



IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

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- The Summer Show is on Sunday 4th June - see what you can bring to the table
- An update on the historical Horticultural Society dishes...
- Special guided tour of the gardens at Anglesey Abbey on Sunday 28th June
- The late Kate Chambers and the Horticultural Society
- Society shows, talks and other events in 2026, plus a new date for 2027
- Other Summer dates for your diaries - including Open Gardens in the villages

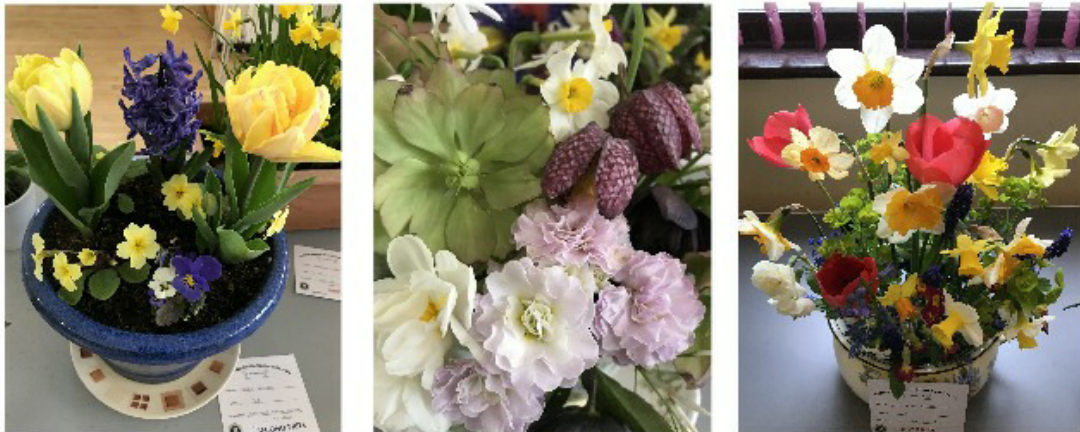
Dear Member,

First, a warm welcome to all our new members. We look forward to meeting you again over the Summer, especially at the Summer Rose and Floral Show, which will be on Sunday 14th June at Swards End Village Hall. Great fun, great flowers, great cakes!

Next, thank you to our first two speakers of the year: Robin Carsberg, who took us for a fascinating walk around the sub-tropical Abbey Gardens in the Isles of Scilly; and Anna Taylor who made a very convincing and beautiful case for bringing flowers from our gardens indoors to make our homes just lovely all year round.

Spring Daffodil and Floral Show

It was a wonderful way to welcome the Spring! And though it's always difficult to get the timing right, especially as the world seems to warm up earlier every year, this year the daffodils were spectacular. Well, I would say that, wouldn't I - it's my favourite Show of the year!



Being mainly daffodils the predominant colours were yellow, orange and white - but the rest of Spring was well-represented, as you can see. We are grateful to Michael Baxter for his photos of some of the winning blooms. Saffron Walden Deputy Mayor Jeanette Curtis, shown above with Florence and Oscar, presented the prizes to the winners - who were:

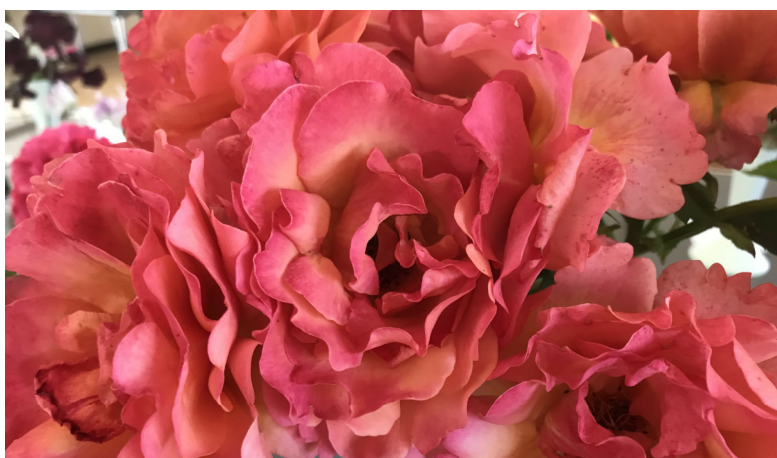
- **Peter & Jacqui Wilkins**, who won the Adams Harrison Cup (most points in show), the Townley Trophy (most points in Daffodil Classes 1-21), the Ida Hawthorn Vase (winner of Class 1) and the Daffodil Society Medal (best daffodil exhibit in show); David Livermore was runner-up for the Adams Harrison Cup and the Townley Trophy, and Charlotte Heales was runner-up for the Ida Hawthorn Vase
- **Sharon Davey** won the Barnard Vase (most points in Flower Section Classes 22-37) with Charlotte Heales and Peter & Jacqui Wilkins as joint runners-up
- ... and if you were puzzled by the chocolate cakes amongst all the flowers, **Vera Wilson** won the Saffron Trophy (most points in the Domestic Section Classes 38-43) with Hilary Shibata (me!) as the runner-up
- In the Junior Section, **Ariella Quantrill** won the Scrivener Cup (most points in the Junior Section) with Oscar Norris as runner-up
- **Florence Norris** won the Rickett Shield for the best exhibit
- and **Oscar Norris** won the Townley Cup for his very scary spider.

If you're a shy gardener and hesitate in case people think you're a show-off - these events aren't just about winning. Saffron Walden's a small country town, and horticultural shows are one of the most enjoyable parts of living in the country! And it's all the more interesting if some of your flowers (fruit/vegetables/cakes/jam/crafty things) are on the tables... Give it a try.

One Show After Another!

SUMMER ROSE AND FLORAL SHOW

Sunday 14th June at Swards End Village Hall



There will, of course, be lots of roses! But there will be masses of other summer flowers to admire, so I'm including the full Schedule of Classes, which lists the entire menu. I know it's a whole two months till the Show, but have a look and think about what you might be able to bring. Taking part is fun, and makes an afternoon at the Show so much more interesting.

The full Schedule and Entry Form are on the Society's website (swhortsoc.org.uk) with a very helpful Guide for Exhibitors which tells you all you need to know if you've never brought anything to a show before. There are also classes for soft fruit, herbs, early vegetables, baking, jams and handicrafts, and of course the Junior Classes - such fun!

Whether you're exhibiting or not, an afternoon at the Show is a lovely little summer outing, with teas, cakes, a raffle, plant stall ... and the chat. Look forward to seeing you there!

SUMMER ROSE & FLORAL SHOW

SUNDAY 14 JUNE 2026

SEWARDS END VILLAGE HALL, RADWINTER RD, SEWARDS END, CB10 2LG

Staging of exhibits between 9.00 and 10.30 am

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

SECTION 1 – FLOWERS

1. 1 bloom large flowered Rose, any colour
2. 3 blooms large flowered Roses, one variety
3. 3 blooms large flowered Roses, mixed varieties
4. 1 stem Cluster flowered Rose
5. 3 stems Cluster flowered Roses, one variety
6. 3 stems Cluster flowered Roses, mixed varieties
7. 3 stems Miniature and/or Patio Roses, one or more varieties
8. 3 stems Rambler and/or Climbing Roses, one or more varieties
9. 3 stems Old Fashioned and/or Shrub Roses, one or more varieties
10. Container of Roses (maximum **7 stems**)
11. 1 stem - Rose/Roses any variety for **novices** (open to anyone who has not previously won a **First** prize exhibiting roses)
12. 3 stems Sweet Peas, one variety
13. 3 stems Sweet Peas, mixed varieties
14. A container of Mixed Flowers (own foliage permitted) Max. 9 stems
15. A container of Flowers all the same variety - 5 Stems
16. Display of Foliage in a container
17. Pinks or Carnations – 5 stems
18. Flowering Trees or Shrubs – 3 stems
19. Two Hosta Leaves in a Vase
20. Three Clematis Blooms
21. One Pot Plant for foliage (excluding Pelargoniums)
22. One Pot Plant in flower (excluding Orchids and Pelargoniums)
23. One Pelargonium in a pot – shown for flower or foliage
24. One Orchid Plant in bloom (must have been in exhibitor's possession for 6 months)
25. A container of plants as grown
26. One cactus or succulent in a container as grown
27. Exhibit consisting of one vase containing one flower and one plate containing one vegetable or fruit

SECTION 2 - FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

28. Currants (black, white or red) - 6 strigs
29. Strawberries – 6 with stalks
30. Raspberries – 6 with stalks
31. Dish of any other fruit (min. quantity 2 – Max 6)
32. Rhubarb – 3 sticks
33. Herbs - 4 varieties in separate containers - **selected from the following list:**
Basil, Bay, Chives, Mint (only 1 variety may be used), Parsley, Oregano, Rosemary, Thyme, Sage (*Salvia officinalis* only), Fennel (not Florence Fennel)
34. Broad Beans - 6 pods
35. Garden Peas - 6 pods
36. Beetroot - 3
37. Any other Vegetable not listed above (NOTE: **Two** entries may be made in this class, but they must be **DIFFERENT** kinds of vegetable)
38. Collection of Vegetables (including salads) – 3 different kinds in a tray maximum 61 cm by 61 cm – quantity 2 of each

SECTION 3 – DOMESTIC & ARTISTIC CLASSES

39. Butternut Squash Cake (see recipe below)
40. 4 Cheese Scones
41. 4 Jam Tarts
42. Jam – 1 jar (must have wax discs & cellophane tops)
43. Fruit Jelly – 1 jar (must have wax discs & cellophane tops)
44. A picture – any medium, max space 45 cm
45. A hand crafted article – knitwear or crochet
46. Any other hand crafted article
47. A pattern of flower heads floating in a bowl of water – max 20cm diameter

SECTION 4 – JUNIOR CLASSES (Age must be stated on entry form)

Age up to 6

48. An arrangement of flowers in a jam jar – max 7 stems
49. “Football World Cup”– a picture in any medium - max A4 size
50. A miniature garden on a seed tray. Garden to use only natural materials

Age from 7 to 14

51. An arrangement of flowers in a jam jar – max 7 stems
52. “Football World Cup”– a picture in any medium - max A4 size
53. A miniature garden on a seed tray. Garden to use only natural materials

BUTTERNUT SQUASH CAKE

Ingredients

- 175g self raising flour
- ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1 tsp ground mixed spice
- 1 tsp ground ginger

150g light brown soft sugar
125g butternut squash, grated
50g sultanas
50g walnuts, roughly chopped
100ml sunflower oil
2 eggs
100g low fat plain yogurt
½ tsp vanilla essence

For the topping

140g butter
280g icing sugar
1–2 tbsp milk
¼ tsp vanilla essence

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C (For fan ovens 160°C), gas mark 4. Grease and line a 900g / 2lb loaf tin (approx. inside diameter 22cm long x 11 cm wide x 6cm deep) with baking parchment.
2. Mix flour, bicarbonate of soda, spices, sugar, squash, sultanas and walnuts thoroughly in a large bowl.
3. Whisk the oil, eggs, yogurt and vanilla in a second bowl or jug until smooth, then pour into the dry ingredients and stir until combined.
4. Pour the mixture into the lined tin, level the top and bake for 50–55 minutes (or until a skewer comes out clean).
5. Remove from the tin when fully cooled.
6. To make the topping: Beat the softened butter, icing sugar and vanilla essence together in a large bowl until smooth. Beat in the milk, as necessary, to loosen the mixture. Spread evenly over the top of the cake.

History Mystery not quite solved...



We still don't know exactly when or why these dishes were made, but we do know a bit more about their later history. Horticultural Shows have always been the main events in the Society's calendar, and very few Shows of any kind were organised during the Second World War, understandably. By 1951, membership had declined to a point where we had to disband. For the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 Councillor (and later Mayor) George Scrivener organised a very successful Rose Show, which evolved into the Saffron Walden Rose Society, which soon led to the re-establishment of the Horticultural Society.

It was around that time that a quantity of these Horticultural Society dishes were discovered in the Town Hall. As the Society didn't have anywhere to store them and didn't know what it might use them for, they were sold to members and the proceeds used for the Society's new incarnation.

After two dishes were brought in to the Tourist Information Office in January, we found another five that had been returned to the Society at various times. Faced with the same question - where do we store them, and what might we do with them? - we came to the same conclusion. The dishes were sold to members at the Spring Daffodil and Floral Show in March, and the proceeds will help us to fund future Horticultural Shows.

SUMMER OUTING TO THE GARDENS OF ANGLESEY ABBEY Sunday 28th June



Surprisingly, there are some people in Saffron Walden who've never been to Anglesey Abbey... But if you're like us and go there quite often (the grounds are huge, lovely and it only takes about half an hour by car) you'll still be in for a rare gardeners' treat! Our Chairman, David Livermore, will take us on an insiders guided tour of the gardens, where he has been working as a volunteer. The famous Herbaceous Border was designed in the 1950s and has over 150 species of perennials. The Rose Garden, extended in 2024, has over 60 varieties. Both should be at their best in late June.

We will meet in the Reception Area at the entrance to Anglesey Abbey from 10:30, and the tour proper will start at 11:00 and last about an hour and a half. After the guided tour, members will be free to go for lunch on site at their own expense - the National Trust has the Redwoods Restaurant (probably busy) but there are a fair number of seats scattered around so you could

bring sandwiches and picnic in the grounds. You can also explore other areas of the grounds (the wildflower meadows will be lovely too).

The guided tour itself is free, but numbers will be limited so I will email a form to all members within the next week or so. For now, just **save the date!**

KATE CHAMBERS

Many members will remember Kate with affection. She was a very long-standing member of the Saffron Walden Horticultural Society, and served on the Committee as Show Secretary and Secretary for nearly 20 years. She was very good with dahlias and won many trophies, as well as being an accredited Judge with the National Dahlia Society. Kate passed way in March and was buried on 9th April at the Hamlet Church near her old home in Duddenhoe End.



HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 2026 - AND 2027!

Summer Rose and Floral Show

Sunday 14th June 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

Sunday 28th June

Chairman, David Livermore, will be taking us on an insiders' guided tour of the grounds at Anglesey Abbey near Cambridge, where he has been volunteering in the gardens.

Members' Garden Party

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

Autumn Flower and Produce Show

Sunday 13th September at Swards End Village Hall

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

Alpine Flowers of the Upper Engadine

Monday 14th September, 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:45)

At the Saffron Community Link

Liz Livermore's illustrated talk will take us through some of the spectacular scenery of the Upper Engadine in SE Switzerland with its outstanding range of alpine flowers, from edelweiss, gentians, saxifrages and primroses to snowbells, glacier crowfoot, martagon lilies and various orchids.

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

Monday 19th October, 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:45)

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, 6:45 pm at the Saffron Community Link

Mince pies and planning for 2027...

NEW NEWS!

Spring Daffodil and Floral Show

Sunday 21st March 2027 at Swards End Village Hall

Entry to Saffron Walden Horticultural Society Shows is free.

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

There's lots going on in and around Saffron Walden in the Summer. Here are some of the events for which we've been asked to spread the word...

GREAT CHESTERFORD & DISTRICT GARDENING SOCIETY

(Affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society)



Wednesday 6th May 2026 at 7.30 p.m.

FROM CUTTING TO GARDEN CENTRE

Speaker : Graham Spencer

Plants for Europe was established in 2003 to provide the first truly independent pan-European breeders' rights agency service. Graham will give us a behind-the-scenes view of how plants are grown for our gardens.

MEETING VENUE

Ickleton Village Hall, Frogge Street, Ickleton

Competition Subject : Late Spring Flower

Visitors and New Members Always Welcome



A VERY SPECIAL GARDEN PARTY...

Sunday 7th June

Ashdon Hall in Essex has magnificent, extensive, and hitherto very private landscaped gardens, including scenic water features and mature trees. Topiary walls have been used to create different rooms within the 9-acre grounds - summer, winter, hot garden, alliums... There's a lake, with a bridge, and an amazing topiary avenue. This is a rare opportunity to enjoy these wonderful gardens, at the same time as supporting the Saffron Walden Almshouses Charity. You will need to apply for tickets in advance - email jake@swalmshouses.org



King Edward VI
Almshouses
Charity No: 210590



Saffron Walden Almshouse Charity

ASHDON HALL GARDEN PARTY

Support our work to deliver 16 affordable, accessible, and eco-friendly homes in the heart of Saffron Walden.

JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY SUMMER CELEBRATION

Delicious Afternoon Tea · White Wine · Soft Drinks · Sandwiches · Savouries · Eton Mess · Live Chamber Music · Raffle · Face Painting · Plant Stalls



Sunday, June 7th 2026
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Ashdon Hall (4 miles from
Saffron Walden)



Tickets are priced at £25 per person and £5 per child. Please email jake@swalmshouses.org, stating the number of tickets required. You can also call us at 07517480621 to make a booking.



Great Chishill **OPEN GARDENS**



In aid of ~St Swithun's Church

Sunday 7 June
12 noon - 5.00pm

Entrance £5 Per Person (children free). Maps, Programme

and Refreshments available from St Swithun's Church

1.00pm Performance by Chishill
Voices in the churchyard

Grove Lodge Open Garden

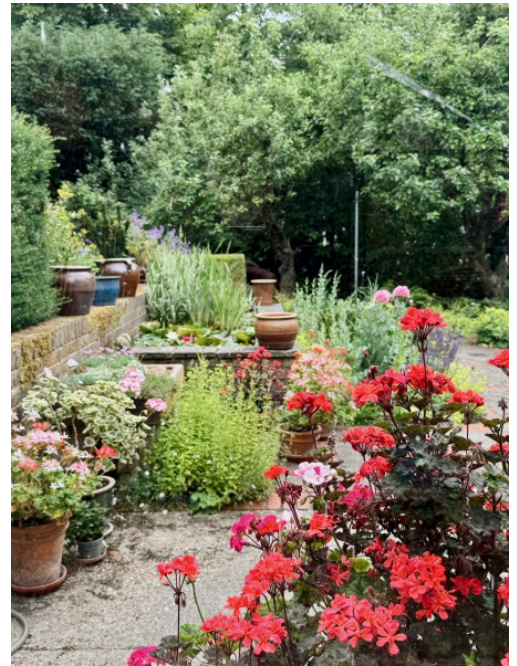
Sunday 14th June, 14:00 to 17:00

The garden at Grove Lodge will be open again on June 14 from 2 - 5 pm to raise money for national (mainly) nursing charities under the National Garden Scheme. There will be live music and as usual tea/coffee and home-made cakes available. The entrance charge for adults is £6 with extra for tea and cake with all money raised being paid to the National Gardens Scheme.

In June there are many geraniums, Perovskia (Russian sage), Salvias, poppies, Hydrangeas, honeysuckles and Pelargoniums among other plants.

Come and enjoy the garden and then relax with tea and cake listening to peaceful summer music.

The full address is Grove Lodge, 3 Chaters Hill, Saffron Walden CB10 2AE



That's all for now - it's time to get back to my allotment (the asparagus is delicious!)
With best wishes from your Membership Secretary,

Hilary Shibata