



Grayshott Gardeners'

Newsletter

October 2026

From the Show Committee

As we all enjoy some late September sunshine, and as we plan our autumn activities, I'm already counting the number of bags of mulch I need to help the garden beds recover from our blistering summer.

What to plant is also such an interesting job at this time of year - pouring over garden catalogues and magazines, with a good cup of coffee, and maybe a slice of cake.

I do hope you find some space in your garden or a pot or two for something to enter in a show next year. A cheerful pot of daffs sounds just the thing – Alan Titchmarsh thinks you can't beat tete-a-tete, with their flowers bobbing in the spring breeze. And who would disagree with that!



Photo credit: Taken from RHS website

Pamela Wright

shows@grayshottgardeners.net



Xmas Wreath Workshop

Paula Clow, our Committee Secretary is a qualified florist and has offered to run two Christmas wreath making workshops on

Saturday 5th December in The

Studio at the Village Hall. There will be a morning workshop from 10am to 12.30pm and an afternoon workshop from 2pm to 4.30pm.

The Committee has agreed to subsidise the workshops and the cost will be **£10 per person** inclusive of all materials. You can sign up at the October Club night. Places will be limited to 15 per session, so get there early!



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.

September Meeting

'The Legacy of Hadspen, to the Newt in Somerset'

Emma Lainchbury



Gordon Rae, Emma Lainchbury, Sue Wheeler

Emma Lainchbury gave Grayshott Gardeners an engaging talk on how Hadspen Estate became The Newt in Somerset.

Emma has had a lifelong interest in gardening and ecology and after studying at Exeter University and Cambridge University Botanic Garden, she went on to work at Tresco, where she developed an interest in propagating rare plants. She then progressed through gardens in Cornwall before becoming Nursery Manager at The Newt in 2025, where she now propagates plants for the whole estate.



Many thanks to Janet for doing great business with the raffle as always!

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

October Meeting

'Reimagining Royal Roots: A sustainable makeover for Hampton Court's Great Fountain Garden'

Ann-Marie Powell



Photo credit: Taken from AMPG website

Grayshott Gardeners is truly delighted to welcome back Ann-Marie Powell as our **Keynote Speaker** this month.

Ann-Marie Powell is an award-winning garden designer, author, journalist and presenter.

She started her design practice in 1998, just down the road in Petersfield, and has built an impressive portfolio of gardens designed to combine the best of contemporary design in a naturalist style and is well known for her exuberant use of colour.

A fabulous and inspiring presenter and definitely one for the diary.

Members free, Inter-village clubs £5, Other visitors £8 (Keynote Lecture)

The meeting will be held in
Grayshott Village Hall
Wednesday 14th October 2026

Free refreshments

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

SHOWS

Firstly, many thanks to those who brought their 'Electric Lights' Fuchsia along to the September club night. All the tiny plants, given to those entered the Spring Show, had grown enormously and made a wonderful display.



Thinking ahead to the Spring Show 2027 – as always, two of the classes will be: '5 bulbs supplied by Grayshott Gardeners'. The October club night offers you the opportunity to buy the bulbs (cash please) to enter these classes as follows:

- Tulip "Sweet Lady" which is a low growing variety with salmon-pink/peach flowers. Priced at £4 for 10 bulbs
- Narcissus "Professor Einstein" which is a fragrant, large-cupped daffodil with frost-white petals surrounding a vivid orange-red centre. Priced at £3.50 for 10



Sweet Lady



Professor Einstein

Photo credit: taken from J Parker's website

Please note that the bulbs should be grown in pots with a **maximum** diameter of 20cm (8"). So, as you buy 10 bulbs of tulips and/or narcissi you can plant up two pots of each and just enter the pots which look the best on the day – easy!

So, especially if you're new to entering one of the GG shows, this is your chance to 'dip your toes into the water' and enter these classes. You'll end up with wonderful spring flowers and a sense of satisfaction that you grew them yourself.

Please have a go – it's great fun!

Janet Hall



Honorary Member Spotlight - Anne Waddell

I'm sure that most members of Grayshott Gardeners will have met Anne or at least know who she is. Indeed, she might have been one of the first people to chat to you when you first joined the club. Anne, along with her sister Jane Jones, were certainly some of the first people that John and I spoke to when we joined.



Anne has been a very active member of Grayshott Gardeners since joining in 2003 and has taken on most of the roles on the Main Committee during that time. As she's 'stepping down' from the Shows Committee after 11 years this seemed an ideal time to write a Member Spotlight on her. So, over coffee and cake Pamela, Anne and I had a chat – any excuse to eat some cake! I was left wondering where Anne finds the energy to get involved in all that she does. Quite amazing – especially as she is well past retirement age! So, where to start?

Why Grayshott?

After many years running hotels in Scotland, Anne and her husband Willie, moved to Grayshott in 2002. Anne's sister Jane and brother-in-law, Chris already lived here and so the village was familiar, plus they already had several friends in the area, having lived in Esher previously.

Involvement in Grayshott Gardeners

Upon joining GG, Anne's hospitality, organisational and catering experience was immediately put to good use as she was 'caught' by Olive Robinson, the then Chair, to take over Catering and to join the Main Committee. She described her seven years as Membership Secretary as 'wonderful' - meeting everyone at 'Sign in'; getting to know new members and helping them to meet new friends. A short time on the 'Programmes Sub Committee' was followed by three years as 'Chair' which she enjoyed apart from all the complications and restrictions presented by the Covid pandemic.

The Show Committee

Of all the roles Anne has undertaken it's the past 11 years on the 'Shows Committee' that she has loved most of all. Anne finds the five committee meetings a year very enjoyable, fun and constructive, as the team plan and organise each show, with everyone having their own particular roles to play. The final meeting of the year is the very popular 'Shows wrap-up cheese and wine evening'. The set-up during the evening before each show and helping on the actual day, Anne describes as very busy but great fun.

Anne's help and support will be sorely missed by Pamela and the team. We hope that someone will step forward to volunteer to help with at least some of Anne's previous tasks.



Honorary Member Spotlight - Anne Waddell *contd*



Volunteers required

If you feel you might enjoy helping Pamela and the Show team, please speak to Pamela. Anne's responsibilities included:

- Gathering up all the cups from previous winners prior to the shows, ready for them to be handed out to the new winners
- Displaying these in the hall on Show Days, on the GG tablecloth which needs to be looked after during the year and ironed ready for use
- Taking each cup to be engraved with the names of the new winner (Anne must have had her name engraved on most cups over the past 23 years!)
- On the morning of the Show, displaying the A-frame advertising it in the village square and then moving it in front of the Village Hall in time for the show

Village involvement

In addition to volunteering for Grayshott Gardeners, Anne also gets involved in village life. Although she's not a member of the Parish Council, her brother-in-law Chris is, and so Anne gets 'roped in' to help out with various village activities including tending the Memorial Garden; the Millenium sign; litter picking – really, if a job needs doing Anne will probably be involved in some way.

Finally, a bit of history

Anne's 'can do' attitude seems to run in her blood. She perhaps inherited this spirit from her father, David Fowler McIntyre, who in 1933 piloted the first-ever flight over Mount Everest. He piloted an open cockpit (can you imagine?!) Westland Wallace biplane accompanied by Douglas Douglas-Hamilton who later became the 14th Duke of Hamilton.

I digress, I'm sure we all wish Anne well in her 'retirement' i.e. spending more time with her family and friends, tending her beautiful garden and honing her bridge skills. Anne is looking forward to her forthcoming trip to Australia to see her son and family – her first trip there for four years. Her other son lives in Edinburgh and so is easier to visit.



Thank you again Anne for everything that you have done for Grayshott Gardeners – we look forward to seeing you again at the next meeting!

Janet Hall

Plant, Propagate & Prune Workshop



On September 12th a group of Grayshott Gardeners gathered in the potting barn of Vanessa Thompson's beautiful garden at St Anne's for a "Plant, Propagate and Prune" workshop.

Benches and chairs had been set out, with a gardener's goodie bag for each participant. Vanessa began her very informative and entertaining talk with the botany of plant reproduction, taking in sexual reproduction by seeds of all sorts, and vegetative reproduction by root division and stem cuttings in water

and in soil. She explained in detail the planting, care and potting on of seeds, and the taking of internodal stem cuttings according to how the leaves are arranged at the nodes.



We broke for tea, coffee and cakes, and then were let loose to plant and propagate for ourselves at a long potting table laden with all sorts of seeds and cutting material from many different plants.

Huge fun was had by all, and we came away with some planted seeds and potted cuttings to bring on at home.



My Geranium Maderense seeds have already germinated and I've been re-enthused with the possibilities of propagation, so I'd like to thank Vanessa again for a great morning's workshop, and I think we're all looking forward to her next!

Gill Foster



Plant, Propagate & Prune Workshop - *contd*

Some more photos and quotes from other attendees!

"Pass my thanks onto Vanessa for sharing her knowledge & passion for propagation. She is very motivational. A great morning."



Vanessa Thompson



"I really enjoyed today's event, Vanessa is inspirational!"



"It was great fun & I particularly enjoyed the iced-bun!"



"That was a great workshop - thank you for organising it and please pass on thanks to Vanessa for such a well-structured and informative morning in such lovely surroundings"



"The seeds I planted at the workshop have germinated already!"



Member Photos - Topiary in My Garden



The theme for next month will be 'Grasses in my garden'. Photos must be taken by you in your garden. Please send your photo to comms@grayshottgardeners.net by 28th October. Any ideas for future topics greatly received.

Member Photos

You may remember last month I mentioned that Sue Erler would be creating some floral arrangements at the Wild Festival of Flowers at Winchester Cathedral - here are a few photos of the beautiful results - well done Sue!



Jobs for this month - October

Gardening in October

(excerpts taken from the RHS website)

The autumn chill sets in

It's a beautiful time of year, with the trees changing colour. This is in response to cooler, damper conditions, which makes it an ideal time for planting and carrying out maintenance on your lawn. As the leaves fall, gathering them up to make leaf mould will provide you with free homemade mulch for next year. Check the forecast regularly for frost and bring tender plants inside for winter.

1. Move tender plants into a greenhouse or conservatory

A conservatory, greenhouse or even a bright windowsill are ideal places for overwintering tender plants from the garden. Frost-free conditions with good light levels



2. Cut back perennials that have died down

Leave some stems over winter to provide homes and food for wildlife, to be trimmed back in spring. As stems start to collapse and rot or smother neighbours, these can still be tidied up and added to the compost heap.



3. 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.



More Jobs for this month

Divide established rhubarb crowns to create new plants

Plant out spring cabbages

Harvest apples, pears, grapes and nuts

Prune climbing roses

Finish collecting seeds from the garden to sow next year

Last chance to mow lawns and trim hedges in mild areas

Renovate old lawns or create new grass areas by laying turf

Dates for your diary



GRAYSHOTT GARDENERS

Annual General Meeting

followed by Cheese & Wine

Wednesday, 11th November 2026
Doors Open 7.15pm for 8pm start
Grayshott Village Hall

www.grayshottgardeners.net

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GRAYSHOTT GARDENERS

Grayshott Heritage: Fetes and Flowers

John Childs

Wednesday, 9th December 2026
Doors Open 7.15pm, Lecture at 8.00pm
Grayshott Village Hall

Visitors (always welcome) £5
Free light refreshments & raffle
www.grayshottgardeners.net

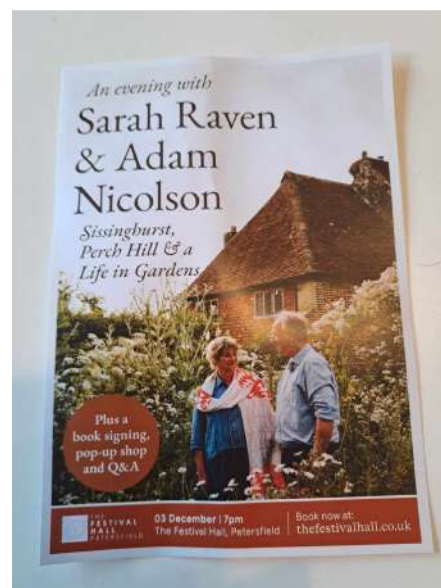
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Miss Polden

"Ross made myself and my partners first time purchase so easy! He was always there if we had a question that needed answering and was great at communicating information. Overall, an exceptional service. Thanks Ross from myself and Debbie".

Mr Davies

"Highly recommend Homes Estate Agents. They have been so helpful through the whole process from arranging viewings right the way through to completion. Ross in particular was extremely helpful and kept us in the loop from the offer being accepted through to exchanging contracts. We are looking forward to completing next week and appreciate all of the help the team has provided. ".

Mrs Shoubridge



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