

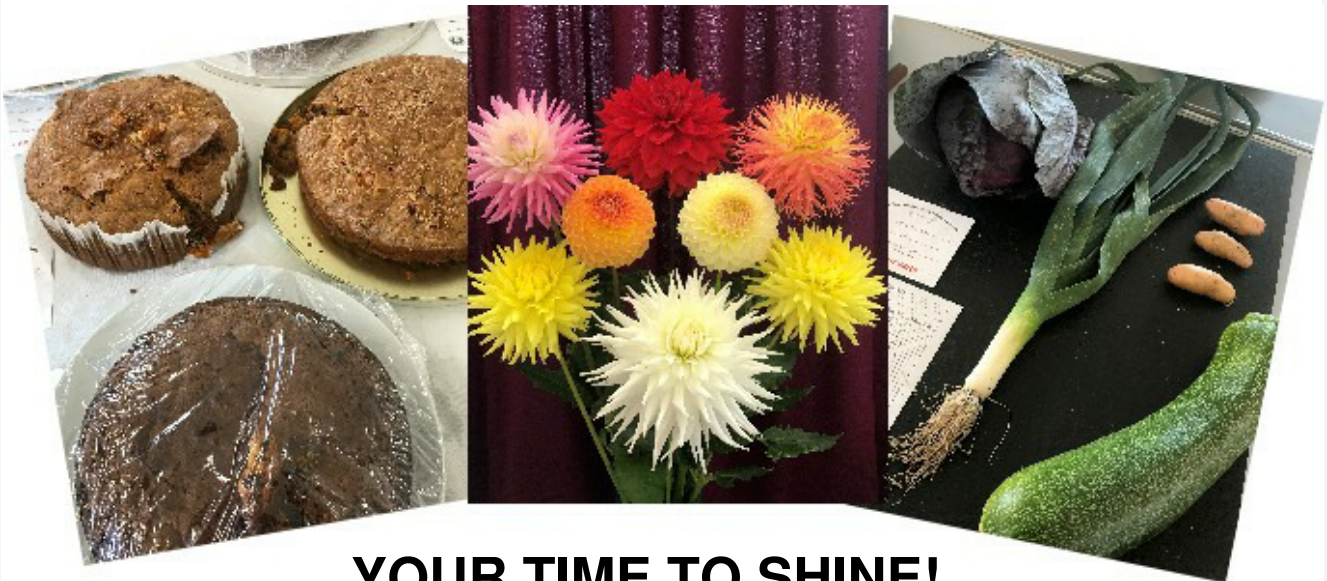
IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- Autumn Flower and Produce Show on Sunday 28th September
- Society visit to Audley End Gardens
- Horticultural Society events for 2025-26 - and a change of date
- Other dates for your diary

Dear Member,

The really hot weather has probably gone and thank goodness for a bit more rain! Now it's starting to feel like Autumn proper - and of course, time for the Autumn Show.

Just to remind ourselves what a wonderful time of year this is, and what a wonderful event the Autumn Flower and Produce Show is, here are a few pictures of some of the exhibits in last year's Autumn Show:



YOUR TIME TO SHINE!

This is your opportunity to join in - and we would love to see more members exhibiting their stuff! If everybody brings just one thing, the displays will be fantastic!

I'm sure we all have something to contribute. Our French beans were great this year, but we've eaten them all, and our onions weren't spectacular... But we've got some lovely tomatoes coming ripe on the patio (grown from plants we were given at Hadstock Village Fete in July) and I'm sure I can still find enough flowers in the garden to make a little flower arrangement. Go down to the bottom of the garden and pick some apples. Make some of them into an apple tart. Then there's cakes and jams and handicrafts - so if you have a look around your house and garden there's bound to be something you can bring along.

It costs nothing to exhibit in any of the classes, and it's much more interesting when you visit the show in the afternoon if you can compare your efforts! And yes, it's nice to win, but the best bit is taking part.

Or perhaps the best bit is the tea and cake, and chatting to friends old and new...

The deadline for letting us know that you're bringing an exhibit is Thursday 25th September, and the easiest way to do it is by email to David Livermore¹, david.g.livermore@gmail.com. You can

also write to him at 6 Cambridge Road, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 8HN or phone 01763 848757. (Last-minute entries are accepted up to 9:00 am on the morning of the Show).

I'm including the Schedule of Classes as a reminder of all the possibilities - and look on the website at www.swhortsoc.org.uk for hints on how best to prepare your exhibits.

SAFFRON WALDEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AUTUMN SHOW

SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2025

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

Staging of exhibits between 8:30 and 10:30 am

SECTION 1 - VEGETABLES

1. Beans, Runner – 6 pods, with stalks
2. Beans, Dwarf or French climbing – 6 pods, with stalks
3. Beetroot – 3, with minimum 7.5cm long tops
4. Carrots – 3, with minimum 7.5cm long tops
5. Cucumbers – 2
6. Courgettes – 2
7. Marrows – pair for table use – should not be longer than 35cm
8. Onions – 3 dressed, under 250g
9. Onions – 3 dressed, 250g or over
10. Shallots – 6 culinary
11. Spring onions – 5
12. Potatoes – 3 white
13. Potatoes – 3 coloured
14. Lettuce – 1
15. Sweetcorn – 2 cobs
16. Peppers – 2
17. Tomatoes – 3 with stalks
18. Tomatoes, small variety – 6 with stalks, should not exceed 35 mm in diameter
19. A truss of Tomatoes (ripe and/or unripe)
20. Any other vegetable – min. 2, not included in the Autumn Show schedule
21. Any Vegetable - min. 2 for NOVICES (open to anyone who has not previously won a FIRST prize for vegetables at a SWHS show)
22. Collection of Vegetables – 4 different kinds in a tray, maximum size 61 cm by 61cm (see Regulation No 12) – backboards permitted.
23. Collection of Salad Vegetables ON A DINNER PLATE – 3 different kinds - 2 of each (see Regulation No 13)

SECTION 2 - FRUIT AND FLOWER CLASSES

24. Apples – 3 culinary, with stalks
25. Apples – 3 dessert, with stalks
26. Pears – 3 with stalks
27. Blackberries – 6 with stalks
28. Any fruit not included in the schedule (Min. quantity 2)
29. Dahlias, decorative and/or ball – 3 blooms
30. Dahlias, cactus and/or semi-cactus – 3 blooms
31. Dahlias, pompon – 5 blooms, under 55 mm diameter
32. Dahlia, any other classification than already mentioned – 3 blooms

33. Dahlias, mixed – Max. quantity 9 to be judged on quality
 34. Display of foliage in a container
 35. 1 Bloom large flowered Rose, any colour
 36. 3 Blooms large flowered Roses, any colour or colours
 37. 3 stems Roses, cluster flowered
 38. Gladioli – 1 spike in a vase
 39. 1 Stem - Hydrangea Bloom
 40. A container of flowers not listed above, 9 stems Max, one or more kinds
 41. Flowering and/or Fruiting Trees or Shrubs – 3 stems
 42. One Orchid Plant in bloom (must have been in exhibitor's possession for 6 months (see Regulation 10))
 43. One Pot Plant in flower (see regulation 10)
 44. One Pot Plant for foliage (see regulation 10)
- Classes 43 and 44 must not include fuchias, orchids, cacti or succulents
45. Cactus in a container not greater than 23 cm diameter as grown (see Regulation 10)
 46. Succulent in a pot maximum 23 cm diameter as grown (see Regulation 10)
 47. Exhibit consisting of one vase with one flower and a plate containing one vegetable or fruit
 48. Fuchsia – in a pot not more than 23 cm diameter as grown
 49. Fuchsia – 6 mounted flower heads (boxes provided by the Society)
 50. A container of plants as grown

SECTION 3 - DOMESTIC CLASSES

See Regulation 11

51. Ginger Cake (see recipe below)
 52. Apple Tart – maximum 20cm diameter
 53. 4 Oatcakes
 54. 4 Chocolate Brownies
 55. Jam – 1 jar - must have wax discs & cellophane tops
 56. Chutney – 1 jar - must have vinegar-proof lid
- For Classes 55 and 56 see *Guide to Exhibitors - Domestic Preserves*
57. A set of 3 Photographs (max 13cm x 18cm) – Nature's harvest
 58. A hand crafted article – knitted or crocheted
 59. A hand crafted article - needlecraft
 60. Any other hand crafted article
 61. Floral Arrangement not exceeding 17cm width and depth, 25cm height

SECTION 4 - JUNIOR CLASSES

See Regulation 11

Age must be given on entry form

Age up to 6

62. Leaf collage or picture
63. Painted stone
64. Animal from recycled materials
65. Decorate a plain biscuit

Age 7 to 14

66. Leaf collage or picture
67. Painted stone
68. Animal from recycled materials
69. Make and decorate a plain biscuit

SECTION 5 - "HAVE A GO" CLASSES

Just for fun - does not count towards aggregate trophies

70. Longest runner bean
71. Most misshapen vegetable
72. Heaviest potato

Ginger Cake Recipe

115 g butter	285 g plain flour
179 g black treacle	55 g brown sugar
55 g golden syrup	1 rounded teaspoon mixed spice
140 ml milk	1 level teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
2 large eggs	2 level teaspoons ground ginger

For the Icing

50 g icing sugar, sifted
1 tablespoon (15 ml) lemon juice
1 level teaspoon finely grated lemon zest
Chopped stem ginger

1. Preheat the oven to 155°C/135°C fan/310°F/Gas Mark 2.
2. Grease and line a 900g (2lb) loaf tin.
3. Using a large saucepan, warm together butter, treacle and syrup. Add milk and allow the mixture to cool. Beat eggs and add to cooled mixture.
4. Sift dry ingredients together in a mixing bowl.
5. Add the cooled mixture and blend in with a tablespoon.
6. Turn mixture into the prepared tin and bake on the middle shelf for 75-90 minutes
7. To make the icing, mix together icing sugar and lemon zest, then gradually add lemon juice until you have a smooth, slightly runny icing. Add more juice, if needed. Drizzle icing over surface of cake and decorate with pieces of stem ginger.

VISIT TO AUDLEY END GARDENS IN AUGUST



We enjoyed perfect weather for our outing to Audley End Gardens in August, and learned a lot about the development of the gardens in relation to the use and status of the house itself, and to the changing fashions in garden design.

We all live locally, so of course we've walked round the gardens many times before, but our expert guide told us so much more about their fascinating history.

This was our first garden visit since the pandemic, and is a further sign of the Horticultural Society's return to its previous levels of activity. We know how much members have enjoyed these garden outings in the past, and we're planning to continue with more visits and outings next summer. Watch this space!

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Growing of Bridge End Gardens

Monday 13th October 2025, 7:00pm at the Saffron Community Link



Saffron Walden is home to a very unusual “detached” Victorian garden. Award-winning landscape architect Liz Lake, chair of The Friends of Bridge End Garden, will outline the history of the garden and take you on an illustrated walk around to look at things you may not have noticed before.

A Passion for Alpines

Thursday 13th November 2025, 7pm 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.

Annual General Meeting

Monday 1st December 2025, 7:00pm at the Saffron Community Link

A short business meeting will be followed by seasonal refreshments (mince pies!) and a (non-expert) horticultural quiz.

Tropical Tresco - The Abbey Gardens

Monday 16th March 2026, 7:00 pm at the Saffron Community Link

Tresco in the Scilly Isles is famous for the sub-tropical Abbey Garden, established in the 19th century by the then-owner of the islands, Augustus Smith. The collections were greatly expanded in the early 20th century by Arthur Dorrien-Smith who was a member of the 1907 sub-Antarctic Islands Expedition, and who travelled widely in New Zealand, Australia and South Africa. The Abbey Gardens now have 20,000 plants from over 80 countries. Robin Carsberg is an experienced speaker and RHS judge, and his talk will be fully illustrated.

Flowers From Garden to Table All Year Round

Monday 13th April 2026, 7:00pm at the Saffron Community Link

(Please note the change of date for this event)

A vase of flowers on the table is a lovely sight! Anna Taylor has over 20 years experience as a horticulturalist and plantswoman and writes, talks and teaches about growing flowers to cut. She has a micro flower farm and studio in Saffron Walden, and advocates for naturally and locally grown cut flowers to increase our connections to nature and reduce the huge impact of the cut flower industry. Her illustrated talk will be about the plants we can grow in our own garden borders to keep our flower arrangements bright - and local - throughout the year.

Spring Flower Show

Sunday 29th March 2026 at Swards End Village Hall

I'm already looking forward to the daffodils!

Summer Rose and Floral Show

Sunday 14th June 2026 at Swards End Village Hall

... but a lot of gardening between now and then!

Entry to Saffron Walden Horticultural Society Shows is free.

Entry to talks organised by the Society is £2 for members, £5 for non-members.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST...

At 8:00 pm on Wednesday 1st October at Ickleton Village Hall, Frogge Street, Ickleton, Simon White (Garden Centre Manager of Peter Beales Roses) will be sharing his knowledge and advising on how every garden can feature the perfect rose. This event is hosted by the Great Chesterford & District Gardening Society, and non-members are welcome to attend.

At 1:00 pm on Saturday 3rd October at Barkway Village Hall, Cambridge Road, Barkway, Royston SG8 8GS, as part of the Barkway Literary Festival, there will be a particularly exciting horticultural/literary event featuring Nic Wilson and Kate Bradbury, two Guardian Country Diary columnists, who have recently released books concerning gardening and the natural world. Nic Wilson's 'Land Beneath the Waves' is a memoir about the healing powers of the natural world and her experience with chronic illness. Kate Bradbury's book 'One Garden Against the World' depicts her new garden through a positive call for promoting biodiversity and climate action. Tickets for the event are £10 (plus an 84p booking fee) and are available at <https://www.barkwaylitfest.co.uk/> and some on the door. This cost is redeemable against book purchases over £20.

Look forward to seeing you, and your exhibits, at the Show on 28th September - I'll be helping with the tea and cakes!

With best wishes from your membership secretary,

Hilary Shibata