

WESTFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

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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,

We have a talk by Graham Blunt of Plant Base UK on Tuesday 27th October at Westfield Bowls Pavilion starting at 2:00pm. Graham will be talking about "Growing exotic plants and adapting our planting to the changing weather patters" Refreshment will be available.

If you are intending to come along, would you please let us know so we can ensure we have enough CAKE. Many thanks.

Visit to Susan Fletcher's Garden.

Tuesday 25th August 16 members had a very enjoyable afternoon walking around Susan's Garden that had interest wherever you roamed. From the lawn surrounded by trees and shrubs, the flower beds in various areas, the orchard and the wooded areas, not forgetting the swimming pool. Even though it was a warm and sunny afternoon no one was brave enough to take the plunge.

After investigating all areas of the garden we all settled down to tea and cake made by Jackie and Linda. It's thanks to Linda, Jackie and Tricia for looking after us all in ensuring we were well supplied. It's also thanks to Susan for allowing us to roam around her garden and for the lovely carrot cake that she made.



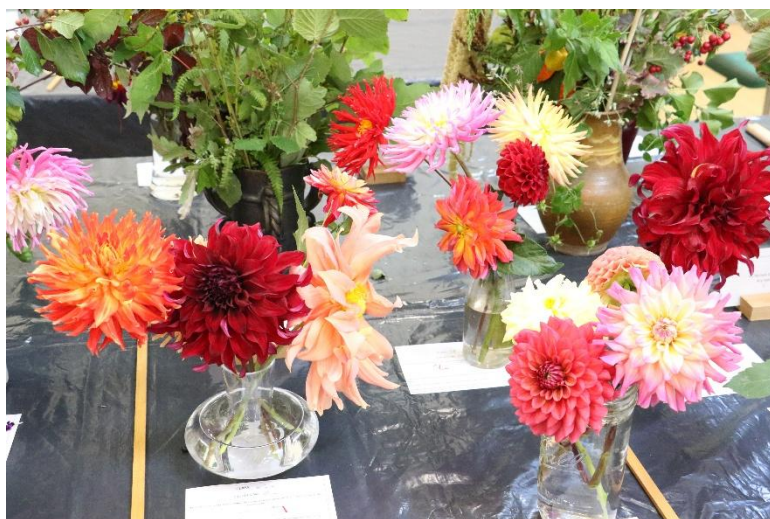


Our Autumn show was held on Saturday 5th September at the Westfield Community Hall. Before the show we had no idea about the number of entries to expect for the vegetable and flowering classes due to the very dry and hot sunny periods when we experienced temperatures well into the 30's. Our numbers were down a tad on 2025 but we still had better than expected. The horticultural judge praised our members on the number and quality of the entries. It's thanks to all you, the members that made the show a success for the society and visitors alike.

Winners of the awards were:-

Sydney Smith Cup (Best collection of Vegetables)	Awarded to Jackie Fellows.
The G Button Cup (Most points in classes 1-10)	Awarded to John Cleverley.
Draper Cup (Best Vegetable)	Awarded to John Cleverley.
Bill Stevens Cup (Best Cactus or Succulent)	Awarded to Jackie Fellows.
Challenge Cup (Most points in Vegetable classes)	Awarded to Jackie Fellows.
Garden News Shield (Most points in Flower Classes)	Awarded to Jackie Fellows.
Marianne Davis Cup (Most points in Home Produce classes)	Awarded to Catherine Collingwood.
Sylvia Adams Trophy (Best exhibit in Home Produce)	Awarded to Catherine Collingwood.
Dicker Cup (Most points in Handicraft classes)	Awarded to Jackie Fellows.
Quercus Goblet (Best exhibit in Handicraft classes)	Awarded to Susan Fletcher.
September Cup (Most points in Fruit classes)	Awarded to Heidi Hobden.
The Junior Cup (Best Junior exhibit in Show)	Awarded to Letti Loake.
Gwen Smith Cup (Outstanding Floral Art arrangement)	Awarded to Linda Baker
Autumn Goblet (Most points in Floral Art)	Awarded to Linda Baker
Autumn Challenge Cup (Most points in Show)	Awarded to Nicki Briscall
Autumn Achievement Cup (Most points in Show by a new exhibitor)	Awarded to Bridget Craig
The Honey Trophy (Best vase of flowers suitable for attracting bees)	Awarded to Jackie Fellows.
The Squirrel Cup (Person with the most points gained for Art in both the Spring and Autumn Shows.	Awarded to Nicki Briscall.
The John Paige Cup (Person with the most points in the Dahlia classes)	Awarded to Nicki Briscall.

RHS Banksian Medal (is the premier award in the Autumn show that goes to the winner of the largest total amount of points in the whole of the Horticultural classes at the show) Awarded to Jackie Fellows.



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

Clear all the debris from the greenhouse guttering to keep rainwater flowing efficiently. Also wash the outside of the glazing to reduce fungal spores collecting in your water butts. Clean inside the greenhouse too, sweep the floor, wash pots, scrub benches and glazing bars with outdoor disinfectant to remove pests such as red spider mite and mealy bug, which hide in crevices over winter. You may also find hibernating snails in pots or attached to benches. Check your plants for mould and signs of pest damage too. Remove rotting material and banish pests by washing them off with soapy water or a soap-based insecticide.

Harvest the last of the fruits on all of your tender plants such as aubergines, chillies, courgettes and squashes before they succumb to the frosts. The foliage on these plants may well be dropping while the fruit is still fresh and firm. Pull the plants out after you've harvested them.

Rake up fallen leaves of roses to prevent blackspot overwintering.

Gather a final tomato harvest, trim off all the leaves covering tomato trusses to expose the last fruits to the maximum of sunlight, to aid ripening. If you are keen to clear the plants out of the greenhouse, then either settle for some green fruit or snip off the whole truss and hang it up somewhere dry and bright to ripen a little more. Harvest the tomatoes as the colour turns. If you have to pick green fruit, there are recipes to make the most of them, including stews, pickles and chutneys.

House Plant of the Month is the **Monstera**.



Monstera is a genus of 59 species of flowering plants in the arum family, Araceae, native to tropical regions of central and south America.

They are evergreen vines, growing to heights of 20 metres (66 ft) in trees, climbing by means of aerial roots which act as hooks over branches; these roots will also grow into the soil to help support the plant. Since plants in the genus root both into the soil and over trees, it is considered a hemiepiphyte with roots in soil but climbing on trees. Aerial roots hanging directly to the ground have, according to Madison, measured up to 30 m (98 ft) long.

The leaves are alternate, leathery, dark green, very large, from 25–90 centimetres (9.8–35.4 in) long (up to 300 centimetres (120 in) long in *M. gigas*) and 15–75 centimetres (5.9–29.5 in) broad, often with holes in the leaf blade. The fenestrated leaves allow for the leaves to spread over greater area to increase sunlight exposure, and to allow light to reach other

leaves below, by using less energy to produce and maintain the leaves. The flowers are borne on a specialized inflorescence called a spadix, 5–95 centimetres (2.0– onsteras are widely cultivated as ornamental houseplants around the world for their large, decorative foliage and tolerance of indoor conditions. They thrive in bright, indirect light similar to the dappled sunlight of their native tropical forests. Direct sunlight can scorch the leaves, while low light may slow growth and reduce leaf splitting.

These plants prefer well-draining, aerated soil rich in organic matter, often containing components such as peat, perlite, or orchid bark. Watering should be moderate allowing the top layer of soil to dry slightly between waterings helps prevent root rot. High humidity and warm temperatures between 18–29 °C (65–85 °F) encourage vigorous growth.

Regular pruning helps maintain shape, promotes larger leaves, and encourages new growth. Monsteras can be easily propagated from stem cuttings that include a node, which can root in water or soil under bright, indirect light. Fertilizing during the growing season with a balanced houseplant fertilizer supports healthy foliage and consistent growth.

Indoors, Monsteras are often trained to climb moss poles or trellises, mimicking their natural growth habit in tropical forests. With suitable care, they can live for many years and become a prominent feature in interior spaces.

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 August quiz are:-

Question **1** - Green manure

Question **2** - Hydrangea “Paniculata”

Question **3** - RHS Recommended Award of Garden Merit (RHS)

Question **4** - Salvia

Question **5** - To allow light to help ripen fruit

Question **6** - Rambling roses

Question **7** - Monarda

Question **8** - Asteraceae (the aster/daisy/sunflower family)

Question **9** - A new shoot that grows from near the root or crown after the old growth has been cut back

This month's questions are:-

- Question 1. Why is September a good month for laying turf or sowing grass seed?
- Question 2. Why do many deciduous trees begin to change colour in September.
- Question 3. What do we call the process of removing dead organic material, known as thatch, that accumulates between the soil and grass blades?
- Question 4. What genus of plants do potatoes belong to?
- Question 5. What fungi are known to enhance nutrient and water uptake by forming symbiotic relationships with roots?
- Question 6. What word is given to apples with rough, brownish skin that can affect their flavor and texture?
- Question 7. Which genus includes cultivars 'Prairie Glow', 'Marmalade' and 'Goldsturm' RHS
- Question 8. What family of plants does the answer to question 7 belong to?
- Question 9. What is the name of the male sexual organ of algae, mosses, ferns, fungi and other non-flowing plants?

Answers will be in the October Newsletter

Advice Corner:- No questions have been submitted this month, so our Gardening Wizard is having a month off. **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 **Now closed until February 2027.**

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 it's Bates Green Garden and Borde Hill Garden.

Bates Green Garden Tye Hill road, Arlington, Polegate BN26 6HS-

What makes this garden especially rewarding in Autumn is not simply the selection of plants, but the way it's composed: the visitor moves through a sequence of contrasting but connected moods says Head Gardner Emma Reece. Near the house there is warmth, enclosure and ornamental richness. In the middle garden the atmosphere becomes more ordered and colour led.

Beyond that, the Woodland garden and wildflower meadow bring calm and spaciousness. Seasonal highlights include Cyclamen hederifolium RHS in the Woodland garden, sending up delicate flowers in shade and leaf litter.

Borde Hill Garden Haywards Heath RH16 1XP

Late summer brings a gentler pace to the garden, with borders still in rich colour and seasonal interest. Dahlias, rudbeckias, crocosmias and Japanese anemones provide beautiful displays, while sedums offer the first hint of Autumn. September brings a whole host of great plants that give inspiration through flowers, foliage or form, says the Head Gardener Mark Bobin. There is a Specialist Autumn Plant Fair on 20th September.

Future Events

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

2027 WHS Events

Saturday 13th February Valentines Quiz. Starting 7:00pm at the Westfield Community Hall

Saturday 6th March AGM 11:00am

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

