

Dawlish Garden Society

Newsletter Autumn 2025



Autumn Programme

September 25th, Thursday 7.00 for 7.15

Batty About Dawlish Bats with Deb Rylands

Come along and find out how we as gardeners can help bats thrive

October 18th Saturday 10.00

52 weeks of Colour with Elizabeth Holman

Elizabeth is a garden designer and horticulturist based in Exeter. You might remember she came and talked to us about roses a few years ago, with really useful tips.

November 22nd, Saturday 10.00

Honeybees at Buckfast Abbey with Clare Densley

The Abbey has a long history of managing bees at Buckfast, come and hear all about it.

To round off our 165 year celebration after the talk we will be holding a buffet lunch for members which will be free. More details nearer the time.

A Successful Summer

June saw several of us take the train to Topsham to the Open Gardens, there were gardens both large and small, a really enjoyable afternoon. Later in the month some members visited the Dartmoor Tea



Gardens, following on from their talk to us in 2024. Then in July on a lovely summer's day we took the train to Totnes and visited Dartington Hall Gardens.

The first weekend in August saw us outside the Strand Centre with a plant sale, the following weekend we were inside the Strand Centre with The Summer Show, another great success. The tables were full with fruit, vegetables, flowers, plants, crafts and cookery with a high standard across all classes. It was good to see old faces, and great to see new entrants and all ages taking part, a record 520 entries in total.

Rosemoor Trip September 10th

If you have any queries or you find you are unable to come on the trip could you please contact June Cassidy on 07486370880 or Dick Sulch on 07591204632

Carnival

Another successful parade with the Garden Society taking part, our float improves year on year. When it went dark the



lights on the float were lovely. A big thank you to everyone who raided their garden for flowers for our display.



Yeo Valley Organic Garden Festival

We have all seen Yeo Valley products in the shops, but did you know that they have been farming organically for 30 years and have one of the largest organic gardens at 6.5 acres in the country. The gardens are open between April and September, see their website for days and times; their address is, Holt Farm, Bath Road, Bristol BS40 7SQ



Their garden festival is on from September 18th -20th with speakers, workshops and more—yvogardenfestival.co.uk for tickets.

Visit Hestercombe this Autumn

Since the Covid lockdown Hestercombe, along with many historic gardens have suffered problems. About 2 weeks ago Hestercombe Gardens Trust announced that it had called in administrators, however, for the moment the gardens remain open to the public and all concerned are working hard to make sure the gardens survive and flourish again. Hestercombe is just outside Taunton and is a beautiful garden with one of the last intact Gerturde Jekyll gardens, along with a Victorian Terrace, a Dutch garden and a lovely landscaped garden.



Guess the Fruit

Please send Suzanne your answers by Monday September 22nd and the first one out of the hat will win £5, results at the September meeting.
suzanne@dawlish-gardensociety.uk

Changing what we grow to cope with a changing climate

Having just been through a year when we had a mild wet early spring followed by a very hot dry summer, I realise that the weather has changed and I need to look at how I garden in Dawlish in a different way. My tomatoes, chillies, squashes and courgettes have done well, however most of my other crops have been poor and would have all died if we had not watered them.

The panel on Gardeners Question Time advised that we look to the Mediterranean and I will say my herbs have been very happy with no watering at all. The same would go for vegetables, look to see what flourishes around the Mediterranean for ideas.

The Organic Gardener has looked at the same issues and their advice is to sow earlier, so seedlings can become established before the dry hot weather sets in. To look at heritage varieties which are often tougher, such as the lettuce Bronze Arrow which is both drought and cold hardy or the kale Ragged Jack which is very hardy.

They also suggest that we grow more perennial vegetables which do not rely on one season's weather for success. They have suggested some new vegetables to most of us: Skirret, grown for its slender peppery roots; Scorzonea, also known as black salsify; Caucasian Spinach, a long lived climber; and Endive.

Flower Festival at St Gregory's Church

Thursday 18th to Saturday 20th: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm daily

There is believed to have been a church on the site since Saxon times, and possibly earlier. The church has undergone several rebuilds, the last one was in 1825, when the nave was largely rebuilt, the organ was installed along with a peel of six bells added to the belfry.

Therefore the church is celebrating this 200 anniversary with the flower festival forming part of it. Dawlish Garden Society is taking part and Sally Gidney with all her floral talent will be putting the arrangement together. So please do try and visit the church over the three days to admire the displays and the church building itself.

Special events:

Talk by David Force: Friday at 7:30 pm (with a refreshment break)
Saturday family event: 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Saturday concert: 7:30 pm

For enquires contact: Chair, June Cassidy on 07486 370880 or Secretary Suzanne Jones on 01626 889184