

# Walberton Gardeners Club

## Newsletter – January 2025

Dear Members,



Happy New Year everyone. Last year we had a fantastic year. We staged Three Flower Shows, Two Excursions to interesting gardens, Two very informative Talks, Re-instated Walberton Open Gardens Sunday, Village Fete, Dog Show and had a stand at Binsted Strawberry Fair, AGM, Christmas Coffee Morning and of course the Summer Cream Tea. Thanks to the success of our club, we have been able to purchase another ten tables to use at our Flower Shows in the Village Hall also 60 mugs, which we christened at the Christmas Coffee Morning. The whole year was excellent for us. Both Open Gardens Sunday and Binsted Strawberry Fair are bi-annual events. We hope to keep growing and improving steadily. We are now planning to buy new table coverings which we hope will enhance the look of our exhibits at the Flower Shows. We aim to be leaders not followers in the flower show stakes.

January is the beginning of the gardening year – a time for fresh starts, renewed energy and grand plans for the twelve months ahead and time to look forward to what 2025 might bring. Lets' hope that it includes lots of good growing weather. The Committee have been working hard over the last few weeks on the new schedule, which I hope you will all be delighted with. As usual it will be ready for you to receive at the Annual General Meeting in April. Please don't throw away your copies of last year's schedule as it has the Spring Show at the back of it. This year we have four new trophies to be awarded for exhibits in the Spring Show. They are for Fruit & Vegetables, Pot Plants, Handicraft and Photography Classes.

At the last Spring show, it was a real treat to walk into the hall and see all the exhibits, especially all the Flower Arranging. This time, we have four classes for you to choose from including a Hand Tied Posy.

The Cookery section has six classes for the cakes etc and four in the Marmalade section. Please remember that if you intend to enter these classes, to use new lids on your screw top jars and cellophane covers on the Lemon Curd.

The Cut Flower section even includes classes for just one daffodil and one tulip. I am sure that we can all enter that class. We have a new class for you this time and that is for Helebores, both stems and florets. Please remember that the flowers etc must have been grown in your garden, or a garden or allotment rented by you. Please do not cut the lovely Helebores that grow so beautifully up the Church path. They are not yours.

If you have any more ideas for us, no matter how big or small please just let one of the Committee know. If there is anything that you are not happy with, also please let us know.

#### Jobs to do in the Garden in January.

1. Tidy up perennials and cut back old stems of perennial plants such as sedums.
2. Remove old hellebore leaves to expose the new blooms as they emerge.
3. Remove any faded flowers from your winter pansies, to stop them setting seed and therefore keep them producing more flowers.
4. Keep harvesting parsnips and leeks as you need them.
5. Force rhubarb plants by placing an upturned bucket or bin over the crown. Then tender pink stems will be ready in about eight weeks' time.
6. Order your flower & vegetable seeds
7. Order your bulbs and tubers. Also climbing plants such as clematis for early spring planting.
8. Get planning your bedding now and the layout of your garden.

Let's all try to grow at least one new plant this year that we have not grown before. There are plenty to choose from.

RHS card. Please remember that any of our members may borrow the affiliation card that our club holds. This entitles you and a guest to enter any of the RHS gardens at a reduced price, except when special events are taking place. Doug Callander (Treasurer) holds the card.

The Garden Shows As most of you are aware The Garden Show is not being staged at Stansted House this year. Instead, it is being held at Broadlands 6-8 June also at a new venue Rookesbury Park (Hants) 25-27 July. If you might be interested in attending one of these events please could you let one of the committee know. If there is enough interest, we might be able to organise a trip there for you.

When the weather is bad or you are bored, it is worth having a look at the RHS Affiliated Societies website. It is full of useful information. Also, if you use Facebook the RHS Affiliated Societies page is excellent. I have gained all sorts of information from this source. I feel that our club is very like one in Hook, East Riding Yorkshire. They seem to be a fantastic bunch of people. Another group that follow us and send us compliments are in Zimbabwe and another in Gibraltar. It is wonderful to be able to share ideas with people just like ourselves that live miles away, makes you feel not alone, when trying to battle with various gardening problems. It reminds me of the old days at school and writing to pen-pals.

Hope that you all have a happy January, and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

From Your Committee – Liz Hewson (Chair), Brenda Bailey, Doug Callander & Sue Atkins.