

February Update

Dear Fellow Gardener

Hope this finds you well and we are looking forward to seeing you at our meeting next week.

February Meeting

11 February 26 – Raised Bed and No-dig – Alison Marsden

An experienced gardener and speaker, Alison discusses the advantages and disadvantages of this type of gardening. “Parfree’s Dragon Tongue” (dwarf French beans) will be distributed for the Autumn Show Special Class.

Society News

Sad News

Sadly, **Margaret Entecott** passed away recently. Margaret together with her late husband Percy were active members of our society. Margaret would always enter our shows, lend a hand and had organised many enjoyable coach trips when she was Social Secretary. Our condolences to her family.

Sadly, **Pam Cass** passed away last month. Pam together with her late husband Brian were active members of our society. Pam used to organise the craft exhibits when we had weekend shows. Our condolences to her family.

Reminder - Photograph of “A Carpet of Snowdrops” taken in 2026 – this is the subject for our special photography class in our Spring Show. More details in your Schedules.

Seedling Swap: Don’t forget our Seedling Swap at our March meeting. We hope that members will sow extra seeds when sowing their vegetables, ornamental and annuals and bring them to the meeting. You do not need to bring something but we would like your support. You may go home with something different.

Denise Speller Trophy

Does anyone remember Denise Speller? We recently had an email from her son Colin who was pleased to see that we still present the Denise Speller trophy.

“I had a look on your web site recently and was delighted to see that you are still presenting the trophy we gave you in memory of our late mother, Denise Speller, who used to live at The Ridge in Church Road. You may be interested to know that my sister and I recently published a tribute to her on the 35th anniversary of her untimely death. It is one of a series of articles that I have published on our family’s life in Hartley from 1954 to 1999, and the article about Mum can be read at <https://substack.com/@colinsspeller/p-181579089>.

I am sure that Mum would be delighted to know that the Society is still going strong. My best wishes to you. Kind Regards Colin Speller” colin.s.speller@gmail.com

Local Events

Snowdrops at the Old Rectory, Fawkham - The garden is open by arrangement for the National Garden Scheme. <https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/32008/the-old-rectory-fawkham>

Provender Allotment/Horticulture Society Day

Several members attended the Society Day in January and took advantage of the special offers. We also enjoyed bacon rolls and hot drinks. We hope Provender will arrange another date next year. Don’t forget we have a Provender Discount Card – please speak to Sue Z or email committee@hartleyhortsoc.org.uk

Great Comp Snowdrop & Plant Fair, Sunday 15 February 2026

Don’t miss out on Great Comp Garden’s Snowdrop & Plant Fair on Sunday 15th February 2026
More details – www.greatcomparden.co.uk

Local Garden Society Events

Kent Federation AGM and Mini Spring Show at the Aster Pavilion at the County Show ground, Detling. Sunday, March 22nd. No entry forms or fees! If you would like a copy of the show schedule please email committee@hartleyhortsoc.org.uk

The County Showground is on the A249 at the top of Detling Hill. From the M20 leave at Junction 7 and join the A249 to Detling. At the top of the hill look for the County Showground entrance on your left. Once in the ground turn right and follow the Perimeter Road all the way until you see the John Hendrey Building in front of you on your left. Park in the large adjacent Car Park. The Astra Pavilion is attached to this building and overlooks the main arena.

Stansted Gardeners Coach trip to the Festival of Flowers at Chichester Cathedral on 4 June 2026 For further details please email stanstedhortsociety@gmail.com	Chalk Gardeners AGM – 13 February 2026 Chalk Parish Hall, Chalk. 7.30 pm www.chalkvillagegardenersclub.co.uk
Southfleet Gardeners Tuesday 24th February 2026 -'Scentsational Gardening' Caroline Halfpenny Southfleet Village Hall, Southfleet 7.30 pm	Ightham & District Gardeners Club Tuesday, 24 February 26 – Social Evening with quizzes Ightham Village Hall, TN15 9HA 7 for 7.45 pm start
Istead Rise Gardeners 5 March 26 – Adam Taylor, Wonders of the Thames Estuary Memorial Hall, Lewes Road, Istead Rise DA13 9JQ	Meopham Gardeners Meopham Village Hall, Wrotham Road, Meopham DA13 0AT www.meophamgardeners.org
Paddock Wood Garden Centre - It has a new reasonably priced restaurant with a daily carvery. Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge TN12 6QJ https://www.britishgardencentres.com/centres/paddock-wood-garden-centre/	

Committee Lunch – Thank you to Jill for organising an enjoyable annual lunch at the Royal Oak in New Ash Green. Good company and good food at reasonable prices.



Member Benefits

- Notice Board and Seed Swap at meetings (new seeds donated)
- Provender Discount Card – speak to Sue Z
- RHS 50% entry discount card for two members – speak to Sue Z
- Local Society events – for more information please see notice board at meetings
- See more news and information on our website - www.hartleyhortsoc.org.uk
- www.facebook.com/groups/226868327058950

Best wishes and Happy Gardening

Sue Z

On behalf of Jenny R, Keith, Frances, Elaine, Chris, Kay, Sue C, Jill, Brenda and Sylvia
Please let us know if you have anything of a gardening nature to share with our members.

If you no longer wish to receive emails from Hartley Horticultural Society, please advise by emailing to committee@hartleyhortsoc.org.uk