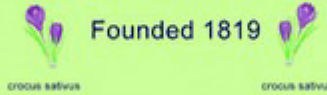


Saffron Walden Horticultural Society



NEWSLETTER

LATE AUTUMN 2025

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- Christmas Social and AGM on Monday 1st December at 6:45 pm
- Autumn Flower and Produce Show – results and pictures
- Shows, Talks and other Events for your diary in 2026

Dear Member,

As the nights are drawing in the time has come for just thinking about gardening, rather than actually doing it – so I hope you've managed to get most of your outdoor autumn jobs done.

I'm feeling very pleased with myself – we've managed to plant overwintering onions, broad beans and garlic up at the allotment! The rest of the beds are a bit of a mess, but hey ho!



CHRISTMAS SOCIAL, AGM and QUIZ

Monday 1st December at 6:45

This will start at 6:45 pm on Monday 1st December at the Saffron Community Link on Market Street – next to the Building Society – with a hot drink, a mince pie, and a moment to meet other members before we get down to the business of the Annual General Meeting at 7:15. There will be brief reports on activities in 2025 and plans for next year; money matters; and membership of the Society. Your Committee has been busy updating the Society's Constitution and hope you will approve it at the AGM.

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Membership Report
4. Show Reports
5. New Constitution
6. Election of Committee
7. Programme for 2026
8. Any other Business

We would very much welcome some new members to join the Committee – horticultural expertise is useful, but not necessary. It's more about pitching in and getting things done when we're setting up one of the Shows!

There will be a Picture Quiz (non-expert!), a raffle, some gardening books for you to take away, and plenty of time after the formal part of the evening for more chat and at least one more mince pie...

AUTUMN FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW

What a fantastic show! The hall was buzzing with enthusiasm - and enjoyment...

This was our biggest show since the pandemic, and we had to put up quite a few extra tables which meant the hall was full of lovely things to look at!

In all, there were 183 exhibits from 23 exhibitors, several of whom hadn't exhibited at our shows before. It was also very good to welcome several new members. The kitchen was kept busy all afternoon serving home-made refreshments to all our visitors.



Peter Cranfield won the Babington Smith Trophy for most points in the Show, and the Sewell Cup and the Saffron Walden Plate for most points and best exhibit in the vegetable classes. Sharon Davey won the Acrow Bowl for most points in the flower and fruit classes. Paddy McKeown carried off the Joe Coe Memorial Trophy for best bloom in the dahlia classes, and Vicky Rutherford took the Harry Green Trophy for best bloom in the rose classes. I went home with the Walker Trophy for most points in the domestic classes. In the junior classes Chloe Hollidge won the Scrivener Cup for most points, and Jack Hollidge won Eric the Hedgehog for best exhibit - a beautifully painted stone.

As this was the last Horticultural Society Show of 2025, two very special prizes were awarded: Sharon Davey won the Ellis Rooke Cup for most points in all three shows in 2025; and Ariella Quantrill won the Tom Green Cup for most points in the junior classes in all three shows.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 2026



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 a well-known speaker and RHS judge, and his talk will be fully illustrated.

Spring Flower Show

Sunday 29th March 2026 at Swards End Village Hall

There's not a lot going on in the vegetable garden at this time of year - but the daffodills are absolutely unbelievable! The 1993 Spring Show in Saffron Walden was the first time I'd been to a horticultural show since I was a little girl, and it blew my mind...

Flowers From Garden to Table All Year Round

Monday 13th April 2026, 7:00 pm 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 grown in our own garden borders to keep our flower arrangements bright - and local - throughout the year.

Summer Rose and Floral Show

Sunday 14th June 2026 at Swards End Village Hall

Lots of flowers from our gardens, early veg from our allotments, as well as cakes, jam and crafts on show. Great fun!

Summer Garden Outing to Anglesey Abbey

July or August, date to be confirmed

In July 2025 we enjoyed a special visit to the gardens at Audley End House, led by an expert guide. In 2026 our Chairman, David Livermore, will be taking us on a guided tour of the grounds at Anglesey Abbey near Cambridge, where he has been volunteering in the gardens. Though I've often visited Anglesey Abbey, I'm really looking forward to an insider's view...

Members' Garden Party

... probably in August, date and venue to be announced. Strawberries and scones are definitely on the menu.

Autumn Flower and Produce Show

Sunday 13th September 2026 at Swards End Village Hall

Often the biggest show of the year because the flowers are still blooming and the veg are at their best!

September Talk - to be arranged

Low Impact Gardens and Long-Term Gains in a Changing Climate

Monday 19th October 2026, 7:00 pm at the Saffron Community Link

Jacq and Wills Landscapes is an award-winning family run business designing and maintaining gardens in and around Saffron Walden. They will be sharing their expertise in creating sustainable, manageable and enjoyable gardens suitable for local conditions.

Christmas Social and AGM

Monday 30th November 2026, 6:45 pm at the Saffron Community Link

A date for next year's diary...

Entry to Saffron Walden Horticultural Society Shows is free. Entry to talks organised by the Society is £2 for members, £5 for non-members.
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Look forward to seeing you at the AGM and Social on Monday 1st.
With best wishes from your membership secretary,



Hilary Shibata