

Dawlish Garden Society

Newsletter Summer 2025



A Summer Full of Beautiful Gardens

We are planning several visits to gardens this summer, and there are so many others you can visit yourselves.

June 8th—Secret Gardens of Topsham

The Society is catching the 11.25 train from Dawlish Station, you can buy your ticket for the gardens at Topsham station, at £10 to visit all 15 gardens.

June 18th—Dartmoor Tea Gardens

Visiting where tea is grown, processed and sold in Devon. A guided tour of the tea plantation and micro-factory, finishing with a tea ceremony. £15 each. By car share, to arrive for 10.30.

July 9th—Dartington Gardens Totnes

This is a group visit by train and walking to gardens or taking the bus from Totnes station. Full timings and details will come out by e-mail closer to the date.

Other Local Gardens to Visit

June 7th—Lower Holcombe House, Holcombe, EX7 0JR

Open for Rowcroft Hospice at £5, 2.30-7.00

June 28th & 29th July 5th & 6th—Middlewood, Cofton, EX6 8RN

This is Cliff and Chris Curd's productive garden open for NGS again this year, from 1.00-4.00 at £6. If you have not visited before, their nursery is on the site of a market garden, and Cliff and Chris grow just about every fruit and vegetable you could name. If you feel you could volunteer to help them on any of these days, just contact Suzanne or June and they can put you in touch.

August 22nd, 23rd and 24th—Hare Spring Cottage Plants, Mill House, Ford, Kingsbridge, TQ7 2LN, 10am-4pm

This is a rare opportunity to visit this nursery which is not normally open to the public. They hold the national collection of Camassia, Sidalcea and Uvularia, and plants will be on sale. We are hoping that Stella Exley, the owner, who has won RHS gold medals for her plants, will come and talk to us at one of our meetings in 2026.

Summer Show August 9th

The show programme is now available in shops in town and at the library. The full schedule is also on the society's website.

The Show Secretaries are looking for stewards for the day, which is either working with the judges in the morning or just being in the hall when the general public are around in the afternoon.

Please contact June if you are interested or would like to find out more.

Carnival Parade

The parade is on Friday 15th, the carnival theme is 'Around the World in 80 Days'. Therefore, our float will be a take on this of 'Around the World in 80 Dahlias'. We know that there are quite a few of you who grow wonderful Dahlias, so we are hoping that some of you would share blooms that we can put in large buckets on the float along side the Dahlia plants which we are bringing on.

Rosemoor Coach Trip—September 10th

We have just a couple of places left, so if you would like to come, can you let us know by the end of June, after this we will be offering them to a local gardens group. It is £15 for members, which covers the coach, society members will have free entry to Rosemoor.

Photography Master Class

Nigel who judges our photography classes at the show is offering an hour's tuition at Rosemoor for 10 people at £3 each. This needs to be booked in advance, so please can you let Suzanne have your names before hand.

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

Meet the Committee—Steve Templeman

Growing up in Luton in Bedfordshire I was fortunate enough to have parents and both sets of grandparents whom were keen gardeners, and that instilled in me the value of a well tended garden both physically and your general well being. Karen and I have had four homes and after moving to Dawlish in March 2021 and have adapted to a smaller garden in our current home making the most of the space available.

I have greatly enjoyed our monthly DGS talks from experts in their respective fields learning about different plant types and methods of growing them. Also it is great to visit the many different formal gardens in our area, especially the National Trust properties where you can gain lots of knowledge and tips of what plants grow well in our local climate and soils. I really enjoy being a committee member of the DGS and we are very lucky I think to such an organisation in our lovely town.



Spring Flower Show

The overall winner of the show was Gill Harvey, with Sally Gidney in a close second place and Jenny Lancaster in third

Congratulations to them and all the other members who won their classes.

The Modern Lawn

Having just had the driest and sunniest spring on record, how can we keep our lawns looking good.

Incorporate beneficial plants, simply allow lawn weeds such as dandelion, speedwell and buttercups to grow naturally, clover will add texture and be more drought resistant. Moss is a fluffy shelter for the good bugs and nesting material for birds.

Leave longer patches; 'No Mow May' is one initiative, but why not leave some of your grass at 7cm for shelter for frogs and hedgehogs. Grass can absorb carbon, but it is released when mown or fed.

Don't feed or water your lawn, thicker grass shadows out more beneficial plants and flowers. Grass is very deep rooted and will survive for long periods without rain even when turned brown. Grass can be cut, grazed or set on fire but will recover. So save your water for something else.

Dawlish in Bloom

This is now an integral part of the Summer Show, with a people's vote on the day as to who is the winner. There are two categories -

- My Garden
- My Hanging Basket, Single Container or Window Box

There is a cash prize which is sponsored by Claremont Manor, all entry details in the show programme.



Dawlish Painters

This year this group is sponsoring our three children's classes at the summer show. Painting, craft and baking covering ages 3 to 16, so if you have children or grandchildren why don't you encourage them to enter, there are cash prizes to be won.

Dawlish painters is a group which meets on a Thursday morning 9.30-12.00 at the Manor, it runs as a drop in session for £5 to look at creating pictures using different mediums, no experience is needed.

Next meetings

June 26th at 7.00 for meeting start at 7.15 - Carnivorous Plants with Dennis Balsdon

There are no meetings in July and August due to outings and the Summer Show

September 25th, 7.00 for meeting start at 7.15—Batty about Dawlish Bats with Debs Ryland

