



Dawlish Garden Society

Newsletter Winter 2023



Thank you

We would like to thank all members for all the support and hard work they have given to the society during 2023 to make it such a successful year. We had a well supported Summer Show with a wonderful display of flowers and crafts. Three very successful plant sales, and a well supported stall at the Turn The Tide event in May to name just a few things the society undertook this year. The society combined with two other groups to visit Forde Abbey, and Stonelands, and in the rain we went by train to Cadhays to see the daffodils in March.

New Planter

When we entered the carnival parade in 2022 Roger and Steve made us a 'mobile flower bed' from reclaimed material. It was however not very good at navigating the streets of Dawlish, so this year the society upgraded. In the spirit of re-using they found a new use for the 2022 carnival float. It now sits as a seasonal planter outside the front of the Manor House for everyone who visits to enjoy.



For enquires contact: Chair, June Cassidy on 439076
or Secretary Suzanne Jones on 889184

Tree Planting

For many years the garden society has maintained the flower bed in front of the "Welcome to Dawlish" sign on the Exeter Road. However, with the change in the management of the surrounding verge it has become impossible to keep it looking good.



Therefore, in agreement

with the council we have put in native/wild flowers and are leaving it to nature. Our final gift was the planting of three small native trees behind the sign, which Steve and June planted in November. We hope they grow well and give pleasure to everyone through the years to come.

Membership for 2024

Membership fees are due from January 1st, and can be paid by BACS and cheque anytime or by cash/cheque at any meeting. Membership is now £10; you will remember the increased was discussed at the last AGM and those present voted unanimously for the increase. Visitors will now pay £3 per meeting.

January Meeting

Please note that the January Meeting is being held in the Hall of the Methodist Church on Brunswick Place. This meeting is a coffee morning, with a seed swap and small spring plant sale, and the committee felt that a town centre venue might bring in more non-members to see us.

If anyone can help in the kitchen or on the plant stall, or could make us a cake, or wash up can you let June or Suzanne know. Thank you in advance

Meet the Committee

Sally Gidney

At 14 I was working at our local florists in Ashford Middlesex; it was the dream Saturday job making button holes, bouquets and serving customers. My life-long love of flowers had started!

At 16 I was offered full time hours but the shop was freezing all winter and staff got in very early to get orders out on time(not teenager friendly), so I chose a college course in men's and ladies hairdressing along with A level art.

After getting my first stylist's job I met Andy; he owned a cycle shop in Egham Surrey. Within a few months, at 19, I was married and selling bikes and spares instead. At 22 we bought my first salon in Battle Sussex, and seven other businesses and eight house moves followed.

We moved to Dawlish in 1987 with our two sons and now have five grandchildren.

My previous hobbies of singing, dancing and acting have been replaced by gardening and the Society, which is a perfect swap.

Society Christmas Tree at St Gregory's Christmas Tree Festival



The Garden Society came first in the peoples vote for their favourite Christmas Tree, receiving 38 votes. More importantly the event raised £869 for local charities

Thank you again for everyone who made decorations for the tree, I am told the children loved them.

RHS Magazine, August Letter of the Month



Russell and Caroline Chamberlain (a society member) won letter of the month

“When No Mow May came around, my husband and I couldn't face it as our garden had waist high grass when we first inherited it. However, we were inspired by the photo of a large grass labyrinth in the April issue and decided to make our own smaller version. This was a good compromise for No Mow May and brought delight for us and our grandchildren, who loved to run around it”

A labyrinth is an analogy for life and unlike a maze there is one entrance and only one route. You walk it slowly and thoughtfully in self reflection unlike our grandchildren! The oldest and most famous one was found in an Egyptian pyramid complex built sometime between 1,844 - 1,797 B.C.

What other delights can members come up with for No Mow May in 2024, share your photos with us.

2024 Outings

In addition to the programme of meetings for 2024, we are planning society outings for members and partners only

May 3rd /4th —group tickets to Powderham's Garden Festival

July—a private visit to a local NGS garden

Then alongside the Dawlish Walkers and the U3A Gardens and Gateaux group.

April 9th – by train to Lanhydrock (NT)

September 18th—coach trip to The Bishop's Palace and Gardens, Wells