

Dawlish Garden Society

Newsletter Autumn 2026



What a busy August the Society had:

August 8th—Sumer plant sale

Thank you to all growers, sellers and buyers, the morning netted the society over £800—if you were not there you missed out on some fabulous plants.



August 15th—Summer Show

Another glorious show, the cut flower entries were right down in numbers, not surprising with such a hot, dry summer. However, the flower and produce judge said that it was the best quality he had seen all summer. The show could not run without all the members lending a hand to set it up and to steward and to clear up afterwards.



August 21st—Carnival Parade

A great parade, it took an hour for the whole parade to pass the end of High Street and turn into Queen Street. Our float was near the front and had lots of cheers as it went along the course. Lets hope next year more members can come out and join the parade.

Autumn Programme

September 24th

Sustainable Food Growing with Helen Bowker from Ripple Effect Ambassador

Ripple Effect is a non profit organisation working alongside families in East Africa, so that they can grow more food, earn a living, and break the cycle of poverty for good.

There will also be a small autumn plant sale for members at the meeting

October 24th

Camassias with Stella Exley for Hare Spring Cottage Plants

Stella is an RHS Master Gardener and holds 3 national collections of Camassia, Sidalcea and Uvuaria. She has exhibited at Chealse and Malven and is a gold medal winner.

November 21st

Celebration of Devon Wildlife with Gavin Haig

Gavin will come complete with a range of fabulous photographs of our amazing Devon wildlife and share his experiences of our delightful wild residents

We will also have celebration refreshments after the talk, with mulled wine, mince pies, shortbread and Christmas fruit cake.



Plant Sale Dates Thorough The Year

January Meeting—Early Spring Plant Sale at Coffee Social

April Meeting—Pre-spring sale for members

Spring Plant Sale May 15th—outside the Strand Centre

Summer Plant Sale August 7th—outside the Strand Centre

September Meeting—Autumn Plant Sale

With Autumn approaching, if you have clumps of perennials that need thinning, please could you do a couple of pots for our plant sales? It's the best time to do it as there is less watering through the winter and they will be nicely established by next Spring.

If you can, I'll happily accept plant donations at the meetings throughout the year providing they are not too large for me to get home. Larger plants and quantities would have to come to my home. If you could let me know what you intend to bring first, as this saves duplicating on some varieties we have already. Through everyone's generosity we can offer a varied amount of garden and house plants at our sales that keep our great club thriving, so thank you in advance.

Sally - plant sales co-ordinator
sallygidney@outlook.com

We made it to Marwood Hill Gardens.

33 members and friends visited Marwood on August 26th. The major collections held here were over, however the garden was still lovely, the café was good and the plant nursery had several customers. Some members are considering a late spring visit, when the flowers are at their best with a car share.



What can I plant in my garden with such hot dry summers?

Here are 14 plants that the RHS are recommended as drought tolerant

8 Plants for Beautiful Blooms

Agapanthus

Salvia 'Nachtvlinder'

Oenothera lindheimeri – white gaura

Verbena officinalis 'Bampton' – vervain

Erigeron karvinskianus – Mexican fleabane

Tradescantia 'JS Brainstorm' – spider lily

Eryngium 'Blue Hobbit' – sea holly

Coreopsis verticillata 'Moonbeam' – tickseed

6 Plants for Fabulous Foliage

Hylotelephium 'José Aubergine' – sedum

Artemisia 'Powis Castle' – wormwood

Euphorbia myrsinites – broad-leaved glaucous spurge

Sempervivum – houseleeks

Festuca glauca – blue fescue

Stipa tenuissima – Mexican feather grass

We all saw the agapanthus bloom well throughout the town this summer, in my garden, which as many of you know has light soil and south facing, the verbena bonariensis flowered all summer, the Mexican fleabane was fine on the edges, but struggled under other plants. I have several eryngiums and they were the stars of the show in the garden. I have also had a wonderful summer of sunflowers and my nicotianas have done very well, over the last few years these have become perennials as we have not had the frosts to kill them off. The other plant that has been fine is rosemary and oregano, both Mediterranean herbs.

It would be good to hear what plants have survived and looked good in your garden this summer at our meeting in September, so bring your list to share.

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

Follow us on Facebook or keep up to date at our website
dawlsh-gardensociety.uk