Grayshott Gardeners' Newsletter July 2026

From the Committee

I am writing this on the day that the record set in 1976 for the highest June temperature was broken and it's due to be even hotter tomorrow! Everything in the garden is suffering despite copious evening watering.

Hopefully, temperatures will be back to normal (what ever that is!) for our July Club Night and the Summer Show. There is a separate article on the Summer Show, but I would encourage as many of you as possible to enter one or more of the classes and although your gardens are suffering due to the weather there is the home produce classes and also photography that you could enter.

Lastly, any help to clear away after the Show from about 4.15pm would be very welcome.

Graham Harvey-Browne
chair@grayshottgardeners.net

Can you help?

You will appreciate that the Club can only survive with the generous time given by its volunteers, both on and off the Committee. Please consider if you can spare some time to help. There are many opportunities to do so without necessarily having to join the Committee or committing yourself on a regular basis. For example–helping occasionally in the kitchen with refreshments or to man the sign-in table or programme board. Maybe to help with one of our plant sales.

The more people we have the more we can share the load and provide more for our Club members and it goes without saying that it's a lovely way to meet other members and make new friends.

June Meeting

'How to commit the perfect murder (and how to put the body to use in the garden afterwards)'

Guy Deakins

Sue Wheeler, Guy Deakins, Gordon Rae

Grayshott Gardeners were treated to an educational and entertaining evening with Guy Deakins.

Guy is a garden designer, plantsman, and author of Gardener's Guide to Protected Growing. Trained in design history and design psychology, he is particularly interested in neuroaesthetics—the study of how people respond to beauty.

Since founding his business in 1999, he has worked on a wide range of projects, including small courtyards, city roof gardens, Norfolk fen gardens, windswept coastal formal gardens, and country estates.

More details on the talk can be found at: grayshottgardeners.net/

July Meeting

'Bordering on Insanity - creating an all year round border'

Timothy Walker

Grayshott Gardeners is delighted to welcome Timothy Walker as our speaker this month. Timothy is a Botanist, Gardener, Presenter and Author.

Timothy graduated and worked as a trainee and latterly Director at the University of Oxford Botanic Garden. In 1985 he was awarded a Master of Horticulture by the Royal Horticultural Society of London. He has been Senior College Lecturer at various colleges since then and travels extensively giving talks.

This particular talk covers the principles and practicalities that can be adopted to create a border that is interesting all-year-round. It concludes with a look at a collection of must-have plants for such a border, and associations in which they may be grown.

The meeting will be held in

Grayshott Village Hall
Wednesday 8th July 2026

Free refreshments

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

SHOWS

I love the Summer Show. As you enter the village hall you are greeted by a glorious sight – a huge variety of flowers, plants, fruit, vegetables and floral arrangements which all compete for our attention. Delicious floral scents intermingle with the yummy smells emanating from the Home Produce table and the ever-popular homemade teas. With a title of 'My Favourite Blooms', this year even the photography competition showcases flowers.

It's always interesting to see which exhibits have been placed by the Judge(s) and sometimes you can gain a few hints and tips if the judge was kind enough to leave a few comments to explain their decision. Whether your exhibits get placed or not really doesn't matter (well, not too much anyway!) – it's the taking part that counts and helping to create a spectacle for the whole community to enjoy.

Over the past couple of months, I've given suggestions of which classes you could consider entering. Now it's decision time! Remember, the more the merrier – both in terms of exhibitors and the number of exhibits. Please note:

- Floating Flowers is a new class (12) which sounds fun and easy to do. Any flower is fine so don't worry if you don't have any waterlilies! Just remember to measure your container which mustn't be more than 20cm.

- If you have been growing the potatoes provided by the club, now is the exciting moment when you dig them up to see what you've grown to enter into hotly-contested Class 49.

- Class 67 - Our ever popular cake class is Yoghurt Cake – a truly delicious recipe. Please note the **tin size is 900g/2lb *(not 1kg)***

- **Class 75 – Devilled Eggs has been cancelled**. Mayonnaise, which might have been used in the recipe, could be an issue in a hot hall – health and safety is all important.

Somehow, the Show Team manage to display each and every exhibit in the limited space available in the hall – quite a feat. I'm sure they'll enjoy the challenge of finding space for a few more – YOURS!

So, all you need to do now is decide what to enter. Please remember that all entry forms (available in the Handbook on page 14 or also on the website) must be submitted by 5pm on Thursday 9 July, either by emailing to shows@grayshottgardeners.net (please ensure you receive an acknowledgement of receipt) or by handing into Tanchoux in Grayshott.

Finally, please support our show and encourage your friends and neighbours to attend too. It's such a fun afternoon for the whole community especially with delicious homemade teas to enjoy, plus you might be lucky on the tombola too.

Janet Hall

Tins & Strings

p.s. As I mentioned last month, the Floral arrangement class for novices is entitled 'Tins and Strings'. Many thanks to Sue Erler for this photo which should help prompt ideas for your entry in this class.

VISIT TO APULDRAM ROSES

On Friday 12th June, twenty-four of our members visited Apuldram Roses where we were invited to take a seat in the Rose Garden and enjoy tea/coffee and croissants while Elizabeth told us all about herself and her wonderful selection of roses. We were greeted by ducks, chickens and dogs as they wandered happily around all the visitors. It was great to watch Elizabeth in action as she showed us how the roses are pruned and propagated, as well as showing us lots of different examples of her roses and what we could expect from growing them. Her garden was filled with fabulous blooms of different sizes, colours and varieties. I certainly wanted one of each to bring back home!

Elizabeth Sawday

We learnt about the 'Peace' rose, featuring large creamy-yellow blossoms flushed with delicate pink, which holds the record for being one of the most famous and widely grown roses in history as well as a global symbol of hope deriving from World War II history.

She told us the importance of feeding roses with 'rose food' and that salvia Maradona is a good complementary plant for warding off nasties. Why it's necessary to have gloves that go over the wrist (think gauntlet) and using her recommended Felco no 2 secateurs, which last a lifetime - and would need to at that price!

Some interesting tips: June is a good time to propagate your roses: cut a stem with a rose on the top. Cut off the top rose and you should be left with a stick that has 4 sets of leaves. Cut off the leaves and then put your stick(s) in a bucket and label. Take off the thorns with a knife and you are good to go.

For those of us with sandy soil, bulk up your soil with a reputable manure in the winter and keep enriching your soil. Feed more than the norm and water your roses in the morning as 'you wouldn't go to bed with wet socks', and the latest way of dealing with mildew is to spray the leaves with full fat milk.

A fascinating morning finished off with more tea/coffee and an amazing selection of croissants as well as endless rows of tantalizing roses all begging to be bought.

Events Coordinator
Carmen Harvey-Browne

VISIT TO PEPPERPOT HERBS

Despite the hot weather, 15 members thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Pepperpot Herb Nursery on Friday 26th June. Two groups were given a tour by the lovely owners Neil and Catherine Wallsgrove and particularly enjoyed seeing the automated seed placing and onward potting machines in operation. Neil explained that these machines had helped their six full time staff increase production from 600,000 plants to 700,000 plants a year since our visit in 2025. 80% of these go to garden centres including the RHS, 10% via online sales and 10% to farmer's markets and shows.

The plants are kept watered by a supply from a borehole installed at the beginning of operations in 1998 which delivers 4 cubic meters of water a day into a 60,000 litre storage tank which connect to an automatic watering system to their numerous polytunnels.

We saw a wonderful array of herbs, both common and exotic and all members present made purchases, some needing help back to their cars!

For those of you who were unable to attend, the nursery is open Monday to Friday for retail sales and there will be a small selection for sale at our Summer Show.

Events Coordinator
Carmen Harvey-Browne

EVENTS - 2026

Sign up at the July Club Night. If there is demand for more than 15 places, consideration will be given to running an afternoon session.

HIDDEN GARDENS OF GRAYSHOTT - 2027

We hope you can be persuaded to open your gardens to the public or perhaps volunteer for a few hours on the open weekend - it's a great cause that raises lots of money for the village.

Member Photos - Favourite Rose in My Garden

For those that read the Round & About magazine there is an article on the Big Butterfly Count (17th July - 9th August, bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org) so the theme for next month will be 'BUTTERFLIES IN MY GARDEN'. Photos must be taken (if they stay still long enough!) by you in your garden (they do not have to be recent). Please send your photo to comms@grayshottgardeners.net by 27th July.

James Galway

Mortimer Sackler

Gertrude Jekyll

Gertrude Jekyll

Tranquillity

For Your Eyes Only

Natasha Richardson

Adelaide d'orleans

Gentle Hermione

Boscobel

Charles de Mills

Sombreuil

Gabriel Oak

Unknown

Munstead Wood

Unknown

Cinnamon

Be Kind

Jobs for this month - July

Gardening in July

(excerpts taken from the RHS website)

Summer is progressing

This is often one of the hottest months of the year and a great time to sit out and enjoy your garden. Keep plants looking good by regularly deadheading, and you'll enjoy a longer display of blooms. Make sure you keep new plants watered, using grey water where possible.

1. Deadhead bedding plants and repeat-flowering perennials, to ensure continuous flowering

Keep plants looking attractive and encourage more blooms, whether in beds and borders, containers or hanging baskets.

2. Care for houseplants while on holiday

Most houseplants will tolerate a few days' absence without suffering, but longer absences call for some creative measures to provide the right amount of moisture.

3. Water tubs and new plants if dry, but be water-wise

Watering is one of the most important jobs when growing plants in containers. If your water butt is running dry, don't forget you can use grey water you collect in the house.

More Jobs for this month

Check clematis for signs of clematis wilt

Pick courgettes before they become marrows

Start picking tomatoes as they ripen, continuing to remove sideshoots and feed and water the plants

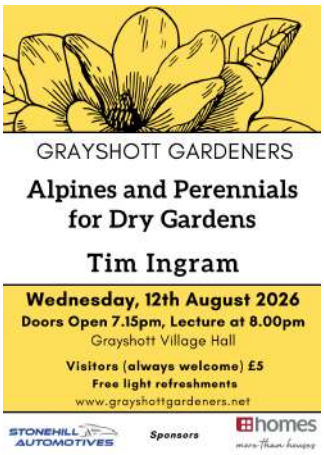
Clear algae, blanket weeds and debris from ponds, and keep them topped up

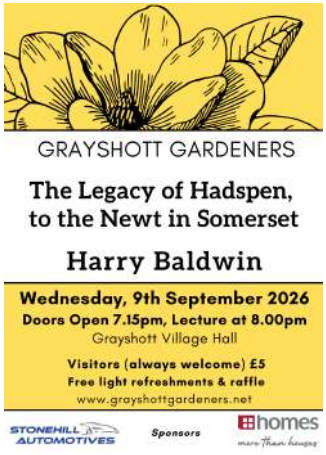
Deadhead, feed and water for a long-lasting show. Put a saucer under containers to reduce watering

Don't worry if your lawn goes brown, as it will soon bounce back when we have rain

Harvest apricots, peaches and nectarines

Dates for your diary





Obituary

John Baker, Hanging Hostas, Lindford

It is with considerable sadness that we have heard from June, John Baker's wife, that he has died after a long battle with cancer.

John & June have been staunch, long-term supporters of GGs.

Over the years John gave us five lectures on a variety of topics.

John will be sadly missed by GGs, Headley Horticultural Society and the Hosta & Hemerocallis world in the UK and the USA.

GGs have sent our condolences to June.

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Mr Davies

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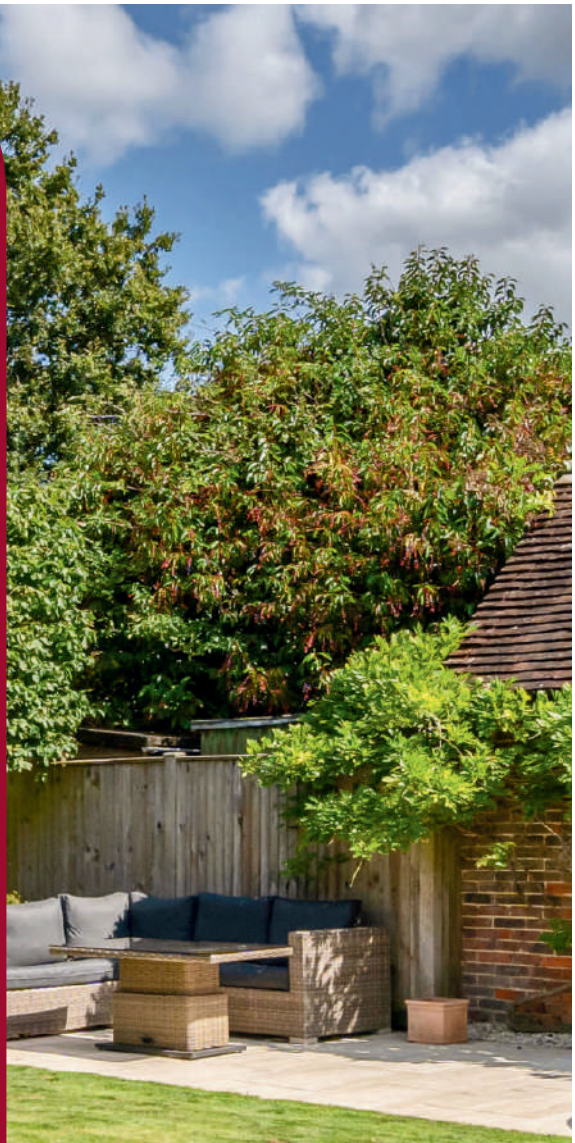
Mrs Shoubridge



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