



Dawlish Garden Society

Newsletter Summer 2026



Outings and Events

As all members will know the subjects of the May and June meetings have had to be swapped due to circumstances beyond the control of the society. Along with the date of the June meeting moving back by 1 week.

May 28th 7.00 for 7.15

A Medical Herbalist with Laura Evans

She will have some of her plants and remedies for sale at the meeting.

July 2nd 7.00 for 7.15

David Usher talking about the Arts and Crafts Garden Designer Gertrude Jekyll.

July 8th—Members' coach trip to Marwood Hill Gardens

Augusts 8th—Summer Plant Sale outside of the Strand Centre from 9.00—14.00.

August 15th—Summer Show at the Strand Centre

Programmes are now available from the society and copies are on the website.

August 21st—Carnival Parade

The society will be taking part again in a really fun night, can you let June, Suzanne or Steve know if you would like to be part of our floral float team.

September 8th—Visit to Amelia's Flower Farm

We have arranged a group visit and guided tour to this beautiful flower farm at Teign View, Combeinteignhead, TQ12 4RG. You can go there to 'Pick your Own', buy plants and flower seeds or have a break in their café.

The tour will be £15 per person and transport there will be by car share.

We will contact members after Carnival week to see who would like to come, and organise any car shares required.

Our autumn programme resumes on September 24th

Spring Plant Sale

Thank you to everyone who took part in making our annual spring plant sale such a great success. As you know it is our main fund raiser of the year, and goes towards keeping our membership fees low and the few little treats the society can lay on for its members, such as the buffet lunch we all enjoyed last December and our free

coffee socials each January.

You will be delighted to know we sold over £1,700 worth of plants, with lots of new people finding us as they visited the Food Festival.



Guess the Plant

The first person, with the correct answer to have their name drawn out of the hat on June 20th, will receive £5, to be presented at the July meeting.



Three Cornered Leek—*Allium triquetrum*

These plants originate from Spain and were introduced to gardens in the mid 18th century, in some places in the southwest they are chocking out native species and causing environmental harm. The Three Cornered Leek is distinctive and easily recognisable as it has a triangular stalk, grows up to 40cm tall with narrow, light green leaves, bell-shaped flowers, with white petals each with a single green vein, flowering from April to June. Although a member of the allium family and edible, it has a mild garlic flavour, it should not be confused with wild garlic and a native plant of Britain. You can also find white bluebells growing alongside it, and these should not be eaten as they are toxic.



This plant that is found across Dawlish and is a menace in many gardens, and is listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 due to its invasive nature; making it an offence to plant or otherwise cause it to grow in the wild. It is not an offence to grow it in your garden or to buy it and sell it and several nurseries have it on their plant list.

It not only rapidly multiplies its bulbs, but as the flowers droop on to the soil their leaves its seeds several inches further on. These seeds can be moved in the treads of shoes and by insects. It is almost impossible to eradicate with weed killer. Hand digging and sieving is effective, however it can take years to get rid of all the bulblets, it is recommended that all parts of the plant are disposed of by burning.

Local Gardens To Visit This Summer

Here are a few treats to enjoy

National Garden Scheme—[ngs.org.uk](https://www.ngs.org.uk)

If you do not have your yellow garden guide, then all gardens can be found on their website—two local gardens

Middlewood in Cockwood owned by Chis and Cliff Curd, open June 20th & 21st then July 10th & 12th from 1.00—5.30pm

Teignmouth Group of Gardens, open June 13th & 14th 1.00-5.00pm

Hospice Care Gardens

There are a range of private gardens open to the public across Devon, see their website [hospiscare.co.uk](https://www.hospiscare.co.uk)

National Trust Gardens

We have several lovely gardens in Devon one being Coleton Fishacre near Kingswear, the gardens here are open to RHS members on Friday and Saturday for free.

The Newt at Bruton, Somerset, an impressive garden offers free entry to RHS members on a Tuesday and Wednesday.

Rosemoor, Torrington

Festival of Roses—June 13th-July 12th

National Pelargonium & Geranium Show - June 20th

Rosemoor Garden Festival—August 21st-23rd

Coffee Grounds

Domestic quantities of coffee grounds can be applied directly to the soil, but in larger amounts they are best composted before use as a garden mulch. They are a good compost ingredient, containing around 2-3% nitrogen, so they are classed as green. Because of their fine texture, coffee grounds tend to clump together, excluding air, which is vital for composting. Always mix them well with other materials to avoid this. Most of the acids and caffeine in coffee are water soluble, so the grounds are pH neutral.

Coffee grounds can vary greatly dependent on the type of coffee, and the brewing method, so most of the information about their garden use is anecdotal, and may not always be true. For example, evidence on their efficacy as a slug repellent is conflicting.

From The Organic Way, Spring 2026

RHS Members Card

Don't forget the society has a RHS members card, which will give one member at a time free entry to a RHS garden. Contact Dick, Suzanne or June if you would like to use it on a day trip out or on holiday.

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

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