

Walberton Gardeners Club

Newsletter

September 2024



Dear Members,

Well, here we are with another September. I don't know where the summer has gone too. However, we still have more events to look forward too, with details below.

Autumn Flower Show Saturday 14th September.

Last year we had a fantastic Autumn Show, with Pumpkins, Sunflowers and of course lots of wonderful colourful flowers. It appears nature is making the most of her bounty before everything goes to sleep for the oncoming winter. Let's try to make this year even more of an occasion. Please remember to make your entries by Wednesday 11th September, as we do not have late entries anymore. This little change made such a difference to our organisation, you would not believe the difference it made.

Parham House Thursday 19th September Meet at Parham 12.00 noon. – 16.30

If you would like to join us on our trip to Parham Gardens & House please could you let Brenda know asap, preferably before the Autumn Flower Show if possible. The entry fee is just £10.00 payable when you request to join us. You can pay by cash or bank transfer. We are not having a coach for this trip, as they are so expensive, and Parham is not very far away. We are offering a car share. So, if you can offer anyone a lift that would be fantastic and if you would like to have a lift, please just let us know. You are welcome to bring a picnic, but you may prefer to have lunch in the restaurant, or café. If you would like to visit inside the house the fee for this is £4.00 payable on the day.

Autumn Talk – The Trials & Tribulations of Lordington Lavender – Wednesday 30th October Walberton Pavilion 2.30.

Due to unforeseen circumstances the scheduled talk on Sustainable Gardening had to be cancelled. However, we have been very lucky in securing Andrew Elms, of Lordington Lavender. His talk promises to be informative, light-hearted and a fun way to spend an autumn afternoon. It would be lovely if we could fill the Pavilion with our enthusiastic gardeners. Needless to say, there will be Tea & Cake.

Trophies

If you won a trophy at last years autumn Show, I would be most grateful if you could return it when you make your entry for this years show. Also, this year, we have three new

awards to be won, which means that we now have a trophy for each section. Also, the points from each section will go towards the annual trophies. We aim to have one annual award for each section. All very exciting and progressive.

September – Jobs in the Garden.

- Flower Garden
- Continue to feed and deadhead hanging basket and container annuals — they will often keep going until the first frosts.
- Keep deadheading annuals and perennials to extend their performance.
- Deadhead your penstemons, dahlias, and roses to keep flowers coming.
- Divide herbaceous perennials as the weather cools. Plant and water in the new divisions well.
- Prune any late-summer flowering shrubs, such as the rock rose (Helianthemum).
- Prune climbing roses and rambling roses once they've finished flowering (unless they are repeat-flowering varieties, in which case leave them until later in the year).
- Keep camellias and rhododendrons well watered at this time of year to ensure that next year's buds develop well.
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- Vegetable Garden
- Pinch out the tips of outdoor cordon tomato plants to concentrate the plant's energy into ripening fruits, and not producing further growth.
- Harvest sweetcorn. To test if it's ready, pinch a kernel — it will release a milky sap when ripe. If the kernels are starchy, you've left it too late. If they're watery they need a little longer to ripen.
- Pull or cut off the foliage of maincrop potatoes at ground level three weeks before lifting them. This will prevent blight spores infecting the tubers as you lift them, and help to firm the skins of the potatoes.
- Spread newly dug potatoes out to dry for a few hours before storing them in a cool, dark place. Store them in paper or hessian sacks, as this will allow the crop to breathe while it's in storage. Only store undamaged, disease-free tubers — one rotten potato can ruin your whole crop!
- Help pumpkins ripen in time for Halloween by removing any leaves shading the fruits.
- Raise pumpkins and squashes off the ground to prevent rotting. Place them on a piece of slate or wood.
- Keep feeding and watering French and runner beans to keep them producing. Continue harvesting little and often to prevent them setting seed.
- Cut bean and pea plants away at ground level when they have finished cropping. Leave the roots, as this will slowly release nitrogen back into the soil as they break down

Thank you from your Committee

Liz Hewson (Chair), Brenda Bailey, Sue Atkins & Douglas Callander.