

WESTFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 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,

We have a few spaces left for the Talk by Fergus on Thursday 30th 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 50 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.

To Book a Place at our Beetle Drive on Saturday 8th November at 7:00pm please contact us on westfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com or Dave Miles on 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)

To book a place on our Seasonal lunch at the New Inn on Tuesday 2nd December would you please contact me Dave Miles on daveatwhs@gmail.com or 07455 944849. I will need to give Patrick numbers at the early part of November for booking the table. The menu selection will be in the November newsletter and details of cost and payment.

Visit to RHS Wisley. 42 members and guests enjoyed a trouble-free journey to Wisley on Thursday 11th September. The weather forecast was not great, but we were very lucky as we only encountered one heavy shower at 2pm. Some of us were at a talk in the Glasshouse or the tea rooms. As some of you may know the grounds are very extensive and there is no way one can see all there is to offer in one day so we must be selective. I think one of the most impressive places we visited this time was the Glasshouse which was an abundance of colour around every corner. What was most eye catching was the vast collection of Hibiscus flowers, (see below) the colours were most vibrant. At Hilltop several members attended a talk in the morning on tomatoes which involved tasting numerous varieties. The afternoon talk was on Clematis, which was very interesting. It covered details about the vast collection that are available through to the best way to take cuttings. We are planning to return to Wisley towards the end of April next year. Date should be in the November newsletter.





Our Autumn show held on Saturday 20th September at the Westfield Community Hall had a record number of class entries in most classes, specially vegetables, flowers and art. It's thanks to all you members that made the show a success it was 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 Eileen Hurton

Draper Cup (Best Vegetable) Awarded to Matt Wells

Bill Stevens Cup (Best Cactus or Succulent) Awarded to Jackie Fellows

Challenge Cup (Most points in Vegetable classes) Awarded to Eileen Hurton

Garden News Shield (Most points in Flower Classes) Awarded to Nicky Briscall

Marianne Davis Cup (Most points in Home Produce classes) Awarded to Catherine Collingwood

Sylvia Adams Trophy (Best exhibit in Home Produce) Awarded to Chloe Loake

Dicker Cup (Most points in Handicraft classes) Awarded to Joanne Thomas

Quercus Goblet (Best exhibit in Handicraft classes) Awarded to Rosemary Wiggins

September Cup (Most points in Fruit classes) Awarded to Matt Wells

The Junior Cup (Best Junior exhibit in Show) Awarded to Lettie Loake

Gwen Smith Cup (Outstanding Floral Art arrangement) Awarded to Adela Wells

Autumn Goblet (Most points in Floral Art) Awarded to Linda Baker

Autumn Challenge Cup (Most points in Show) Awarded to Eileen Hurton
Autumn Achievement Cup (Most points in Show by a new exhibitor) Awarded to Pamela Barden

The Honey Trophy (Best vase of flowers suitable for attracting bees) Awarded to Eileen Hurton

The Squirrel Cup (Person with the most points gained for Art in both the Spring and Autumn Shows. Awarded to Joanna Thomas

Dahila Cup (Person with the most points in the Dahlia classes) Awarded to Eileen Hurton

The Dahlia cup was a new addition to our awards this year. The family of John Paige who was a member of the society for many years as well as President and an avid dahlia grower kindly donated a cup in his memory.



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

Plant more hellebores into your garden borders, choosing positions where you can enjoy the flowers through winter and well into spring. Soak the plants in their pots first, then knock them out and position them at the front of borders. Firm them in with your hands and water again. If you remove all the old foliage this winter just as the flower stems push through, the new foliage that grows will be blotch free and give useful ground cover for the rest of the year.

Tie in the loose stems of climbers and wall shrubs that could suffer from being knocked around in winter weather. Apart from protecting the plant from damage, this gives you an opportunity to tidy up and have your climbers looking neat for several months. However, don't be tempted to do too much pruning on climbers that form flowers on last year's growth, as you'll be sacrificing next season's flowers. It may be necessary to shorten a few shoots or thin out some stems, but mainly just tie the shoots into the framework.

Plant lily bulbs now in pots and borders, for fragrant summer blooms. When planting in pots, first put a layer of grit in the base, to ensure good drainage, then fill with multi-purpose compost. Leave the pots outside through the winter, but when shoots start to appear in spring you can bring them into a greenhouse for earlier blooms. When planting in the ground, choose a sunny or partially shaded spot. In heavy soil, plant onto a layer of grit.

Lift your dahlia tubers to protect them from frost damage or put frost protection over them. If you grow them somewhere mild and sheltered in well drained soil they will overwinter without damage, but just to be sure, put a thick mound of compost or leaves over the top to protect them. If you think they won't survive, lift the tubers, brush off the soil and bed them into a pot of loose compost. Pop them somewhere frost free and don't water them until Spring.

Allowing seedheads to remain on some perennials in borders will boost bird's food store for the winter. The strong upright stems of echinacea and rudbeckia etc look great over winter and are a good source of seeds for tits and finches. The taller teasels and grasses may need support, so use a few bare twigs strategically pressed into the ground to keep them aloft. Leave them until next spring and cut them back when new shoots appear at the base.

September's Flower was the **Seaside Petunia**

Plant of the month is the Marigold



These easy-to-grow hardy annuals flower from summer through to early autumn, making them a great choice for summer borders and containers. The flowers are good for cutting, have edible petals and are also used by herbalists to make skincare products. Plants often self-seed from year to year. They produce a profusion of daisy-like single or double flowers on low, bushy plants with slightly hairy, aromatic foliage. The flowers are usually bright orange, but also come in cream, pastel yellow or pale orange, sometimes with a contrasting dark centre. Being unfussy plants that do well in most ordinary garden soil, including poor, dry soil, they flower best in full sun but also tolerate light shade. Dislikes very wet, overly fertile soil which leads to poor growth. Plants will not flower in deep shade. Marigold flowers are edible and have a slightly peppery flavour. The petals add colour to salads, soups and many other dishes.

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.

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 now 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. (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 Closed at present, open again spring 2026

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

FUTURE EVENTS:

- 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)**

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- 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 ...