

October Update

Dear Fellow Gardener

Hope this finds you well and we are looking forward to seeing you at our 8th October meeting.

Society Events

8 October meeting - Parks and Gardens of Flanders - Melanie Gibson Barton

This is Melanie's first visit to our society. She has a great fondness for Belgium, and in this wide-ranging and colourful talk she will show us the distinctive style of Flemish gardening in the Flanders area.

Preview 2026 Programme - further details will be in the new programme

14 January 26 – Caroline Halfpenny - Alpines

11 February 26 – Alison Marsdon – Raised beds and no dig

11 March 26 – Tony Roberts to talk about propagation and Seedling swap

08 April 26 – Spring Show

13 May 26 – How trees are grown commercially and what trees we should consider with climate change

10 June 26 – Plant Sale & Talk

08 July 26 – Ali from smallgardenlife – Dahlias.

12 August 26 – James Scotchmer – How artists and garden designers lead us up the garden path.

09 September 26 – Autumn Show

14 October 26 – trip to Wisley to see autumn colour

11 November 26 – AGM

Special Society classes for 2026 – further details will be in the new programme

Summer Show

Grow – Polyanthus plug-plants to be given to members at October meeting

Photo competition – Carpet of Snowdrops

Autumn Show

Grow – Best looking small pumpkin – 2 seeds to be given out at February meeting

Photo competition – Tree or shrub in flower

September Meeting – Autumn Evening Show

Congratulations and thanks to Jill and the team for organising our very successful Autumn Show. Thanks to exhibitors, the Flower Club and our members who came along to support this event. Judged as usual by John Hughes, who explained his choices afterwards. Jean the flower arrangement judge explained some of her choices of the beautiful Flower Club arrangements.

Congratulations to all our prize winners:

Humphrey Memorial Trophy – Sue Zoghob

George Graves Cup – Susan Conroy

Charles Turner Trophy – joint winners - Colin George,

David Conroy and Enid Scott

E H Lane Trophy – Jenny Roberts

Span Trophy – Frances Moore

J P Tate Trophy – Best Exhibit by the Flower Club –

Jaqui Sims

Eva Edwards Memorial – Jacqui Sims

The Heaviest Potato – Jenny Roberts

Photograph of Autumn leaves – Colin George



First prize



entry for one of the Flower Arranging classes



Intersociety Competition

Congratulations to Ightham Gardeners who won the Intersociety cup competition. Thanks to Chalk and Stansted societies for taking part.

Kent Federation of Horticultural Societies Competition

Congratulations to Frances and Martin who entered on behalf of our society and came second - winning £15. If you look very carefully you will see Brenda's two gnomes sitting under toadstools.

Sustainable Gardening - Following on from our August meeting attached is a copy of Frances' notes on sustainable gardening.

Hartley Library Reading Garden - Grand Opening

After a long wait we have some good news from the library garden this month. Kent Libraries have replaced the broken fence. If members have a spare climber to donate we would be very grateful. From left over fence panels Chris has created a shed to store our tools and equipment. Kent Libraries are holding a Grand Opening of the Reading Garden on the morning of Tuesday 28 October. Members would be most welcome. Elaine, Brenda & Chris

The Hart Magazine - We have had a request from Mags the Editor of the Hart for articles for the magazine. Please email thehart@live.co.uk if you are able to contribute.

Local Events

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.

THE BIG PINK_CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT_Friday October 24th 2025

You are invited to don your thinking caps and join us for a fun evening whilst raising funds for the very worthy research and care charity - BREAST CANCER NOW.

TO RESERVE A TABLE FOR YOUR TEAM Please call - Michaela on 01474 709097 or 07802

793228 email: - michaelafranklin@talktalk.net

PS. Don't worry if can't muster a full team - we will merge individuals and smaller groups into teams of eight on the night.

Local Garden Society Events

Chalk Gardeners

10 October – Steve Edney – The Kitchen Garden

22 October – Chris Beardshaw – A Most Unique English Garden

Chalk Parish Hall, Chalk. 7.30 pm

www.chalkvillagegardenersclub.co.uk

Southfleet Gardeners

11 October – Autumn Supper

Southfleet Village Hall, Southfleet 7.30 pm

Ightham & District Gardeners Club

28 October – AGM

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

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.

13 October – Caroline Halfpenny – Soil – Dish the Dirt
Meopham Village Hall, Wrotham Road,
Meopham DA13 0AT

www.meophamgardeners.org

Great Comp Autumn Fair – 11 and 12 October 25
from 10am – 5pm.

More details – www.greatcompgarden.co.uk

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

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