

# WESTFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

## OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

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

Website: [www.westfieldhorticulturalsociety.co.uk](http://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,

**We have a talk by Graham Blunt** of Plant Base UK on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> 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. Free to members and £3 for guests.

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

**To Book a Place** at our Beetle Drive on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7:00pm at Westfield Community Hall please contact us on [westfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:westfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com) or Dave Miles on [daveatwhs@gmail.com](mailto:daveatwhs@gmail.com) or 07455 944849. Cost will be £3.00 per person with Tea/coffee in the interval. (You are more than welcome to bring any other refreshments you may want)

**To book a place** for our Seasonal lunch at the New Inn on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Would you please contact me Dave Miles on [daveatwhs@gmail.com](mailto:daveatwhs@gmail.com) or 07455 944849 if you plan to attend. I need to give Patrick numbers early part of November for booking a table. The menu selection you will find attached to this email. Payment in advance please no later than Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November to our Metro account 55312362 23-05-80, cheque or cash in our box at Archers.

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

Plant pansies in borders now for instant colour that will last through the winter, 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 you're keeping warm inside. Water the plants in the tray then press them out of each cell and place on the ground in their planting positions, using a trowel to make a hole and firm them in. Soak the plants using a watering can to settle them in.

Give succulents and Cacti as much light as possible, turning them round weekly to ensure even growth.

Look out daily for signs of slug and snail damage.

## House Plant of the Month is the Chinese Evergreen



The Chinese Evergreen (*Aglaonema*) is a low-maintenance, decorative houseplant known for its vibrant foliage and adaptability to low-light indoor environments and is a tropical perennial native to the rainforest of Asia and New Guinea, thriving under the canopy of dense forests. It belongs to the Araceae family, related to plants like philodendrons, caladiums, and monstera. Valued for its ornamental, patterned leaves, *Aglaonema* is popular for indoor spaces due to its air-purifying qualities and tolerance for low-light conditions, it typically grows 1 to 3 feet tall though some species can reach up to 5 feet in ideal conditions. The plant has a compact, bushy growth habit, with leaves emerging from the soil or central stems. Leaf colours vary widely, including green, silver, red, pink, and variegated patterns, depending on the cultivar. Mature leaves are usually 8–12 inches long, and the plant spreads wider in low-light conditions.

**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 September quiz are:-**

Question **1** - Soil conditions are often ideal, warm and moist with cooler air temperatures helping seed or turf to establish well.

Question **2** - Reduced daylight and cooler temperatures trigger chlorophyll breakdown, revealing other pigments.

Question **3** - Scarifying

Question **4** - Solanum.

Question **5** - Mycorrhizal.

Question **6** - Russet.

Question **7** - Rudbeckia.

Question **8** - Asteraceae Family.

Question **9** - Antheridium

### **This month's questions are:-**

- Question 1. What term describes scattering and planting bulbs. often under trees or in grass, then allowing bulbs to grow in a largely untouched manner?
- Question 2. What type of cuttings can be taken from mid autumn to late winter?
- Question 3. Which popular species of cyclamen typically flowers in autumn?
- Question 4. What soil type has particles finer than sand but coarser than clay?
- Question 5. Which genus has cultivars named 'Fire Power', 'Gulf Stream' and 'Richmond' RHS ?
- Question 6. The hollow jointed stem of a grass or sedge is known as what?
- Question 7. What is the botanical name for autumn moor-grass?
- Question 8. What is the condition where a plant's roots absorb water at a rate that exceeds its transpiration, leading to abnormal swelling or water-soaked blisters on leaves?
- Question 9 What do we call the directional growth or movement of a plant in response to touch or physical contact with a solid object?

### **Answers will be in the November Newsletter**

**Advice Corner:-** No questions have been submitted this month, so our Gardening Wizard is having a month off. **PLEASE 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](http://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 2026 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 Penhurst Place and Gardens.

Penhurst Place is a historic building near Penhurst, Kent, 25 miles north of Hastings. It is the ancestral home of the Sidney family and was the birthplace of the great Elizabethan poets and courtiers, siblings Mary Sidney and Philip Sidney. The original medieval house is one of the most complete surviving examples of 14th-century domestic architecture in England. Penhurst Place was built as a hall house in 1341 for Sir John de Pulteney, a London merchant and four times Lord Mayor of London who wanted a country residence within easy distance of London. This was at the time when such properties ceased to be castles: they were more like dwellings that could be defended in an emergency.

When Henry IV's third son, John, Duke of Bedford, occupied Penshurst, the second hall, known as the Buckingham Building, was built: so called after the subsequent owners, the Dukes of Buckingham. Edward Stafford, 3rd Duke of Buckingham was executed in 1521 by Henry VIII following a lavish feast held at Penshurst Place hosted by the duke in honour of Henry in 1519.

Penshurst then stayed in the crown estate for the rest of Henry's reign, with documented evidence that Henry used Penshurst Place as a hunting lodge and visited with his courtier. Brandon, the property being only a few miles from Hever Castle, the childhood home of Henry's second wife Anne Boleyn.

In 1550, Henry VIII's son, King Edward VI, granted the house and estate to Sir Ralph Fane, a supporter of Protector Somerset, but it was forfeited two years later after Sir Ralph was executed for treason.

Penshurst Place was enlarged after 1552 when King Edward VI granted the house to Sir William Sidney (1482–1554), who had been a courtier to the King's father, Henry VIII. Sir William's son Henry (1529–1586) married Lady Mary Dudley, whose family became implicated in the Lady Jane Grey affair, although Henry himself escaped any such implications. During his lifetime he added apartments and the "King's Tower" to Penshurst. He employed a joiner, Evan Lucas, to supply panelling and carve ornaments including leopard's heads for the hall and gallery. Henry Sidney also created what is now one of England's oldest private gardens, with records going back to 1346.

Philip Sidney (1554–1586), Henry's son, was born at Penshurst Place in 1554. Poet and courtier, he was buried in Old St Paul's Cathedral in London, having died twenty-five days after a bullet wound to the thigh at the battle of Zutphen; his tomb was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666.

Philip's brother Robert Sidney inherited Penshurst. His time there resulted in more additions to the state rooms, including an impressive "Long Gallery". He had also inherited the Earldom of Leicester, and his descendants for the next seven generations continued to live at the mansion.

By the 19th century, the building was falling into disrepair, but a new occupant in 1818, Sir John Shelley-Sidney, uncle of Percy Bysshe Shelley, gained ownership of the property. He began to restore the building with architect J. Rebecca. His son Philip Sidney, 1st Lord De L'Isle and Dudley, continued the restoration. Under Philip's care, a stable wing was constructed, which currently houses a Toy Museum. Penshurst Place and gardens are well worth a visit and are open until 1<sup>st</sup> November.

## **Future Events**

|                                          |                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October</b>   | Talk by Graham Blunt from Plant Base UK. 2:00pm at Westfield Bowls Club |
| <b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November</b> | Beetle Drive 7:00pm. Westfield Community Hall                           |
| <b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>  | Seasonal Lunch 1:00pm at the New Inn Westfield                          |

## **2027 Events**

|                                           |                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>  | Valentines Quiz. Starting 7:00pm at the Westfield Community Hall |
| <b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>      | AGM 11:00am at the Church Hall                                   |
| <b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>     | Spring show 2:30pm to 4:30pm at the Westfield Community Hall     |
| <b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September</b> | Autumn show 2:30pm to 4:30pm at the Westfield Community Hall     |
| <b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November</b>  | Beetle Drive 7:00pm. Westfield Community Hall                    |
| <b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>   | Seasonal Lunch 1:00pm at the New Inn Westfield                   |