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Dear Member,

We're very pleased to be able to bring back Horticultural Society Talks! And we're very grateful to the Saffron Building Society who provide the Saffron Community Link and make life so much easier for local groups and organisations like us. **The Community Link is in Market Street just next to the Saffron Building Society at CB10 1HX.** Do come along to enjoy the venue as well as the talks - and it's a great opportunity to meet other members, renew your membership for 2025, and pick up your new membership card!



## Chile Top to Toe

**Monday 3rd March, 7:00 p.m., Saffron Community Link**

Liz Livermore has visited Chile twice, both times with expert botanist guides (Martin Gardner and Sabina Knees of Edinburgh Botanic Garden, and David Hazelgove, past President of the Alpine Garden Society, and Daniel Montesinos, a Peruvian botanist who has described 29 new species in the Andes mountains). She will give an illustrated talk about her travels and the plants she met along the way. This will be followed by question time and refreshments. Members £2, guests £5.

# His Lordship's Food and Flowers

**Monday 7th April, 7:00 p.m., Saffron Community Link**

As a young man of 17, Thomas Challis went to work as an undergardener in the wonderful gardens at Audley End, arriving in June 1795 and staying until 1798. Thomas was literate and kept a recently discovered, neatly written diary of his daily work, which reveals a fascinating picture of what was going on in the vegetable and flower gardens of a great county house in the early Regency period. Susan Jellis has transcribed his diaries for English Heritage. There will be time for questions and refreshments after her talk. Members £2, guests £5.



## SPRING DAFFODIL AND FLORAL SHOW

**Sunday 13th April 2025, Swards End Village Hall**

February is a bit grim and grey, but March is just around the corner and by April it will be well and truly Spring! We had lots of daffodils in our garden last year, and this year I'll be watching them carefully and hoping that some of them are at their best for 13th April...helped by Robin Crouchman's tips in the Autumn Newsletter.

The full Schedule of Classes for the Spring Show will shortly be available on the Society's website at [www.swhortsoc.org.uk](http://www.swhortsoc.org.uk). It includes an illustrated guide to the various varieties of daffodil, and details of other flowers and plants included in this show. There are also several delicious domestic classes, and an Easter Cake recipe, as well as Junior Classes so children up to 14 years old can join in the fun.

### OTHER SOCIETY EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2025

#### **SUMMER ROSE AND FLORAL SHOW**

Saturday 21st June 2025, Swards End Village Hall

#### **AUTUMN FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW**

Sunday 28th September 2025, Swards End Village Hall

#### ***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.

#### ***Summer Garden Party***

This will be at a member's house in Radwinter in early July - date to be confirmed.

# MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



## NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME OPENING AT GROVE LODGE, SAFFRON WALDEN

3 CHATERS HILL, SAFFRON WALDEN CB10 2AB

This large walled garden close to the town centre has unusually high biodiversity and its light free-draining chalk soil allows bulbs, hellebores and winter-flowering shrubs to thrive.

### Sunday 23rd February and Sunday March 16th from 14:00 to 17:00

In February you can see the tail-end of the aconites, thousands of snowdrops, the start of crocuses and daffodils, hundreds of hellebores with Daphnes and possibly Sarcococca starting to flower. Though the snowdrops will be starting to fade by March, the daffodils will be at their peak and there should still be variegated Daphne flowering, as well as hyacinths and hundreds of violets and primroses.

### Sunday 15th June

Though the Spring flowers will be gone, June is the time for geraniums, alliums, and campanulae. There are plans for music too - a woodwind quartet and possibly tunes from the keyboard.

### Other Information

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)

## GRANTA CHORALE : A CHORAL HERBARIUM

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 4 pm

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, MILL LANE, LITTLEBURY, CB11 4TD

A Spring concert with a horticultural theme, celebrating gardens and gardeners from Capability Brown to the compost heap. Includes flower songs by Britten, Whitacre, Lauridsen and Holst, and many other musical horticultural delights. The concert starts at 4 pm and refreshments will be available when the music finishes at about 5 pm. Tickets are £15, or £5 for under 25s, and will be available on the door or from the Granta Chorale website, [www.grantachorale.org.uk](http://www.grantachorale.org.uk)

## MEMBERSHIP OF SAFFRON WALDEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Subscriptions of £5 per person for 2025-26 will be due at the beginning of March. 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. I'll be sending details at the end of February about how to pay your 2025 subscription.

Membership Cards can be collected at Chile Top to Toe on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, or any of the other Society events this year.

Bye for now, and hope your garden is gradually coming back to life.

From your Membership Secretary,

*Hilary Shibata*