



# Dawlish Garden Society

## Newsletter Winter 2024



### The Society Celebrates 165 years in 2025

The society was formed in 1860 as the Cottagers' Prize Society with the aim: 'for the encouragement of cottagers, market gardeners and amateurs in the quality of their produce'. It held its first show three years later in the grounds of Elm House. In the 1870's and 1880's the show was more like a summer fete, and a highlight of the summer in Dawlish. As the town grew and more societies flourished the summer calendar became full, so the show switched to an Autumn Show in the 1890's focusing on Chrysanthemums. The summer show returned in the new century until the First World War, during which the society switched to supporting the town in growing produce for the North Sea Fleet. In the 1920's the town was recovering from the war and the society became dormant. However, in the early 1930's it joined forces with the new allotment society under the stewardship of Mr D Bishop who was the chair of the society until 1961 holding a full programme of talks, outings and shows. The society flourished with shows in a marquee on the lawns, with massive floral displays and over 1,000 people attending. The society felt the economic changes of the 1970's and 1980's with the downturn in the town's horticultural industry. Then in the 1990's it nearly folded when no chairman could be found, however June Collins stepped in with the support of the society's president Mr Edwin Thompson. Since then the society has gone from strength to strength with an active committee and strong leadership. There is a fuller history on our website and in 2025 a detailed history will be available.

### Programme for 2025

This year we have the normal programme of monthly talks with a few added extras. In 2020 we had lined up celebrations for the society's 160th anniversary, however a pandemic and lock down put an end to our plans, hence the celebrations at 165 years. We start with our January Coffee Morning.

#### January 18th, 10.00-12.00

This year we plan to have an anniversary cake, some guests and a good start to our year.

#### February 15th, 10.00

Cliff Curd is back with us, with More Veg Tips and Tricks for the Garden

Currently not on the programme calendar, there will be two trips out to gardens by train in 2025, more information will come out when we have the dates of their opening days/hours.

### Extra Events For Members

#### April 11th

Anne Swithinbank is coming to talk to us about 'Scent in the Garden' at the Shaftesbury Theatre. Ticket for members will be FREE, that is people who were paid up members in 2024 and those who join in January 2025. Representatives from the Shaftesbury will attend our meetings in January and February so that members can collect their tickets and buy ones for their partners at £15. If a member cannot attend either meeting, but would like to claim their ticket can they contact Suzanne or June before the February meeting. Following the February meeting the tickets will go on public sale at £15 each.

#### Coach Trip to Rosemoor September 10th

We plan to return to Rosemoor in September to see the autumn plant displays. The society has free entry for its members, so all we will need to pay for is the coach, more details out soon.



## Getting ready for Spring

Non-gardeners think this is a quiet time, however behind the scenes there is always plenty for a gardener to do to make sure their garden blooms in the summer.

1. Order your summer flowering bulbs and seeds
2. Tidy up the borders and beds, remove weeds
3. Clean out and wash greenhouse,
4. Sow seeds that require a long growing season—I sow my tomatoes and chillies in the second week in February
5. Best time to move deciduous shrubs
6. Maintain fences, gates, trellis and garden furniture
7. Clean and sharpen tools
8. Prepare your soil for the year

## New Addition

Jennifer Munkley is very pleased to announce that Evan Trevor Munkley was born on December 9th. They are both thriving and hope to join us at our coffee and cakes in January.



## Planting of 1,500 Crocus to Mark the Society's 165 years

Back in September a small group of us planted 1,000 crocus around the base of 10 trees on The Lawns, we think they will be OK with the work that will take place in 2025 being so close to the trees. Another 500 were planted on the oval lawn area in front of the Manor House. This Spring an additional 165 snowdrops in the green will be planted at the Manor.



## Connie Hayday

Connie passed away in early December peacefully at home, aged 93. Connie was a long time member of the society and with her husband John Hayday an active one over many years. The John Hayday cup has been presented to the overall winner at the Spring Show since 2009.

For enquires contact:

Chair, June Cassidy on 07486 370880 or

Secretary Suzanne Jones on 889184

## Christmas Tree

With a thanks to everyone who contributed to the society's tree again this year, it looked really good amongst all the other trees at St Gregory's festival. This year we received votes which put us in joint third place. More importantly there were generous donations for Dawlish charities.

