

Saffron Walden Horticultural Society



Founded 1819



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026



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Dear Member,

I don't know about you, but I find it rather ironic that some of our fruit and veg are actually doing better because of this awfully hot weather than they might otherwise. We're so worried about them all dying of thirst that we're watering (with a watering can, I hasten to add!) much more regularly than we would normally, and the sun has been so hot that even the weeds can't cope! Ah well, every cloud has a silver lining, though a bit of rain would be nice.

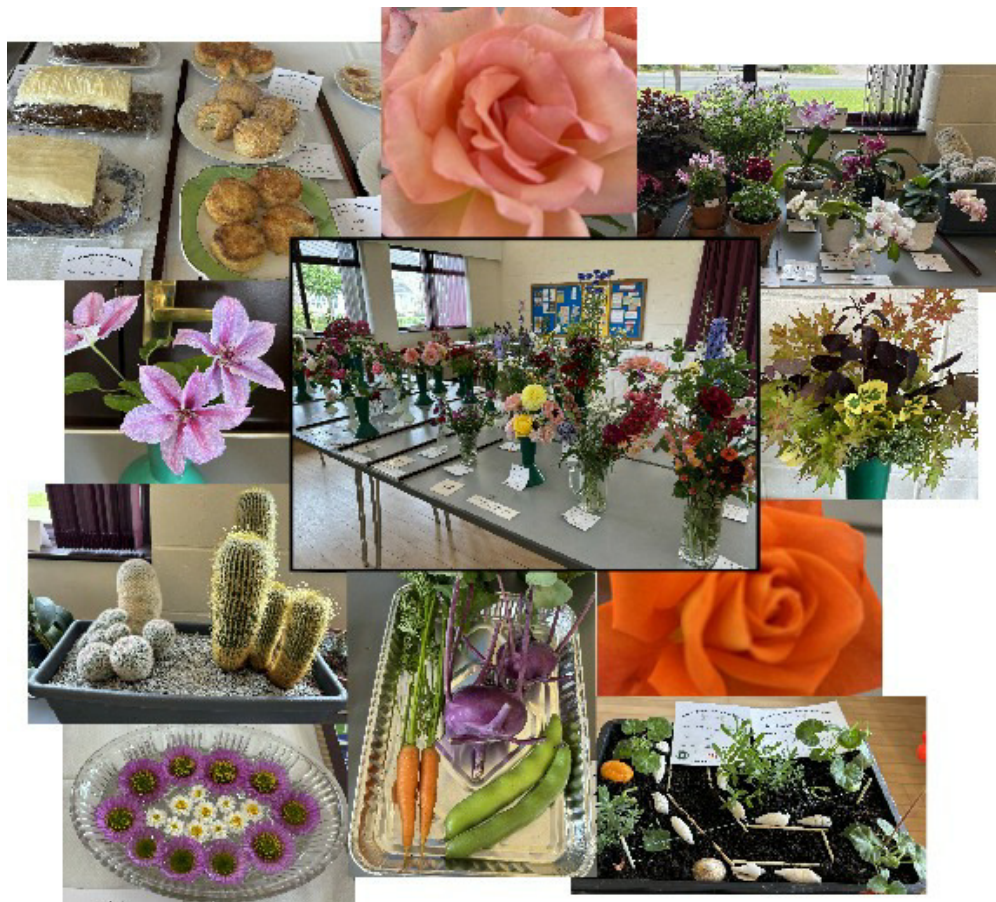
With any luck you've been able to sit out on your (yellowing) lawn and enjoy the sun, and have managed to keep things growing? There's a lot still to come this gardening season, and I hope you find something of interest in this newsletter.

Summer Rose and Floral Show

Thank you to everyone who took part, whether by exhibiting, helping on the day, or just coming along to enjoy the show - it was wonderful!

Our congratulations to all the prize winners who received their awards from the Mayor of Saffron Walden, Councillor Jeanette Curtis.

This year, we had to contend with a short heat wave at the end of May followed by some very wet and sometimes windy weather in the few days before the show. But our exhibitors proved they are more than a match for the elements and the show was even bigger than last year's Summer Show, with more than 140 exhibits on the tables. Roses were very well supported as were the classes for other flowers. It was amazing to see how many different varieties of flowers you all grow in your gardens. Fruit classes were a bit down on earlier years, probably a victim of the dry weather followed by heavy rain, but vegetables continue to be popular. As well as more entries we had more exhibitors - a total of 20, including eight children.



Sharon Davey won the Veerman Rose Bowl for the most points in Rose classes for the third year running, but she didn't win it outright this time, there was a tie on points, so she shared it with David Livermore. David also won the Trophy for the best rose exhibit with a lovely specimen of that very popular variety "Compassion". Another jointly won cup was the RA Butler Cup for the most points in the "Other Flower" section, which Sharon shared with new exhibitor, Sarah Butcher. Charlotte Heales won the Denning Bowl for most points in the Fruit and Vegetable section, but the Russell Green Cup for the best exhibit in that Section went to Walter Hand for a collection of three different vegetables, grown on his allotment on Windmill Hill. For the second year running Hilary Shibata won the Walden Trophy for most points in the Domestic Section, though this year the Rickett Shield for the best exhibit in that section went to Vera Willson for her scrumptious looking cheese scones (only the judge actually gets to taste them!).

In the Junior Section, Jack Hollidge made a clean sweep, winning first prize in all three classes in the lower age group; and Matthew Davies did exactly the same thing in the three classes for the older age group. So the Scrivener Cup was jointly awarded to these two talented boys. Matthew also won the Caroline Dowling award for the best exhibit in the Juniors for his "Miniature Garden in a seed tray".

Members' Garden Party

Sunday 16th August 2:00 to 5:00 pm

Charlotte is once again inviting us to her lovely garden in Radwinter to enjoy a relaxing strawberry tea in the barn after a stroll around the herbaceous planting, the greenhouse, the raised beds with soft fruit, the wildflower meadow, the orchard and the spring-fed pond.



It's a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet other members. To give us a rough idea of numbers for catering, please could you email me (hilary@mikehibbs.net) to let me know if you'll be coming and how many of you. But if you forget, you can still just turn up on the day. There will be plenty of strawberries and scones, and plenty of parking in the field next door. This event is especially for members, and is free (though donations are always welcome!) - so if you want to bring a guest, please let me know. Supervised children are welcome too (the lake is deep!), but we have to say no to dogs, except for assistance dogs, of course. The full address is Lower House Farm, Water Lane, Radwinter CB10 2TX - there will be balloons to mark the spot!



Well, I thought last year was a difficult one for fruit and veg - but perhaps I should have been counting my blessings! With a hosepipe ban in place and the relentless sunshine, things that have done well in our traditionally terrible summer weather are failing to thrive - though our tomatoes are loving it, as are the peppers, green beans and geraniums. I just hope they're still happy when it comes to show time!

Whatever the weather is doing to your garden, have a look at the list of things, grown and/or made, that you can bring to the Autumn Show on Sunday 13th September in the Village Hall at Sewards End. You'll find the list at the end of this Newsletter.

Good news - we're bringing back a popular item that will start at the Autumn Show, when Members can collect one free daffodil bulb, with instructions, which they take away to grow in a pot at home. Then all the daffodils are brought together again at the Spring Show, and the best bloom wins! (If you can't make it to the Autumn Show, the bulbs will also be available at the talks in September and October).

To see the full Regulations for Showing, the very helpful Guide to Exhibitors, and a list of the Society's Awards, have a look at our web site, swhortsoc.org.uk and click on the link for the Autumn Show. You'll find the Entry Form by clicking the Shows button on the left hand side of the home page. Please send entry forms to David Livermore by Thursday 10th September 2026

You can post them to 6 Cambridge Road, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 8HN

You can also email them to david.g.livermore@gmail.com, or phone 07815 556602

And if your garden and the weather have let you down, you can always bring yourself! There will be plenty to look at, the plant stall is inspiring, the cakes are delicious, and the chat is friendly and interesting. See you there!

A LOVELY DAY OUT IN THE GARDENS OF ANGLESEY ABBEY



We really enjoyed our visit to Anglesey Abbey in June. David is a very knowledgeable guide (well, he is Chairman of the SW Horticultural Society!) and gave us insights into the history of the trees and plantings in different parts of the gardens. The sun shone brightly but not too hotly and Vera was full of praise for the scooter, though she'll be able to do the whole thing on foot again soon. And below is a sample of some of the roses - the scents were delicious...



Great Chesterford and District 28th Flower & Produce Show

will be held at the Great Chesterford Community Centre on Saturday 5th September, just one week before our own Saffron Walden Show. The link below will take you to the Littlebury Parish Council website where you will see the full Schedule and other information.

<https://littlebury.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/28th-FLOWER-SHOW-SCHEDULE-2026-Final-version.pdf>

Help! Your Society needs you....

The first week of June was officially Volunteers Week, and there was an event in Saffron Walden Town Hall for organisations looking for volunteers, and volunteers looking for opportunities. This is a photo of me getting ready to talk about the Saffron Walden Horticultural Society, taken by the Walden Local just before a power cut meant the event had to close early. (Our Treasurer Christine was there too, but we didn't get a photo...)



We have a lot of fun on the Horticultural Society Committee, and you don't have to be an expert gardener to help with the shows, talks and other events. We're always looking for new committee members and new ideas. There are vacancies on the committee just waiting for you to fill them!

Interested? Call me on my mobile, 07914 697676 and I can tell you more...

A REMINDER OF SWHS DATES FOR THIS YEAR

Members' Garden Party

Sunday 16th August, 2:00 to 5:00 pm

At Lower House Farm, Water Lane, Radwinter CB10 2TX

Look out for balloons at the gate to guide you to the strawberry teas...

Autumn Flower and Produce Show

Sunday 13th September at Swards End Village Hall

The biggest show of the year because the flowers are still blooming and the veg are at their best!

Flowers of the Upper Engadine

Monday 14th September, 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:45)

At the Saffron Community Link

Liz Livermore's illustrated talk will take us through some of the spectacular scenery of the Upper Engadine in SE Switzerland with its outstanding range of alpine flowers, from edelweiss, gentians, saxifrages and primroses to snowbells, glacier crowfoot, martagon lilies and various orchids

Presents an illustrated talk:

Flowers of the Upper Engadine

by

Liz Livermore

on

Monday 14th September 2026

7:00pm (doors open 6:45pm)

at

Saffron Community Link,
Market Street, Saffron Walden CB10 1HX
(next to the Building Society)
Admission: £2 members, £5 non-members
Non-members welcome



Low Impact Gardens & Long-Term Gains in a Changing Climate **Monday 19th October, 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:45)**

At the Saffron Community Link

Jacq and Wills Landscapes is an award-winning family run business designing and maintaining gardens in and around Saffron Walden. They will be sharing their expertise in creating sustainable, manageable and enjoyable gardens suitable for local conditions.

Christmas Social and AGM

Monday 30th November, 6:45 pm

At the Saffron Community Link

Mince pies and planning for 2027...

Entry to Saffron Walden Horticultural Society Shows is free.

Entry to talks organised by the Society is £2 for members, £5 for non-members.

AND PLANS FOR 2027

Horticultural Society Shows

We are planning three Shows for 2027, and already have a date for the always-popular Spring Daffodil and Floral Show - Sunday 21st March 2027 at Swards End Village Hall.

The Summer Rose and Floral Show will be in June, and the Autumn Flower and Produce Show will be in September - both dates to be announced.

Horticultural Talks at the Saffron Community Link

There will be two pre-season talks, one each in March and April, and two talks in the Autumn, September and October. Speakers and topics to be confirmed later this year.

A gentle reminder...

If you haven't paid your membership subs for 2026-27 yet, it's not too late. The subscription is still £5 per person (free for under 16s) and you can pay on-line to:

Account name: Saffron Walden Horticultural Society

Sort Code: 40 40 45

Account No.: 91054651

Please make sure you put your surname and first name/initial as the Payment Reference.

Alternatively, you can send cash or a cheque made payable to Saffron Walden Horticultural Society to me, Hilary Shibata, Membership Secretary, 4 Mount Pleasant Cottages, Debden Road, Saffron Walden CB11 4AE.

Membership cards can be collected at any of the Society's events and Shows. Don't forget - your membership card entitles you to a 10% discount at Saffron Walden Garden Centre in Wimbish and at Springwell Nursery and Garden Centre in Little Chesterford.

That's all for now, and we look forward to seeing you at the Garden Party on Sunday 16th August, and at the Autumn Show in Swards End on Sunday 13th September.

With best wishes from your Membership Secretary,

Hilary Shibata

SAFFRON WALDEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
AUTUMN SHOW SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2026
Swards End Village Hall, Radwinter Road,
Swards End, CB10 2LG
Staging of exhibits between 9:00 and 10:30 am
SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

SECTION 1 – VEGETABLES AND FRUIT

1. Beans, Runner – 6 pods, with stalks
2. Beans, Dwarf or French climbing – 6 pods, with stalks
3. Beetroot – 3, with minimum 7.5cm long tops
4. Carrots – 3, with minimum 7.5cm long tops
5. Cucumbers – 2
6. Courgettes – 2
7. Shallots – 6 culinary
8. Onions – 3 dressed, under 250g
9. Onions – 3 dressed, 250g or over
10. Potatoes – 3 white
11. Potatoes – 3 coloured
12. Lettuce – 1
13. Sweetcorn – 2 cobs
14. Peppers – 2
15. Tomatoes – 3 with stalks
16. Tomatoes, small variety – 6 with stalks, should not exceed 35 mm in diameter
17. A truss of Tomatoes (ripe and/or unripe)
18. Any other vegetable – min. 2, not included in the Autumn Show schedule
19. Any Vegetable - min 2 for NOVICES (open to anyone who has not previously won a FIRST prize for vegetables at a SWHS show.

20. Collection of Vegetables – 4 different kinds in a tray, maximum size 61 cm by 61cm (see regulation No 12) – backboards permitted.
21. Collection of Salad Vegetables ON A DINNER PLATE– 3 different kinds - 2 of each (see regulation No 13)
22. Apples – 3 culinary, with stalks
23. Apples – 3 dessert, with stalks
24. Pears – 3 with stalks
25. Plums or Greengages – 3 with stalks
26. Blackberries – 6 with stalks
27. Any other fruit not included in the schedule (Min. quantity 2)

SECTION 2 – FLOWERS

28. Dahlias, decorative or ball – three blooms, one variety
29. Dahlias, decorative and/or ball – three blooms, two or more varieties
30. Dahlias, cactus or semi-cactus – three blooms, one variety
31. Dahlias, cactus and/or semi-cactus – three blooms, two or more varieties
32. Dahlias, pompon under 55 mm diameter – three blooms, one variety
33. Dahlias, pompon under 55 mm diameter– three blooms, two or more varieties
34. Dahlia any other classification – three blooms, one variety
35. Dahlia any other classification – three blooms, two or more varieties
36. Dahlias, mixed – Max. quantity 9 to be judged on quality
37. Display of foliage in a container
38. 1 Bloom large flowered Rose, any colour
39. 3 Blooms large flowered Roses, any colour or colours
40. 1 stem cluster flowered Rose, any colour
41. 3 stems cluster flowered Roses, any colour or colours
42. 1 Stem - Hydrangea Bloom
43. A container of flowers not listed above, 9 stems Max, one kind
44. A container of flowers not listed above, 9 stems Max, more than one kind
45. Flowering and/or Fruiting Trees or Shrubs – 3 stems
46. One Orchid Plant in bloom (must have been in exhibitor's possession for 6 months (see regulation 10)
- 47.* One pot plant in flower (see regulation 10)
- 48.* One pot plant for foliage (see regulation 10)
- * These classes must not include fuchsias, orchids, cacti or succulents
49. Cactus in a container not greater than 23 cm diameter as grown (see regulation 10)
50. Succulent in a pot maximum 23 cm diameter as grown (see regulation 10)
51. Exhibit consisting of one vase with one flower and a plate containing one vegetable or fruit
52. Fuchsia – in a pot not more than 23 cm diameter as grown (see regulation 10)
53. Fuchsia – 6 mounted flower heads (boxes provided by the Society)
54. A container of plants as grown (see regulation 10)

SECTION 3 – DOMESTIC CLASSES

See regulation 11

55. Apple and Cinnamon Cake (see recipe)
56. 4 Ginger Biscuits
57. Savoury vegetarian quiche max diameter 20cm (8")
- †58. Jam – 1 jar - must have wax discs & cellophane tops
- †59. Fruit Jelly – 1 jar (must have wax discs & cellophane tops)
- †60. Chutney – 1 jar - must have vinegar-proof lid
- † See Guide to Exhibitors -Domestic/Preserves
61. A set of 3 Photographs (max 13cm x 18cm) –'Summer holidays'
62. A hand crafted article – knitted or crocheted
63. A hand crafted article - needlecraft
64. Any other hand crafted article
65. Floral Arrangement not exceeding 17cm width and depth, 25cm height

SECTION 4 JUNIOR CLASSES

See regulation 11

Age must be given on entry form

Age up to 6 (on 1st January 2026)

- 66. Picture of trees in autumn in any medium max size A4
- 67. Hedgehog made from fruit and vegetables
- 68. Necklace made from fruit and vegetables (max diameter 20cm) - thread or string may be used to secure

Age 7 to 14 (on 1st January 2026)

- 69. Picture of trees in autumn in any medium max size A4
- 70. Hedgehog made from fruit and vegetables
- 71. Necklace made from fruit and vegetables (max diameter 20cm) - thread or string may be used to secure

SECTION 5 'HAVE-A-GO' CLASSES

Just for fun, does not count towards aggregate trophies

- 72. Longest runner bean
- 73. Most misshapen vegetable
- 74. Heaviest potato

Apple and Cinnamon Cake Recipe

100g butter (softened) 100g caster sugar 2 large eggs	250g self raising flour 1 tsp ground cinnamon 4 dessert apples
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For the topping

2 tsp finely grated lemon rind	3 tbsp demerara sugar
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1. Preheat oven to 180°C/160°C fan/350°F/Gas Mark 4.
2. Grease and line a 18cm (7 in) diameter, deep cake tin.
3. Prepare the topping by combining the demerara sugar and grated lemon rind in a small bowl. Set aside for step 8.
4. Cut the butter into small pieces in a mixing bowl, add the caster sugar and beat together until smooth and creamy.
5. Beat the eggs together in a separate bowl to combine yolk and white, then add gradually to the sugar / butter mixture, beating after each addition.
6. Add the flour gradually to the mix, stirring well after each addition. Then stir in the ground cinnamon.
7. Peel and core the apples, then cut them into 1cm cubes and add to the mix. Stir well to combine.
8. Turn mixture into the prepared tin and level the top. Scatter the demerara sugar / lemon rind mix over the top.
9. Bake for 50 - 55 minutes.
10. Allow to cool in the tin for about 20 mins, then turn out on a rack to finish cooling.