

# Saffron Walden Horticultural Society



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

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## Dear Member,

It was lovely to see so many of you and so many beautiful flowers at the Spring Show - and such a delight to bring the daffodils back into the calendar. Back in 1993 it was the first Horticultural Society Show I'd ever been to, still my favourite, and the reason I joined!

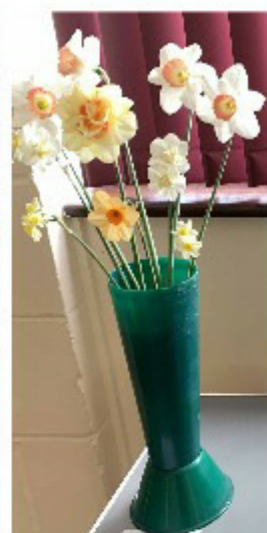
## SPRING DAFFODIL AND FLORAL SHOW

For those of you who didn't manage to get to the Show in Swards End, here's a summary of the winners and runners-up, followed by some photos, courtesy of our Chairman David Livermore:

- Dale Griffin won the Townley Trophy (most points in Daffodil Classes 1-21); the Ida Hawthorn Vase (Class 1); the Daffodil Society Medal for the best daffodil the show (*Astrid's Memory* - pictured below); and was runner-up for the Adams Harrison Cup
- David Livermore won the Adams Harrison Cup (most points in show); and was runner-up for the Townley Trophy, the Barnard Vase; and the Ida Hawthorn Vase
- Vera Willson won the Barnard Vase (most points in Flower Section Classes 22-37); and the Saffron Trophy (most points in Domestic Section Classes 38-43)
- Helen O'Neill was runner-up for the Saffron Trophy
- Willson Quantrill won the Scrivener Cup (most points in Junior Section Classes 44-51)
- Florence Norris won the Townley Cup (for Class 45); the Rickett Shield (best exhibit in Junior Classes, which was her Container of Spring Flowers); and was runner-up for the Scrivener Cup
- Ariella Quantrill was runner-up for the Scrivener Cup; and for the Townley Cup

Mike Baxter was the official photographer at the show, and his daffodil photos are on the Daffodil Society website at <https://thedaffodilsociety.com/2025/04/saffron-walden-show-2025/>. I'm already looking forward to the Daffodil Show next year! (Date to be announced...)

And if you're interested in growing something a bit more unusual, there are specialist daffodil nurseries which have a much bigger range than you would find in a Garden Centre. Some can be expensive, but there are also plenty of cheap bulbs to choose from. Order online for delivery in September/October. Scamps Daffodils of Cornwall are highly recommended (<https://scampsbulbs.co.uk>) but other growers are available...



## Preparations are already underway for the Summer Flower Show on Saturday 21st June

It may be just eight weeks away, but they're probably the busiest weeks in the whole year for all the flowers in our gardens! So much changes from one day to the next... though as long as we get a decent mix of sunshine and rain (and can keep the pests at bay) we should have plenty to show for our hard work. You'll find the full schedule on the Society's website ([swhortsoc.org.uk](http://swhortsoc.org.uk)) with a guide for exhibitors which is very helpful if you're bringing something to the show for the first time. As well as all the flowers, there are classes for soft fruit, herbs, early vegetables, baking, jams and handicrafts, and of course the Junior Classes - such fun!

I've never made a lemon drizzle cake before, but I'm going to give it a try using the special show recipe - and with any luck we may have a rose or two in bloom by June...

# Saffron Walden Horticultural Society



Founded 1819



incorporating

Saffron Walden Rose Society

## Summer Flower Show Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025



**Sewards End Village Hall, Radwinter Road,  
Sewards End, CB10 2LG**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 2.00 PM**

**ENTRY FREE**

**PLANT STALL RAFFLE & REFRESHMENTS**

For further information see our website ([www.swhortsoc.org.uk](http://www.swhortsoc.org.uk))

or contact Liz Livermore on. 01763 848757

## **OTHER SOCIETY EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2025**

### ***Summer Garden Party - Sunday 13th July***

This is being hosted by Charlotte Heales in her garden at Lower House Farm, Water Lane, Radwinter CB10 2TX. It's a fairly traditional garden, with box hedging, herbaceous planting, a greenhouse, raised beds with soft fruit, a wildflower meadow, an orchard, and a sizable spring-fed pond... but you may also be interested in the strawberry teas to be served from Charlotte's barn! Parking is available in the field next door.

We hope to see you there - it's a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet other members. Garden parties were a regular summer event in the Society's calendar before Covid, and we're so pleased that Charlotte has invited us to her garden to re-start the tradition.

### ***A Guided Tour of the Gardens at Audley End House***

We hope to arrange a special Horticultural Society visit to the gardens at Audley End House - details to be announced.

### ***Autumn Flower and Produce Show***

Sunday 28th September 2025, Swards End Village Hall - Schedule of Classes to be published on the Society's website nearer the time

### ***The Growing of Bridge End Gardens***

Monday 13th October 2025, 7:00 pm at the Saffron Community Link - an illustrated talk by Liz Lake about the origins and restoration of Saffron Walden's unusual "detached" Victorian garden

### ***A Passion for Alpines***

Thursday 13th November 2025, 7:00 pm at the Saffron Community Link - an illustrated talk by David Livermore. David and Liz Livermore have a long-standing interest in alpine plants and have travelled widely to see them in the wild and in botanical gardens around the world.

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### ***A Memorial for Doreen and David Townley***

Sunday 25th May 2025, 2:00 to 5:00 pm

You may already have read on the Society's website the sad news that Doreen Townley passed away on 14th February. Doreen was Chairman of Saffron Walden Horticultural Society for many years, supporting the society in so many ways. With her late husband David, and latterly on her own, she regularly entered our shows, notably with David's beloved daffodils. As Chairman she presided over our monthly evening meetings for many years at the Bowls Club. She also regularly hosted a summer garden party at her home in Ashdon Road, and continued to play an active role in the Society for as long as she was able.

The family will hold a memorial in their garden at 49 Ashdon Road, Saffron Walden CB10 2AQ on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm, to celebrate Doreen and David's love of horticulture and their work for the Society - all are welcome to attend.

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## OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### **SALVIAS FOR THE GARDEN**

**Wednesday 7th May 2025, 8:00 pm, Ickleton Village Hall, Frogge Street, Ickleton**

Chelsea and Hampton Court Gold Medal winner Steven Edney will be giving a talk to the Great Chesterford and District Gardening Society about his favourite species and cultivars, and will offer tips and advice on how to get the best from this amazing group of plants. Plants will be for sale, and non-members are welcome to attend.

### **OPEN GARDEN AT GROVE LODGE IN SAFFRON WALDEN**

**Sunday 15th June 2025, 2:00 - 5:00 pm**

Horticultural Society member Chris Shennan will be opening his garden at 3 Chaters Hill, CB10 2AB again as part of the National Garden Scheme. June is the time for geraniums, alliums, and campanula. There are plans for music too - a woodwind quartet and possibly tunes from the keyboard.

Admission is £6, and refreshments will be on sale. (I can personally recommend the cakes - delicious!) All proceeds go to the charities supported by the National Gardens Scheme (McMillan, Marie Curie, Maggies etc). For more details go to [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)

## Discounts and days out...

**Present your membership card** when you check out to obtain a 10% discount on purchases over £10 (excludes sales items, online purchases and other special offers) at:

- Springwell Nursery and Garden Centre, Walden Road, Saffron Walden CB10 1UE
- Beeches Nursery, Church Hill, Ashdon CB10 2HB

**Thinking of visiting an RHS Garden?** Saffron Walden Horticultural Society is a member of the Royal Horticultural Society and we have a complimentary ticket giving free admission for one member and one guest to any of the RHS Gardens. (Wisley in Surrey or Hyde Hall near Chelmsford are the nearest, and there's also Harlow Carr in North Yorkshire, Rosemoor in Devon, and Bridgewater in Greater Manchester.) If you fancy a day out please contact Robin Crouchman on 01799 540053 or email [sueandrobinare@gmail.com](mailto:sueandrobinare@gmail.com) and he can tell you when the complimentary ticket is available – on a first-come first-served basis.

### **MEMBERSHIP OF SAFFRON WALDEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Subscriptions of £5 per person for 2025-26 were due at the beginning of March, and if you haven't renewed your membership yet, can I urge you to do so soonish? Membership for young gardeners up to age 14 is free. Your support is what enables us to hold the Spring, Summer and Autumn Shows every year and is helping us bring back the regular meetings and talks that we enjoyed before Covid intervened.

You can pay your subscription 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:

**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.

That's all the Horticultural Society news for now, so with best wishes for happy growing and happy relaxing in your garden,

From your Membership Secretary,

*Hilary Shibata*

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