

WESTFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

June 2025 Newsletter

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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,

A Visit to Jackie Fellows Garden.

Jackie will open her garden to our members on **Thursday 26th June, 2:00 to 4:00pm** at Hilltop, Cottage Lane, Westfield TN37 4RU. 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** Early booking is essential to avoid disappointment. This garden is one of the most unusual gardens in Westfield. Here are a couple of things you will see to whet your appetite.



BOOK YOUR PLACE:- We are holding a cream tea at Westfield Bowls Pavilion on **Wednesday 2nd July 2:30 for 3:00pm**. Cost to members is £3.00 and £5.00 for guests. We are limited to 40 spaces, so early reservation is advisable. Please reserve your place by contacting our email address westfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com or Dave on daveatwhs@gmail.com or 07455 944849

Visit to Ashburnham Place

Dawn and I joined Crowhurst Horticultural Society on a visit to the gardens of Ashburnham Place on Tuesday 20th May. Ashburnham Place is an English country house, now used as a Christian Conference and Prayer Centre, five miles west of Battle. It was one of the finest houses in the southeast in its heyday and was a grand three-story building until much of its structure was demolished in 1959 to basically leave just the ground floor level.

The visit started with the Kitchen Garden area, being part of the walled garden which covering around seven acres split into various sections.

The gardens date back to the 1700's and were designed by Capability Brown. The tour took us through the estate ending on the terrace overlooking the Lake and in front of the house. It is worth a visit so we will aim to include a tour in next year's events. Dave Miles

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

Cut back the twining shoots on your wisteria now to control the growth and encourage more flowering wood. If left, these shoots will twine through the plant and create an unruly mass of shoots. Use secateurs to cut each one back, leaving a 'spur' with about five or six leaves. In the winter remove any shoots that you missed and prune those spurs back again to just two buds and the flower buds will then develop on the wood left behind those cuts.

Wait for a clear, dry day then collect some seeds of flowering plants like lychnis, aquilegia and foxgloves to sow later in the season or next spring. Many early flowering perennials will have dry seed capsules by now and these are the easiest to harvest and store. Snip the stem below the seed heads and place them upside down into a paper bag or envelope. The seed must be stored dry. Label and keep in a tin.

Harvest some flowers now, at the peak of their flowering, to dry and use in arrangements for the rest of the year. Papery, everlasting flowers like helichrysum, statice and acrolinium dry best with the leaves removed then tied in a small bunch and hung upside down somewhere airy and out of direct sun. Hanging upside down ensures that the stems dry straight to support the flower heads. Be creative and try cornflowers, echinops, ornamental grasses, sea holly and even hydrangeas, these will all dry well in a bunch. Lavender flowers keep their scent when picked fresh. For more ambitious project, cover the heads of flowers like lilac or roses with silica or even sand for a few days to dry them and preserve the colour perfectly.

Buy and plant autumn flowering bulbs into borders now. Generally, dry bulbs are supplied in the spring but many nurseries and garden centres also pot grow this group so you can add them to the borders in the green, with confidence that neighbouring plants won't swamp the young shoots as they emerge. Nerines and crinum need plenty of space in a well-drained sunny position with bulbs slightly exposed at the surface. Colchicum, cyclamen and the lovely autumn flowering snowdrop can cope with some shade and do best in humus-rich soil.

Sprinkle a few handfuls of granular fertiliser on the vegetable patch to stop your vegetables running out of steam, especially if you have big croppers like courgettes, squash and tomatoes, which are hungry feeders. Brassicas, celeriac and leeks will keep growing for autumn and winter cropping, so feed those too. Fork or hoe lightly around the plants to weed and loosen the soil, then apply the fertiliser before soaking if there is no rain in the forecast.

Pinch out the tips of young fuchsias to thicken their growth. The soft young shoots can be cleanly pinched out just above a pair of leaves by using your thumbnail and the nail of your forefinger. The buds left behind will send up a shoot, thereby doubling the flowering shoots. The resulting growth will be much bushier with strong, compact flowering shoots.

Feed dahlias every fortnight with a high-potassium feed to boost flowering.

Harvest root vegetables only as you need them- they will stay most fresh when left in the ground.

Keep crops well-watered in dry weather to prevent bolting.

Remove dead, damaged, diseased and unproductive shoots from rambling roses when blooming ends.

Order spring-flowering bulbs – you'll get the best choice now.

Identify this Shub from this picture: April's shrub was Choisya.



Plant of the month is the Petunia



Petunias are a genus of the *Solanaceae* family and are native to South America. These plants have large, trumpet shaped flowers that come in a variety of colours. The petunia is closely related to tobacco and tomato plants. Most varieties have sticky leaves because of the sap that it excretes as a form of defence against insects and bugs. In Roman and Greek cultures, people worshipped flowers and took their symbolism very seriously. They used it to express their emotions and add more meaning to art and literature. Petunias weren't exactly likable in the past though. In the early 16th century, Spanish explorers discovered this fast-growing plant and named it "Petun." This roughly meant "worthless tobacco plant" – they didn't even consider sending samples of it back to Spain because they thought it wasn't worth the effort. In the 1500s, the British people also believed that petunias symbolize Satanism and were believed to represent anger and resentment.

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

Question 1 : My potato leaves are brown, why?

Answer Your leaves have been damaged by late frost. To prevent this happening again I always earth up my potatoes by drawing earth up from either side of the row covering the foliage over. Also on really cold frosty nights I cover my potatoes with a double layer of fleece secured at the edges to avoid it blowing off

Question 2 : Can I divide my primroses now.

Answer It's best to do it in September. The plants naturally go into their rest period after flowering in spring so new plants will struggle to put on growth and establish now especially if it is a dry and hot summer. Late summer early autumn as they come back into growth is a good time. You can sow primroses seed now even if still green and not fully ripe. I sprinkle seed under trees and shady places water well. Also I sprinkle seed onto compost, cover in grit, water and leave in a cool place not forgetting to water throughout summer

PLEASE KEEP YOUR QUESTIONS COMING IN

NEW FEATURE

Gardening humour, fun stories and anything to make one giggle.

The other day in general conversation with a friend I was told in the early days of their gardening experiences about the day they planted 5 radish seeds in a large pot. They had great expectations that each seed would produce a bunch of radishes so when they went to pull them, they were very surprised to find only a single radish instead of a bunch from each seed. (I think the seeds were purchased in a Supermarket)

Do you have a funny/interesting event you would like to share? **NO NAMES WILL BE MENTIONED OR PUBLISHED.**

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 a talk by Katherine Lynn entitled “**Say it with Flowers**” at Sedlescombe Village Hall on **Wednesday 9th July at 7:00pm** which we are invited to. Please take your membership card with you if attending.

Flowers have carried special meanings in many different periods, such as red and white roses for the Houses of Lancaster and York and lilies in medieval paintings representing the Virgin Mary. In the Victorian era people could send coded messages to their loved ones through gifts of blooms, plants and floral arrangements. Katherine will talk about some of the ideas and traditions connected with the language of flowers, so come and listen to what each flower means and maybe bring back some of these traditions or perhaps plant flowers in your garden for a secret message?

Visit to Dave and Dawn's Garden.

Dawn and I will open our garden to our members on **Tuesday 29th July 2:00 to 4:00pm** at 102 Westfield Lane, St Leonards on Sea TN37 7NQ. Refreshments will be available. Parking in the drive, if full you can park close by in Baldslow Down. Please let me know if you would like to come, contact details at end of this newsletter. If too many wish to come on this date we will arrange a further date. Dave Miles.

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

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, (How to find Moorside in our August newsletter) 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** Early booking is essential to avoid disappointment.

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.

We have a full coach to Wisley on Thursday 11th September. Please advise if you would like to add your name to the waiting list. 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

FUTURE EVENTS:

Thursday 26th June	Open Garden at Jackie Fellows 2:00 to 4:00pm (Bookable event)
Wednesday 2nd July	Cream Tea at the Bowls Club Pavilion 2:30 for 3:00pm (Bookable event)
Tuesday 29th July	Open Garden at Dawn & Daves 2:00 to 4:00pm (Bookable event)
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 4 th September)
Saturday 20th September	Autumn Show 2:30pm to 4:30pm at the Westfield Community Centre.
Wednesday 22nd 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 Church Hall Start at 7:00pm (Bookable event)
Saturday 8th March	2024/5 AGM at the Church Hall 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