Hartley & District
Horticultural
Society

November Update

Dear Fellow Gardener

Hope this finds you well and we are looking forward to seeing you at our AGM and Cheese and Wine on 12 November.

Society Events

12 November – AGM and Cheese and Wine

Our short Annual General Meeting (a legal requirement) offers the chance for you to hear how your society is run, and to ask questions and have your say. After the awarding of our annual trophies, we will have a buffet of cheese and other savouries, wine or juice, and time to chat with other members. Do come along to this sociable and relaxed evening. This will be our last meeting for 2025.

Copies of the Minutes and Agenda will be emailed and some copies will be available on the night. If you can pay your 2026 subs on the night it is a great help to us.

Polyanthus Stella

Jenny R has some plug plants left over from our October meeting and she will bring them to the November meeting for those that missed out. These are to be grown on for our Summer Show special class.

October meeting - Parks and Gardens of Flanders - Melanie Gibson-Barton BSc (Hons)
Dear Sue, I had such a lovely time with you all at Hartley. I was made so welcome. Thank you for inviting me to provide one of my talks. As promised, please find below the wording about the talk Very best wishes Melanie

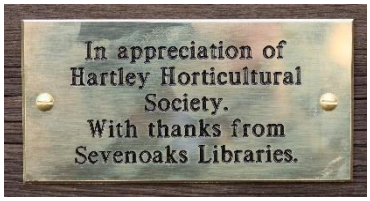
Melanie presented a wide-ranging talk appealing to garden lovers and walkers - and arm-chair gardeners! Originally commissioned to provide a gardening group with ideas of places to visit in Belgium, Melanie's talk shows that Belgium is a tiny country of two halves: Wallonia in the South and Flanders in the North. Melanie assured us that, although her talk only highlighted the Parks and Gardens of Flanders, we would see a wide variety of gardening related sights to view in this seemingly tiny area. Indeed, we visited the hidden city gardens in Bruges, the National Botanical Garden at Meise, renowned orchards in Limburg, the royal greenhouses at Laeken, a lost medieval village at Ostend, traces of the first World War in the Westhoek region, the remnants of an ancient forest at Ieper/Ypres and a corner of Japan in Flanders at Hasselt. Melanie explained that the Flemish have a very distinctive style of gardening which derives from their culture and popular exercise initiatives. The colourfully illustrated talk provided plenty of ideas for parks and gardens to visit across Flanders including Bruges, Antwerp, Brussels and Limburg.

The 'Parks and Gardens of Flanders' talk fits within a suite of talks by Melanie about the history and culture of Belgium that includes as 'Wandering in Flanders Fields', 'The Life and Times of

Edith Cavell', 'Ostend – more than just fish and flip flops', 'Bruges – its more than just chocolate' and 'The Belgian Royal Family – murder, madness and mayhem' based on Melanie's personal knowledge of the Belgium built up through previously splitting her time in recent years between Kent and Bruges, Belgium. Her range of currently seventeen talks can be viewed at www.toonstelling.com. Melanie Gibson-Barton BSc (Hons)

Hartley Library Reading Garden - Grand Opening

Kent Libraries held a Grand Opening of the Reading Garden on Tuesday 28 October. Chris said that he, Elaine and Brenda had had a fantastic day at the official opening of the library garden. The Sevenoaks Head Librarian, KCC Deputy Librarian and the two local librarians had attended along with many members and visitors. A lovely surprise was the plaque on one of the seats in appreciation of the work done by Hartley Horticultural Society.



Congratulations to Elaine, Brenda & Chris and all who helped.

Local Events

Thornton House - Open Garden
In August we opened our garden at Thornton House in support of the Ellenor Hospice. The weather was wonderful and the event was very well attended with most people staying for the whole afternoon wandering round and drinking tea and eating cake.
Again, we were pleased to be entertained by the excellent Rock Choir. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped to raise £1,231.10 for Ellenor. Susan & David

Stansted Village Market – Thursday, 6 November 2025 at 10 am – 12 noon
Come and enjoy a leisurely tea or coffee with homemade cakes.
Plants, preserves, cards and more will be on sale.

Local Garden Society Events

Chalk Gardeners
7 November - Alison Marsden - "How not to kill your Houseplant"
Chalk Parish Hall, Chalk. 7.30 pm
www.chalkvillagegardenersclub.co.uk

Southfleet Gardeners
11 November – AGM and Cheese and Wine
Southfleet Village Hall, Southfleet, 7.30 pm

Ightham & District Gardeners Club
Ightham Village Hall, 7 for 7.30 pm start

Istead Rise Gardeners
6 November – Caroline Halfpenny - Hardwood Cuttings and a Christmas Decoration
Memorial Hall, Lewes Road, Istead Rise DA13 9JQ

Meopham Gardeners
10 November 'Pruning – the rights and wrongs - Kevin Tooher
Meopham Village Hall, Wrotham Road, Meopham DA13 0AT
www.meophamgardeners.org

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