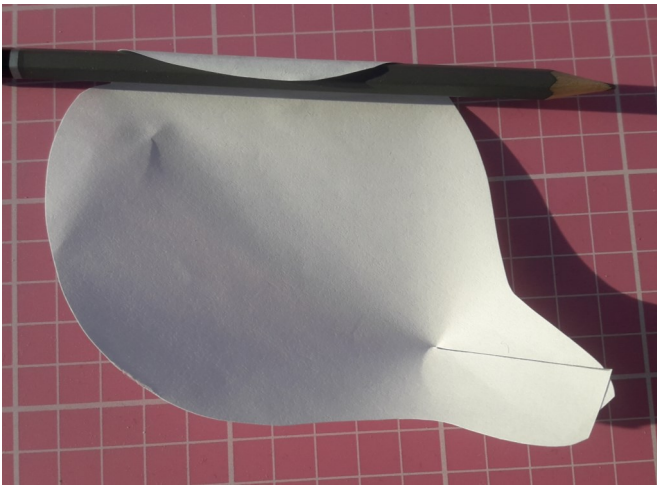
Step 4.

Over lap the two cut tabs and glue to create a shallow bowl shape effect.



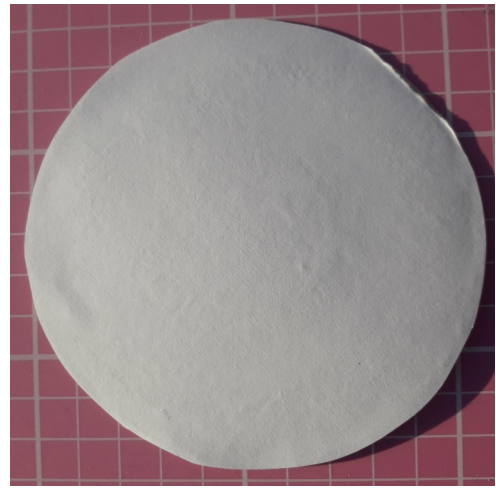
Step 5.

Repeat on each petal until you have 12 petals.



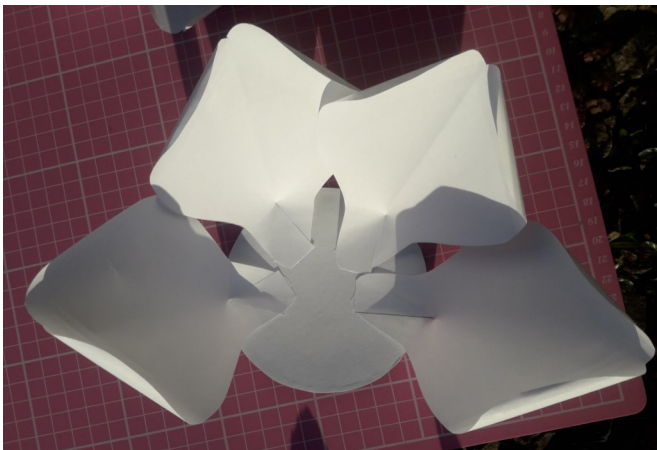
Step 6.

Use a pencil to slightly curl the edge of each petal to give shape.



Step 7.

Cut out a circle of card. A saucer size is ideal.



Step 8.

Glue the 6 large petals around the outside of the circle of card. Repeat with the small petals, placing them to hide the tabs of the large petals.



Step 9.

Cut a small circle out of bright coloured card—I used an old chocolate box—and glue into the centre of the flower.



Step 10.

Display your finished flowers.