

# WESTFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

## October 2024 Newsletter

Email [westfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:westfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com)

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

Dear members,

It seems a long time since we had our Autumn show, and our gardens are showing signs of winter fast approaching which means we need to clear our borders and lawns of leaves and deal with plants that need attention.

**OUR AGM** is on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October 11:00am in the Church Hall. If you have not yet booked, I would appreciate early notification you are coming so that we can plan how much soup we need to prepare. Many thanks. Dave

### GARDEN FIT FOR A KING

The highlight for Dawn and I (Dave) in September was a visit to Highgrove on Monday 8<sup>th</sup>. We joined 78 other garden enthusiasts in an interesting afternoon and evening organised by the Gardeners World magazine. Because of security concerns photography is totally prohibited except around the administration buildings meaning I only managed to get a few photos of the Elephants of Highgrove.



The afternoon started with an hour and a half tour of the garden followed by Prosecco and canapés and a visit to the shop to spend our hard-earned pennies. We then enjoyed an excellent three-course meal with wines from

the estate. The evening finishing with an interesting talk by Adam Frost from Gardeners World on his entry in the world of horticulture and his days with Jeff Hamilton. He continued talking about how he set about transforming his present garden that surrounds his house. He mentioned that his ingredients for his version for compost is Topsoil, Perlite, Sand, Grit and Bark. At the end of evening Dawn and I were the last to leave as Dawn got into conversation with Adam while I chatted with Kevin the editor of Gardeners World magazine.

A few interesting facts and comments about the tour around the garden with a very knowledgeable guide that may interest you. Highgrove immediately prior to His Majesty's purchase in 1980 was the home of Maurice Macmillan whose father, Harold Macmillan, was prime minister in the late Nineteen-fifties and early sixties. Highgrove covers a total of 15 acres and looked after by 10 full time gardeners. Since 1980 the gardens have taken on a total transformation and innovative changes from the more than neglected kitchen garden, overgrown copse, some pastureland and a few hollow oaks to what it is today.

We started our tour in the Cottage Garden through a pair of 18<sup>th</sup> century doors that Charles had brought back from Jodhpur in India. Highgrove stone and oak gate house called The Stand Gate was built to accommodate the doors. The garden housed a raised bed of acid loving rhododendrons and azaleas with an abundance of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants, spring and autumn bulbs to provide year-round cover. Box Topiary made a statement in the Mediterranean garden.

In front of the house there used to be a 60-foot cedar of Lebanon which was over 200 hundred years old before it died in 2007, it was felled and an open oak pavilion with a church like spire now stands in its place. Moving into the Thyme Walk, an avenue of clipped golden yews being one of the few remaining plants from the original garden, Yew are clipped into eccentric geometric shapes such as a Christmas Pudding, Crown, Pack of Cards and a Chair. A hornbeam hedge encloses the walk on two sides and around the lawn a topiary hedge which takes on average six weeks to trim.

Through to the Terrace where there are two pepper pot pavilions, four large olive trees approximately 150 year old and planted in 2010. Passing through the Sundial Garden with roses and soft herbaceous planting to the front of the house with views of St Mary's parish Church at Tetbury. Then into the Wildflower Meadow with over 32 variety of seed like Cowslips and Buttercups that are cut at the end of July by locals using scythes. Down the Azalea Walk into the Kitchen Garden, through to the Arboretum and Sanctuary which was built in 1999 to mark the Millennium and is a place of contemplation. (It was a great shame that we were not allowed to take photos)

The Stumpery was next to walk through, it was created after the 1987 storm with part trees from Royal Estates. There are ferns growing amongst the stumps being mainly sweet chestnut and oak with two classical temples built from green oak cut to resemble stone and decorated with pieces of tree root. Finally into the Lily Pool Garden with plants chosen to provide delightful shades of silver and blue and pink roses to match the discrete seats and the Carpet Garden that won a Silver-guilt medal at the 2001 Chelsea Flower Show.

It was an experience to treasure, and to add to the experience we met Adam and his daughter at breakfast next morning as they were staying in the same hotel.

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

November is the month when leaves provide their colours and a few days later fall in abundance. We need to collect as many leaves as possible, because the leafmold that they so effortlessly transform into is so useful, both part of our potting compost mix and as a mulch.

Now is the time to plant tulips. Make a hole three times the depth of the bulb, place the bulb upright into the hole and fill back in. Planting now when the soil has chilled helps prevent tulip fly, a fungal disease that thrives in warm soil. Avoid planting in the same position each year to keep them healthy. If you are adding tulips to mixed borders mark where you have planted them with some grit to avoid damaging bulbs with later planting.



Now is the time to clean and sharpen your pruning tools such as secateurs that may be used for the tree pruning season in a month or two or for use during the year. Use resin remover to clean the dark stains on the blade. Oil all moving parts and wrap your tools in a rag to mop up any oil on the handles and protect the metal parts from moisture.

Low light levels as we go into winter mean a much greater chance of fungal disease thriving in enclosed greenhouses. There must be a balance between conserving warmth for the plants still inhabiting the greenhouse and making sure there is adequate airflow to keep everything healthy. Automatic vents will open in the warmth of the sun, but if you have to vent manually, open them for a few hours in the middle of the day. Water plants sparingly to keep the humidity down.

Make a bug shelter by collecting garden detritus, such as twigs from pruning's, fir cones and hollow stems from perennial flowers, plus soft brick or stones with fissures and use them to create the shelters. Put them in boxes, bottles or tie into bundles. A great opportunity to get creative. Shelters can be placed on the ground, tucked into hedges or tied onto low branches. As long as the site is sheltered, you'll have provided safe winter homes for the benefit of ground beetle, lace wings, ladybirds, solitary bees, hoverflies and many more.

Plant pansies in borders now for instant colour that will last through the winter and well into next year. Choose a place at the front of the border that is easily seen as you walk through the garden or from a window when keeping warm on a winter's day. Water the plants in the tray, then press them out of each cell and place on the ground in their planting positions. Soak the plants to settle them in. Pansies also look good in hanging baskets of which I do a few.

If you have been growing Chillies this year snip off the last of the Chilli harvest from plants still growing under glass. Use them straight away or preserve by drying, freezing or bottling. If you want to try overwintering the whole plant to get earlier fruit next year, trim the softest shoots and any damaged growth back, and give the plant some space and light. Plants will need some warmth to survive winter – the lightest possible windowsill or a heated greenhouse with clean glass are ideal. Water sparingly through winter and keep an eye on them for disease and removing any infected growth straight away.

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

**PLEASE KEEP YOUR QUESTIONS COMING IN**

**Question 1 –** How can I keep my new eucalyptus tree from growing too high?

**Answer :-** To keep it small I would coppice the tree by cutting back the stem to just above ground level to create a multi stemmed shrub. Then in following years cut the stems down to the previous year's stubs. This not only keeps the tree small, but you will also have lots of silvery juvenile's leaves. It is best to prune in late winter to early spring just before plants are in active growth.

**Question 2 –** I found some daffodil bulbs in the shed that I was clearing out after Christmas can I still plant them?

**Answer -** Yes you can as long as the bulbs are still firm and free from mould. Daffodils do need time to establish so may flower later than if planted in the autumn

## **PLANNING AHEAD**

At our Spring and Autumn shows we had our Seed Swop and Plant Sale. As we are getting a little low on our seed collection it would be greatly appreciated if you are able to collect seeds from your garden to add to our collection. Regarding our plant sales, majority of plants that were available to purchase were supplied by Eileen Hurton. She has asked that if when you are potting on your seedling would you be able to pot up a few extra for sale at the shows. This would help her greatly as you may appreciate it takes a lot of time to provide the volume we had at our shows. Any plants that you divide or split would also be appreciated. All can be brought to the show on Friday evening between 6:00 and 7:00pm or Saturday morning.

**Identify this Shrub from this picture:** August's shrub was Escallonia.



**Plant of the month is the** :- Solidago (This variety being Altissima a tall variety)



Solidago, commonly known as **Goldenrod**, is a diverse genus of flowering plants in the Aster family, Asteraceae. Native: Solidago species are native to North and South America, with a few species in Europe. Solidago has an upright growth habit, typically reaching heights of 1 to 5 feet (30 to 150 cm), depending on the variety.

**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**, Kent Street (A21) (Open Friday, Saturdays and Sundays or by special appointment) 01424 754666 (Please note they close from mid-October to February/March, details of opening in future newsletters) (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](http://www.theoldrosenursery.co.uk) (Please note The Rose Nursery is now closed until February, details of opening in future newsletters)

As our society is affiliated to the RHS we have been issued 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](mailto:westfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com)

## **BOOK YOUR PLACE**

**If you are planning** to come to our AGM on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 11am, would you please contact me Dave Miles on [daveatwhs@gmail.com](mailto:daveatwhs@gmail.com) or 07455 944849 so we can ensure we have enough soup and a roll for everyone.

**To book a place** at our Beetle Drive on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November please contact me Dave Miles on [daveatwhs@gmail.com](mailto:daveatwhs@gmail.com) or 07455 944849. Cost will be £2.50 per person with Tea/coffee and cake in the interval. (You are more than welcome to bring any other refreshments you may want) (Please book your place as soon as possible to avoid disappointment)

**To book a place** on our Seasonal lunch at the New Inn on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December would you please contact me Dave Miles on [daveatwhs@gmail.com](mailto:daveatwhs@gmail.com) or 07455 944849 with your menu selection. Menu is attached. 2 Courses are £28 and 3 courses are £32. A deposit is required at time of booking and balance payable by 26<sup>th</sup> of November. Deposit for 2 courses is £14 and £16 for 3 courses. Cancellations will only be accepted for a refund up to and including 8<sup>th</sup> December. Payment by Cash or cheque to our box in Archers or by banker's draft. Sort code 30-97-66 Account number 00095788 (**PLEASE NOTE:-** There are only a certain number of places available so if not already booked it is advisable to do so before all available places are taken) (A free glass of wine, beer or soft drink for all members)

**The cost of the Willow Obelisk Course** on February 8th is £50 which covers tuition, materials plus tea/coffee. Please email [westfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:westfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com) Bookings accepted up to 1<sup>st</sup> November.

## **FUTURE EVENTS:**

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| <b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2024.</b>  | AGM at the Church Hall starting at 11:00am<br>AGM will be followed by a talk (Subject being this time of the year) given by Steve of Oak Cottage Nursery.<br>This will be followed by Soup and a Roll.   |
| <b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024</b>  | Beetle Drive at the Church Hall starting at 7:00pm (See above)   |
| <b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b>   | Seasonal lunch at the New Inn 12:30 for 1pm (See above)  |
| <b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>   | Garden Willow Obelisk workshop at the Church Hall 9:30am to 1:30pm.<br>To book a place please email <a href="mailto:westfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com">westfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com</a> |
| <b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>  | Valentines Quiz at the Church Hall starting at 7:00pm  |
| <b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025</b>      | Spring Show 2:30pm to 4:30pm at the Westfield Community Centre.  |
| <b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025</b>        | Join Dave and Dawn on a visit to Sarah Raven's Garden at Perch Hill. 1 to 4:00pm   |
| <b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b> | Visit to Wisley  |
| <b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b> | Autumn Show 2:30pm to 4:30pm at the Westfield Community Centre.  |

For more information on any of the above please contact Dave Miles on [daveatwhs@gmail.com](mailto:daveatwhs@gmail.com) or 07455 94484