

WESTFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

Email : westfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com

Website: www.westfieldhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

Your committee:- Chair:- Dave Miles, also Event Organiser & Newsletter Editor

Secretary :- Linda Baker, also Treasurer

Membership Secretary :- Jackie Fellows

Committee members:- Eileen Hurton, Plants - Juni Parkhurst, Seeds - Patricia Oakland and Malcolm Shirley

Dear Members,

Visit to Susan Fletchers Garden.

Susan will open her garden to our members on **Tuesday 25th August 2:00 to 4:00pm**. Refreshments will be available. Please let us know if you would like to come and we will then give you directions to her address which is near Three Oaks, there will be plenty of parking available. Email westfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com or daveatwhs@gmail.com or phone 07455 944849.

Chiltern Seeds

Juni has informed us that we have had a super generous donation of flower and vegetable seeds from Chiltern Seeds. These will be available at our Autumn show on Saturday 5th September. In the meantime check out their web site as they have a lot to offer.

Autumn Show Saturday 5th September. Hopefully you are all planning what to enter in the show this year. Entry form can be found in the Show Schedule and Handbook as well as on our web site. You can also enter via our email address, see above.

Here are a few suggestions of what we could be doing in the garden during September.

Take pelargonium cuttings by snipping off healthy non-flowering growing tips 5-7cm long. Remove the lower leaves from the bottom half of the cut stems and then just cut below a node. Push the cuttings into small pots of a free-draining compost mix and water thoroughly. Leave in a well-lit position indoors, do not cover and the roots should develop within six to eight weeks.

Plant spring flowering bulbs, such as narcissus or species tulips into areas of lawn or under trees and shrubs where they can naturalise and make a lovely permanent seasonal look by scattering bulbs randomly on the surface and plant where they land. Make sure they are planted in a hole with a depth that measures 2-2 times the bulbs height. Lift turf if needed, plant the bulbs then press the turf back. Correct planting depth helps them to flower reliably year after year.

Tidy up strawberries by cutting off all the old leaves from your strawberry plant, leaving just the youngest in the middle. Next, remove the runners to prevent the main plant weakening. Weed through and pick out fruit debris as it can harbour fungal disease spores that will ruin next years crop. Pot up a few strong runners as these will root quickly and can be used as replacement plants if needed in the autumn.

Protect tender plants by bringing them into the greenhouse for the winter, now that the nights are getting cooler and autumn weather is on its way. Clear plants of dead leaves, snipping off any old flower stems and weed the pots before they go back in. Many plants such as succulents, will cope with some cold conditions but will rot when it's wet, so storing in the brightest spot in a greenhouse is perfect for the winter. House plants that have been in the garden can go back on the windowsill but don't warm them up too quickly – allow them to acclimatise over a few days.

Collect opium poppy seed to control the position of this pretty annual, for flowers next summer. Sow them where you'd like them to grow next year, rather than leaving them to randomly drop seed and turn up unexpectedly in your boarder. Opium poppies grow best with full sun in free draining soils, so they make an ideal plant for a gravel garden or to add colour to a sunny herbaceous border. Companies sell the seed of specific varieties of 'Papaver somniferum', if you want to be sure of the right colour-effect. If your style is wilder or cottage-garden, just let them cross-pollinate freely and you'll get colours ranging from white and mauve to reds, pinks and even some with dark purple tones. Collecting your own seed saves some money, though, and the end of the growing season is the perfect time to collect and store it. If you sow seed this autumn, you'll get earlier flowers next year. Sow some more in the spring for flowers that follow on from the earliest ones.

Now is the time to start a new compost heap or bin, with plenty of garden material to add to it as crops are harvested, plants are cut back and lawns are cut. Choose a shady corner for your compost and place some thin woody pruning's at the base of the heap, or compost bin, to keep air flowing well. At least half of the material on the heap should be brown material such as pruning's and cardboard, the rest should be green material such as veg peelings and grass clippings.

House Plant of the Month is the Jade.



Jade plants flourish in bright, indirect sunlight and can tolerate some direct morning or late afternoon sun, but harsh midday sun may cause leaf burn. A south-facing window is ideal, and if natural light is insufficient, artificial grow lights can supplement their needs. Adequate light helps maintain their compact, tree-like shape and vibrant leaf colour. These succulents store water in their thick leaves and stems, so they prefer the soil to dry out completely between waterings. During the growing season (spring and summer), water thoroughly when the top 1-2 inches of soil are dry. In the dormant season (autumn and winter), reduce watering significantly to prevent root rot. A tactile check of the leaves—firm and plump indicates

sufficient water, while soft or wrinkled leaves signal the need for watering.

The RHS monthly magazine 'The Garden' has a monthly Horty quiz consisting of nine questions. Questions 1 to 3 are for the new gardeners amongst us, questions 4 to 6 are for the more experienced and questions 7 to 9 are for the experienced gardeners.

Answers to the May quiz are:- Question **1** - Rose. Question **2** - Earthing up.
Question **3** - To protect shoots from frost damage and ensure developing potatoes are not exposed to light which turns them green and inedible. Question **4** - Nepeta. Question **5** - Air and organic Matter. Question **6** - Field capacity. Question **7** - Verbascum. Question **8** - Vermiculite.
Question **9** - Overlapping of petals often creating a whorl.

This month's questions are:-

- Question 1. What term is given to fast-growing plants sown to cover bare soil before being dug into the ground to return nutrients and improve soil structure?
- Question 2. Which species of Hydrangea has cultivars that include 'Limelight' RHS, 'Phantom' RHS and 'Big Ben' RHS?
- Question 3. What is the new name for the long-running RHS plant award?
- Question 4. Plants belonging to the former genus Perovskia are now part of which genus?
- Question 5. What is the main reason for summer pruning apples grown as cordons, espaliers & fans?
- Question 6. While most roses are pruned in winter, which type of rose is traditionally pruned in August?
- Question 7. 'Gardenview Scarlet' RHS, 'Marshall's Delight' RHS, and 'Beauty of Cobham' RHS are cultivars of which genus?
- Question 8. Which plant family is generally considered the largest with more than 32,000 species?
- Question 9. Often associated with sugar cane, what process does the word 'ratoon' describe?

Answers will be in the September Newsletter

Advice Corner:- This month's questions for our Gardening Wizard

Question 1 : Why do my courgette leaves look dusty white, and the plants are struggling to grow

Answer : It is suffering from powdery mildew which is often a problem in spells of dry weather particularly in late summer. Unfortunately there is nothing you can do about it now just continue harvesting fruits for as long as you can then pull up the plant. To help avoid the problem next year, water plants in dry weather, avoid overcrowding them and mulch around plants to conserve moisture

Question 2 : How can I get magnolia grandiflora to bloom

Answer : This magnificent evergreen magnolia produces lemon scented summer blooms when it's happy. It prefers a sunny warm spot ideally against a south facing wall for extra warmth and protection. It often takes a few years to establish but once it has got its roots down it can grow up to 30m. You can prune it in late March which encourages it to be a bushier plant

PLEASE STILL KEEP YOUR QUESTIONS COMING IN.

WHS members can receive a 10% discount applicable to plants only from the following nurseries on showing a valid membership card:-

Ed's Nursery, Cripps Corner Road, Staplecross TN32 5QA 01580 830701

Rotherview Nursery, Three Oaks, Ivy House Lane, Hastings TN35 4NP 01424 756228
(Checkout their Facebook page rotherview nursery)

The Old Rose Nursery, Quickbourne Lane, (off Beales Lane) Northiam, TN31 6QY 01797 252680.
WEB site www.theoldrosenursery.co.uk **Open 10:00am to 4:00 pm Tuesday to Saturday** (Closed Sunday and Monday)

As our society is affiliated to the RHS we have been issued with a 50% RHS Garden Entry discount card for use by our members on a one-off entry to any RHS garden (Bridgewater, Harlow Carr, Hyde Hall, Rosemoor and Wisley) except for flower shows and Glow illuminations events. If you would like to use the card, please contact our secretary Linda Baker via our email address

RHS Partner Gardens. There are 17 being reachable in Kent and Sussex. Full list can be found in the January Newsletter Note: All old newsletters can be found on our web site.

Every month I will include details of one or two gardens. This month its Sheffield Park and Garden.

Water plays a starring role in the garden, with cascades and bridges set among magnificent lakes, perfectly reflecting the bold planting at the water's edge. It's the perfect place to be during summer: admire the historic waterlily collection, cool off in the shade of mature trees and immerse yourself in this diverse landscape. One of the favourite spots is Griseum Walk, named after the *Acer griseum* ^{RHS} trees that line it.

Future Events

Tuesday 25th August	Open Garden Susan Fletcher (WHS Member)
Saturday 5th September	Autumn show 2:30pm to 4:30pm at the Westfield Community Hall
Tuesday 27th October	Talk by Graham Blunt from Plant Base UK. 2:00pm at Westfield Bowls Club
Saturday 14th November	Beetle Drive 7:00pm. Westfield Community Hall
Thursday 3rd December	Seasonal Lunch 1:00pm at the New Inn Westfield

Sedlescombe & District Garden Society talks;

We are invited to attend at Sedlescombe Village Hall free of charge. Please have your WHS membership card.

Tuesday 29th September	Ian Currie – Subject - Weatherman Gales, Greenhouses and global Warming At 2:00pm
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Sedlescombe and District Garden Society are planning a coach visit on Wednesday 12th August to Great Comp Gardens nr Sevenoaks. Contact sdgs.secretary@hotmail.co.uk for details.

2027 WHS Events

Saturday 13th February	Valentines Quiz at the Community Centre Starting at 7:00pm
Saturday 6th March	AGM 11:00 am at the Church Hall. To be followed by Soup and a Roll
Saturday 20th March	Spring show 2:30pm to 4:30pm at the Westfield Community Hall
Saturday 11th September	Autumn show 2:30pm to 4:30pm at the Westfield Community Hall