

HARTLEY & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY- AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2024

To receive newsletters, news and updates by email – please email Jenny G: hartleyhortsoc@hotmail.com
(please note that we have a new email address)

See our website for photos and news:
www.hartleyhortsoc.org.uk



If you have any gardening information and/or photographs to share with our members in our Winter newsletter email Sue Z: suezoghob@hotmail.com

Message from our Chairman Jenny R

Once again what a strange summer we have had. I lost a few plants during the cold wet spring. Some were simply eaten to death by the vast numbers of slugs of various colours and sizes. Others were overwhelmed by weeds that seemed to grow so well.

Now the warm summer sunshine has finally arrived the bees and butterflies have returned but not the wasps and the summer vegetables have finally started growing and producing. I cannot believe after all the rain how dry the garden has become, a little bit of hot sunshine and some wind and the moisture disappears like lightening.

With any luck we will have enough flowers, fruit and vegetables to once again put on a fantastic display for our September show. It gives people so much pleasure to see a Hall full of colour.

In October, Martin and I are demonstrating ways of using containers for winter colour. During this we will be talking about container gardening in general. We are hoping that members of the audience will be happy to join in and ask questions.

November brings our AGM and our final 60 years celebration with cake and prosecco, as we conclude another busy year. Some of our members have been busy in the community as described later in this newsletter.

Next year's programme is already in place so we can look forward to another busy year in 2025.

EVENTS COMING UP

11 September - Autumn Show

Come along and enjoy the exhibits, floral exhibits and free refreshments
See a copy of schedule at the end of this newsletter and your blue Programme.

Photo Competition - Photograph of one or more butterfly/ies or moth/s (any butterfly/moth, as caterpillar and/or adult, any number)

Special Society Class - Cosmos 'Purity' flowers grown from 5 seeds issued by the Society this spring

9 October - Planting Containers - Jenny Roberts & Martin Pain

Tonight is a mini workshop led by two of our members, Jenny and Martin. Jenny is our chairman, and Martin works in horticulture and has spoken to us before. Container planting has become very popular as a way to garden in the smallest of spaces, to brighten up a dull area, or to provide colour and scent close to the house. As autumn begins, Jenny and Martin will advise how to choose suitable plants and containers, and demonstrate how to pot them up for long-lasting interest in the seasons ahead.

13 November - Our AGM evening has become a popular social event, and this year's will include a final celebration of our Diamond Jubilee. After our short Annual General Meeting (a legal requirement for the society), we will enjoy a wine and cheese buffet with a celebration cake and glass of fizz. Do come along and chat with other members.

Hartley Library Project

At the meeting in July members of the Society agreed to support the creation of a Community Calm Garden at Hartley Library. This is not an easy location, but with the knowledge, generosity and support of our members this garden will succeed.

We have made a start, removing rubbish and moss from paved areas. Members have donated compost and plants, mostly annuals at this stage, these have all been planted in pots and in the ground.



We have pledges of plants for later in the year but would welcome more in autumn or spring seasons of:

- Pots
- Shrubs/perennials/ grasses in white, pink, yellow mauve colours that like living in a sun trap
- Evergreen plants
- Herbs
- Plants to cover fences or walls
- Volunteers to help establish, maintain and water the garden

If you are interested, please contact: Elaine Webb 07983740955 Brenda Gunner 01474 705144
Hartley Library Librarians 01474 704403

Sad News

Sadly, longtime member Peter Griffiths has died. You will remember him from our meetings and shows with his Ukrainian carer Maria. His grandson, Jake Griffiths, is going to enter items, from Peter's garden, in the Autumn Show, on his behalf, as he and Maria have been looking after it.

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

June - Plant Sale/Swap and Diamond Jubilee Celebration

We arranged a very different evening in June with displays to look at including different species of plants, '60 years of Hartley Horticultural Society', flower arranging and information on Plant Heritage and Garden Organic. In addition, there were plants for sale, including cacti and succulents, alpines, herbaceous perennials and a few vegetable plants. We also had a Plant Swap table.



Frances with display of Tulbaghia, Tony with display of cacti and Jenny G promoting the Hardy Plant Society photographs Chris Cook

Fawkham and Hartley Church Fete - Thank you to all who helped, donated plants and supported us at the Fete. We made the grand total of just under £330 for the church



The little people were a hit with the children.

Ightham Cup Ightham Summer Show – July



The winning entry

Jenny R receiving the trophy from Pippa – Ightham's Chairman

Keeping everything crossed that the birds didn't eat too much of our fruit and the slugs and snails ruin our flowers and veggies before the big day, Jenny R, Martin and I prepared our entries for the inter society class at Ightham's Summer Show on Saturday 13 July.

Our entry included an arrangement of flowers, cucumbers and red currants. At 8.30am we assembled them on the show table. There was friendly banter between us and Ightham members as to whose entry would win. We were very impressed with Pembury's entry, which included some beautiful sweet peas. We expected them to win. Staging completed we went home to a few chores, returning to Ightham later in the afternoon to look at the classes, see the results and have a welcome cup of tea and cake.

Our class was very close, only a few points between the entries. We were delighted to reclaim the winner's cup for Hartley. Frances

OTHER EVENTS

Kent Federation of Horticultural Societies Autumn Show

15 September at Ditton Community Centre, Ditton, Aylesford, ME20 6AH

www.kentfed.com

LOCAL GARDENING COOPERATION

Chalk Village Gardeners Club www.chalkvillagegardenersclub.co.uk

Chalk Parish Hall, Lower Higham Rd, Gravesend, DA12 2ND

7 September – Autumn Show starts at 2.30 pm

Ightham and District Gardeners

Ightham Village Hall, Sevenoaks Road, Ightham, Kent, TN15 9HA

Evening Autumn Show on Tuesday 3rd September at Ightham Village Hall.

Istead Rise Gardeners Club Memorial Hall, Lewes Road, Istead Rise, DA13 9JQ

5 September – Autumn Evening Show - 7.30 pm

Southfleet Gardeners, Southfleet Village Hall, Southfleet

10 September – John Hughes – British Wild Flowers – 7.30 pm

Stansted and Fairseat Horticultural Society -

Stansted Village Fete – 7 September

Inspiration from Gardener's World Live at NEC Birmingham in June



Thank you to everyone who sent articles and photos. A copy of this newsletter is also on www.hartleyhortsoc.org.uk

Stay Safe and Happy Gardening – Sue Z

AUTUMN EVENING SHOW - Wednesday 11 September 2024

Submission of Entries - All entries must be submitted by no later than 7.30pm on the show evening.

You may wish to pre-prepare exhibits at home, as staging time (including washing, cutting, arranging etc) is limited as stated below.

Timetable - Staging of members' exhibits is between 6.30pm and 8pm. **** Deadline for entries is strictly 7.30pm. ****

Judging will be by external judges between 8pm and 9pm.

Please move away from the show benches when requested at 8pm. This will allow the judges space and time to carry out their work.

Refreshments will be available from 8pm until 9pm.

Presentation of awards will be at 9pm.

SECTION A

DAHLIAS

Class	1.	One bloom	170 mm minimum	(6.7" minimum)
	2.	One bloom	115 mm to 170 mm	(4.5" to 6.7")
	3.	One bloom	up to 115 mm	(4.5")
	4.	Three blooms	up to 115 mm	(4.5")

SECTION B

OTHER PLANTS

5. Gladiolus - one spike
6. Rose - one hybrid tea (Large flowered)
7. Rose - one spray floribunda (Cluster flowered)
8. Perennials – one kind other than Dahlias or Roses
9. Mixed perennials – three kinds other than Dahlias or Roses
10. One pot plant in flower
11. Decorative seed heads or berries from the garden – up to six kinds

12. Culinary herbs – three kinds
13. Annuals – one kind
14. Annuals – three kinds
15. Flowering shrub or tree – one kind
16. Mixed vase of flowers - up to five kinds – excluding shrubs & trees

SECTION C FRUIT

17. Apples - dessert - three of one cultivar
18. **Tree Fruit** – one of the following:
Cooking apples – three of one cultivar
Quinces – three of one cultivar
Pears - three of one cultivar
Plums – five of one cultivar
Figs – 3, Medlars – 5, Mulberries – 10, Bullaces or Damsons – 10
19. **Soft Fruit** – one of the following:
Raspberries – 16 of one variety with stalks
Boysenberries or Loganberries – 10
Strawberries – seven of one variety with stalks
Blackcurrants- 10 of one variety on strigs
Red- or whitecurrants – 10 bunches
Grapes - one bunch

SECTION D VEGETABLES

20. Runner Beans - five of one cultivar
21. Courgettes - three of one cultivar
22. Onions - three of one cultivar
23. Potatoes - three of one cultivar
24. Tomatoes - five of one cultivar – medium
25. Tomatoes - five of one cultivar - small fruited or cherry types
26. Collection of three vegetables
27. Any other vegetables not mentioned above

SECTION E FLOWER ARRANGEMENT Off-white background

28. "Mellow Fruitfulness" – Tapestry/pave 60 cm width & depth, 20cm height
29. "Autumn Tones" – Parallel design 60 cm width & depth, height unlimited
30. Petite: "Rustic" 25cm width and depth and height

NAFAS rules apply. All Classes may be arranged at home or assembled in the hall as preferred. All drapes and backing to be free-standing. Accessories may be used. Natural plant material is to be used at all times, i.e. fresh, dried, preserved.

SECTION F SPECIAL SOCIETY CLASS

31. Cosmos 'Purity' flowers grown **from 5 seeds issued by the Society**

SECTION G PHOTOGRAPHY

32. **Photograph of one or more butterfly/ies or moth/s** (any butterfly/moth, as caterpillar and/or adult, any number)
One entry per person
Maximum size of photograph 5 x 7 inches (13 x 18 cm)
Photographs should be mounted on paper/card no larger than standard A5
(5.8 x 8.3 inches, 14.8 x 21 cm)
Entrant's name must be written on back of mount
Each entry will be allocated a number, and velcro will be provided to attach entries to display boards and to attach number next to entry