



# Grayshott Gardeners Newsletter September 2023

## From The Chair

Dear Members

On September 13th we have an important Keynote Speaker, Jekka McVicar, as covered elsewhere in this Newsletter. I regret I cannot attend this meeting, hence please be aware that there will be no catch up by video this month. So please ensure you do not miss the meeting with this impressive speaker.

Have you wondered what happens at our committee meetings of which there are only five per year? Why not join our committee with no specific role, but help take decisions of how we keep your club progressing. We are always looking for new ideas, and further members on the committee would help us meet members needs. Please contact me to discuss possible interest. Chair@grayshottgardeners.net or please ring me 07702-711314.

It would be remiss of me if we did not congratulate our sister organisation "Hidden Gardens" on such a successful event which raised £18,000 pounds to spend in the locality. A number of us opened our gardens and it's pleasing to see such a successful outcome.

Best wishes  
JOHN

## Spring bulbs



### Reminder!

Your spring bulbs will be available at this month's club night lecture.

Tulips £2.50/10 & Daffs £3.50/10

**Cash only please!**

## Arundel Trip



A wonderful trip to Arundel Castle Gardens was made by 37 Grayshott Gardeners' members. We had a very interesting and informative tour of the gardens and in the afternoon we all enjoyed the Castle and its beautiful grounds.



## Fuchsia Fun

If you entered the Spring Show you will have been the lucky recipient of a free 'Heidi Ann' fuchsia plug plant. The idea was that you'd all



grow on your plants for a magnificent display at this month's club night... *hopefully!* No doubt they will be all different sizes and conditions but please do bring your plant along and place it on the allocated table, together with your name on a card. Remember it's just a bit of fun! Any questions, please contact newsletter@grayshottgardeners.net

# Plant of the Month

## Japanese Anemone



To start, Japanese Anemone is a misnomer. It does not come from Japan, it originates from China. The belief is that the Japanese plant was a cultivated escapee from China several centuries ago and this plant was a parent of the many cultivated colours and forms we have today.

What is true is that the Japanese Anemone is a member of the buttercup family (Ranunculaceae).



It is a perennial, herbaceous plant, which in the right conditions will seed and spread by vigorous rhizomes. This means it can be easily propagated by division in Spring or by layered root cuttings, as well as by seed. With a wide range of varieties to choose from there is a choice of height from about 2ft (60cms) to 5ft (150cms) with vine like leaves and strong stems which need little if any staking, being ideal for the middle to the back of any herbaceous border.

This Anemone flowers profusely from August until November, depending upon variety and is prized for its late flowering habit. The flowers are mainly singles, but there are double forms such as the pure white 'Whirlwind', providing open, wide, saucer shaped flowers, ideal to attract pollinators seeking nectar and pollen. Flowers are about 2" (5cms) in diameter at the centre of which is a close bound mound of yellow green pistils, surrounded by a necklace of the brightest yellow stamens. Flowers come in white ('Honorine Jobert'), pale ('Praecox') and dark pink and the attractive 'Wild Swan' with purplish undersides to the sepals.



The Japanese Anemone prefers a moist free draining soil in sun to dappled shade. It does not like deep shade, very dry conditions or wet feet in winter. It responds to a good mulch. This late flowering gem is free from pests and diseases and fully hardy.

The Japanese Anemone ticks all of the Grayshott Gardeners' boxes!





## August Meeting

### 'Pest recognition and control'

by Andrew Halstead

Andrew gave a very informative talk on recognising and controlling pests in the garden.

He reminded us that there are rules and regulations on the use of pesticides and that we should always read the information carefully on the products before buying. Most important is to use the correct product for the type of trees, vegetables or flowers you wish to spray as some are toxic and not for use on produce which will eventually be for human consumption.

Andrew presented a detailed photographic list of all the usual garden pests along with hints and tips on how to control them starting of course with our number one favourite - slugs and snails!

Andrew suggested we always refer to the RHS website for the most up-to-date advice and information on the commercial products available for pest control, be they chemical or biological.



More details and pictures can be found on our website

[www.grayshottgardeners.net](http://www.grayshottgardeners.net)

## September Meeting

It is our great pleasure to welcome

**Jekka McVicar**

'Queen of Herbs'

to the club this month for her

Keynote Lecture on:

**'Growing and using culinary herbs'**



Jekka is a Vice President of the RHS, Vice President of the Herb Society and an RHS Ambassador. She runs her family herb farm business (Jekka's) which, with 62 RHS Gold Medals under its belt, aims to inspire people to sustainably grow and use herbs in their everyday living.

Jekka has published 8 books, most notably Jekka's Complete Herb Book which has now sold over *1 million copies* worldwide.

In 2012 Jekka was awarded the Garden Media Guild Lifetime Achievement Award "for services to horticulture, design, education and communication and excellence in the field of organic herb growing".

In 2017 Jekka was awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour for her services to horticulture.

The meeting will be held in

**Grayshott Village Hall**

**Wednesday 13th September 2023**

Light refreshments will be served

Doors open at 7.15pm ready for the lecture to begin at 8pm.

# Jobs for this month

## Gardening in September

(excerpts taken from the RHS website)

September is generally a cooler, gustier month than August and the days are noticeably shorter. While there's not as much to do in the ornamental garden at this time of the year, if you have a fruit or vegetable patch, you'll be busy reaping the rewards of harvest. It's also time to get out and start planting spring-flowering bulbs for next year and you can collect seeds for next summer's colour too.

### 1. Divide herbaceous perennials

Dividing perennials regularly will ensure healthy, vigorous plants that will continue to perform year after year. It also offers the opportunity to multiply your plants.



### 2. Pick autumn raspberries

Harvest regularly, to get fruits at the peak of ripeness, when richly coloured, plump and easy to pull off. Pick on a dry day, so the berries aren't wet.



### 3. Collect and sow seed from perennials and hardy annuals

Growing plants from seed is generally straightforward and inexpensive. It is an opportunity to increase the number of plants in your garden for free.



### More Jobs for this month

Dig up remaining potatoes before slug damage spoils them

Net ponds before leaf fall gets underway

Keep up with watering of new plants, using rain or grey water if possible

Start to reduce the frequency of houseplant watering

Clean out cold frames and greenhouses so that they are ready for use in the autumn

Cover leafy vegetable crops with bird-proof netting

Plant spring flowering bulbs

