

WESTFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

August 2025 Newsletter

Email westfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com

Website www.westfieldhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

Your committee:- Chair:- Dave Miles, also Membership Secretary, Event Organiser & Newsletter Editor
Secretary :- Linda Baker, also Treasurer :- Show Secretary Tonia Munns
Committee members:- Eileen Hurton, Plants - Juni Parkhurst, Seeds - Maria Wells - Malcolm Shirley

Dear members,

Visit to Elaine and Malcolm Shirley's Garden.

Elaine and Malcolm will open their garden to our members on **Thursday 21st August, 2:00 to 4:00pm** at 'Moorside', [Near. 'Moorsholm Farm'], King Wood Hill [A28], Cackle Street, Brede.

Directions from Westfield. Proceed through Brede from the South passing St. Georges Church on the LHS with The Red Lion Pub. on the RHS. After 0.8 miles you will pass Brede Village Hall on your RHS. After a further 450 yards you will see sign on LHS grass verge marked 'Moorsholm Farm'. Turn left immediately after the sign onto the farm lane. [If you get to the Broad Oak X roads (B2089/A28 ~ with the 'One Stop' corner shop) you have gone too far. In which case turn around and follow the directions below FROM NORTHIAM ON A28]. Proceed past two bungalows on the LHS and 'Moorside' is the 3rd property on the LHS. Transport can easily be arranged for those members who would like a lift, just contact us.

Refreshments will be available. **Please let us know if you would like to visit by emailing our address or contact me on daveatwhs@gmail.com or 07455 944849 so that we ensure we have enough Cake**

We now have a few vacancies on our coach to Wisley on Thursday 11th September.

We will be leaving Moor Lane, Westfield at 9:00am and hope to return by 6:00pm, Cost is £22 for members and £25 for guests. Please reserve your place by contacting our email address westfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com or Dave on daveatwhs@gmail.com or 07455 944849

The Talk by Fergus has had to be rescheduled. It will now be on Thursday 30th October and not on Wednesday 22nd October. It will still be held at the Westfield Bowls Club at 2:00pm Fergus will Talk "On Designing with plants the Great Dixter way" The Pavilion can only seat 40 people as per the Health and Safety Regulations. **To reserve a place contact us on westfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com or Dave on daveatwhs@gmail.com or 07455 944849.**

Autumn Show 20th September. Hopefully you are all planning what to enter the show this year and the weather is kind to us. At our Spring Show several of you took away an Onion set to grow on and bring to our Autumn Show with the largest Onion winning a cash prize for the grower. Please make sure you attach your name.

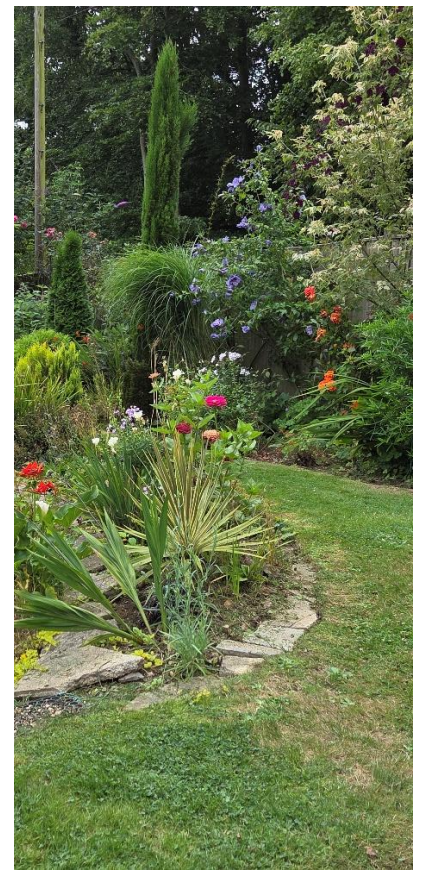
Visit to Dave and Dawn's Garden.

Dawn and Dave Miles opened their garden to our members on Tuesday 29th July.

They kindly invited us to look round their spectacular garden. Over 20 people enjoyed looking at all the beautiful flowers and plants that were everywhere you looked and in every corner. A pretty pond was central to the main area, and a path took you down to a woodland. It made for an enjoyable afternoon to be sitting outside drinking tea and enjoying the cakes made by Jackie, Linda and Dawn and chatting with fellow members. Our thanks to Dave and Dawn for their hard work in preparing for our visit.

If you would be willing to allow our members to look round your garden, please let Dave know as we would like to continue these social gatherings next year. The WHS would be happy to arrange all the refreshments etc.

Linda Baker



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

September is a great time to start planting daffodil bulbs. It may be early in the bulb planting season, but daffodils root in well if planted now and buying them early means you'll get the widest choice you can of each variety, check that they are firm with no signs of the mould, which can sometimes develop in storage. Most daffodils grow best in a sunny spot in free-draining soil. They do well in humus-rich soil too but can't cope with either waterlogging or long periods of very dry soil. Daffodils look very attractive naturalised in grass. They can also be grown in containers, moved to different areas of the garden to give colour in various positions, then when finished moved and replaced with containers of Tulips. Take care to plant your bulbs deeply enough, if they are too near the surface, they could possibly fail to flower after the first year. Make the hole three times the depth of the bulb.

Keep deadheading zinnias when they start to lose their colour to keep them tidy and encourage more of these vibrant flowers this season. Using a pair of sharp, clean secateurs, snip off the old heads back to a healthy pair of leaves. This will encourage the plants to branch out and produce more blooms. While deadheading greatly improves the look of zinnias in the border, be sure to cut a few stems for the house too.

If you spot tomatoes splitting it means the plant is taking up too much water, so slow down on the watering. Pick them when you see them – they're still edible but will rot faster if left on the vine. Growth is slowing down now with lower temperatures, so plants need less water while their fruits ripen in the autumn sun. The great advantage of doing this is that, with less water going into the fruits, the concentration of sugars in them gets much stronger and gives you even sweeter, tastier tomatoes.

Plant up a pot with wallflowers that will overwinter in the garden and join in with the daffodils and tulips to add colour to the garden next spring. Fill the pot with compost and add the plants around the edge and then more in the middle. They can go in quite close together, about 10cm apart. Push the compost in around them and water in well. Put the pot where you'll see the flowers but be prepared for them to flag a little when it gets really cold. They will recover as soon as the days lengthen next spring.

Keep deadheading dahlias because they will flower for quite a few more weeks yet, providing there are no early frosts. Check that you are removing old flowers and not the new buds. The flowers that have gone over are conical and slightly pointed whereas the fresh buds are ball-shaped and should be left on the plant to continue flowering. Cut the oldest stems that have gone over, cutting them right back. Keep them well watered and add a liquid feed every two weeks to freshen up the growth.

Advice Corner:- There were no questions again this month for our Gardening Wizard, so I have given the Wizard another month of.

Please let us have any questions you want answered on anything related to gardening or horticultural in general.

Plant of the month is the Dahlia



Dahlia plants native to Mexico and Central America. Dahlias are members of the Asteraceae family of dicotyledonous plants, its relatives include the sunflower, daisy, chrysanthemum, and zinnia. There are 49 species of dahlia, with flowers in almost every hue (except blue), with hybrids commonly grown as garden plants.

Dahlias were known only to the Aztecs and other southern North American peoples until the Spanish conquest, after which the plants were brought to Europe. The tubers of some varieties are of medicinal and dietary value to humans because, in common with species of *Inula* and many other flowering plants, they use inulin, a polymer of the fruit sugar fructose, instead of starch as a storage polysaccharide.

Dahlias are perennial plants with tuberous roots. They are not frost hardy and require protection from frost if grown in regions with cold winters. While some have herbaceous stems, others have stems which lignify in the absence of secondary tissue and resprout following winter dormancy, allowing further seasons of growth. As members of the family Asteraceae, dahlias have composite flower heads called capitula that are composed of multiple florets arranged in a central disc with surrounding petal-like rays. Each floret is a flower in its own right. The modern name Asteraceae comes from the type genus *Aster* and the Ancient Greek word for "star", referring to the appearance of a star with surrounding rays.

The stems are leafy, ranging in height from as low as 30 centimetres (12 inches) to more than 1.8–2.4 metres (6–8 feet). Flower forms are variable, with one head per stem; these can be as small as 5 cm (2 in) in diameter or up to 30 cm (1 ft) ("dinner plate"). The majority of species do not produce scented flowers. Like most plants that do not attract pollinating insects through scent, they are brightly coloured, displaying most hues, with the exception of blue.

Oak Cottage Plants

Carol and Steve have moved all the plants from their previous nursery at Kent Street on the A21 to their garden at Oak Cottage. They are busy renovating their garden at the moment and will welcome visitors going to see what they are doing, and plants are still available to purchase. Please contact them on 01424 754666 to make arrangements.

Identify this Flower from this picture: July's Flower was the Coreopsis



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

Oak Cottage Plants.

(Checkout their Facebook page [#OakCottagePlants](#) [#Gardening](#) [#NurseryLife](#) [#CustomerService](#))

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 Opening hours are Tuesday to Saturday 10:00am to 4:00pm

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 westfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com

Sedlescombe and District Garden Society have organised a visit to RHS Hyde Hall on **Wednesday 13th August**. Cost is £30 a head. Please contact Jenny Mitchell to book a place, email sdgs.secretary@hotmail.com

Visit to Sarah Ravens Garden.

Dawn and I (Dave) have booked an afternoon (1:00 to 4:00pm) visit to Sarah Ravens Garden at Perch Hill Farm, Willingford Lane, Brightling, Robertsbridge TN32 5HP for **Friday 29th August**. The cost is £17.50 per person. If anyone would like to join us, please book your own tickets, or if you are unable to book your own tickets and would like a lift from Westfield, please contact me. If you intend to join us, please let me know and we can arrange to meet up for Tea/coffee at some time and possibly swap stories on what we have seen or that hold our interest.

FUTURE EVENTS:

- Thursday 21st August** Open Garden at Elaine & Malcolm's 2:00 to 4:00pm **(Bookable event)**
- Friday 29th August** Self-drive visit to Sarah Raven's Garden 1:00 to 4:00pm
- Thursday 11th September** Visit to Wisley (Please note date change, in Schedule and Handbook its 4th September)
- Saturday 20th September** Autumn Show 2:30pm to 4:30pm at the Westfield Community Centre.
- Thursday 30th October** Fergus Garrett Talk "On Designing with plants the Great Dixter way"
2:00pm at the Bowls Club Pavilion **(Bookable event)**
- Saturday 8th November** Beetle Drive at the Westfield Community Centre starting at 7:00pm **(Bookable event)**
- Tuesday 2nd December** Seasonal Lunch at the New Inn, Westfield. **(Bookable event)**
- 2026**
- Saturday 14th February** Valentines Quiz at the Community Centre Starting at 7:00pm **(Bookable event)**
- Saturday 7th March** 2024/5 AGM 11:00am
- Saturday 11th April** Spring Show 2:30pm to 4:30pm at the Westfield Community Centre.
- Saturday 5th September** Autumn Show 2:30 pm to 4:30pm at the Westfield Community Centre

For more information on any of the above please contact Dave Miles on daveatwhs@gmail.com or 07455 944849