



Grayshott Gardeners'

Newsletter

September 2026

From the Committee

Well what a summer that was! Drought and extreme heat was punishing for our gardens, wasn't it.

It was interesting to see what survived and what succumbed – have a look at the gallery of Drought Busters in this newsletter to see what Grayshott Gardeners found did well for them.

Now we are approaching autumn – which is the best time to plant new plants, as they will be going into warm soil that will encourage new root growth to help them establish, and hopefully there will be a bit of rainfall to settle them in nicely too.

However, I will be holding tight for a bit. Although I have lots of rather sad and droopy plants in my borders, I am hoping that some of them will make it through to next year. At the moment it is just too early to tell. For although the tops may look dreadful, the rootstocks of perennial plants may just be ok – it's just impossible to tell until next spring. So I will be waiting and hoping. I am the eternal optimist.

And if there are permanent casualties, then I will look at them as planting opportunities those borders needed editing anyway!



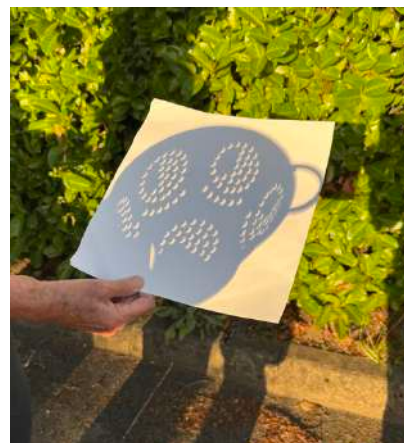
Sue Wheeler

programme@grayshottgardeners.net

Eclipse

Well we had a great turnout at our August Club Night considering there was an eclipse just as our doors opened!

A very excited Sue Wheeler was there to lead the charge with her trusty colander



and Diana Pont kindly bought some of those special glasses so we could all have a chance of seeing the phenomenon without destroying our eyes. It turned out there was a great view immediately outside the Village Hall.



August Meeting

'Alpines and Perennials for Dry Gardens'

Tim Ingram



Gordon Rae, Tim & Gillian Ingram, Sue Wheeler

Aside from all the eclipse fun we all enjoyed an informative talk by Tim Ingram, accompanied by his wife Gillian (chief propagator!). There were plants to buy and lots of recommendations for plants that enjoy the weather we are currently experiencing.

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



September Meeting

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

Emma Lainchbury

standing in for Harry Baldwin



Grayshott Gardeners is delighted to welcome Emma Lainchbury who is kindly stepping in for Harry Baldwin who is unable to attend.

Harry is Head Gardener at the Newt in Somerset and Emma is his Head of Department so is perfectly placed to take over the talk.

Emma's particular interests lie in plant propagation, nursery production, plant diversity and the relationship between horticulture, conservation and ecology.

The Newt, a luxury hotel/spa and garden experience has been developed on the estate at Hadspen House. Hadspen House was made famous by its extensive and beautiful gardens, developed in the 20th century by owner and garden designer Penelope Hobhouse and later the horticulturalists Nori and Sandra Pope.

Emma is here to tell us more about the transition.

The meeting will be held in
Grayshott Village Hall
Wednesday 9th September 2026

Free refreshments

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

SHOWS

Even without any Shows to prepare for at this time of year, there's always plenty of jobs to keep us gardeners busy. Recently those jobs seem to have been watering, watering and more watering! When will it rain?

Those who entered our Spring Show were given a fuchsia to nurture/water as a little 'thank you' for entering. This year the fuchsia was 'Electric Lights'. As a bit of fun, we ask that you to bring along your plant to the September Club night to display on a table along with all the others. It's always such fun to compare how well the various plants have grown. This year the table will be hosted by Liz Munson, Karen Cozens and Anne Waddell who will look forward to seeing you, along with your fuchsia, on **9 September**.

RAFFLE

Our next raffle, in aid of Grayshott Gardeners, will be held at the September Club night ... please remember to bring along cash if you would like to buy some tickets (£5 for a strip of 5).



Fuchsia Electric Lights



Did you happen to notice these stunning sweet peas at our Summer Show? They were grown by our member Ruth Holden on her allotment in Grayshott. Asked about her secret in such a tough year, she recommended early flowering varieties from the English sweet peas company.

Here's what they have to say and a link to their website:

Beat the heat with early flowering Sweet Peas... This summer has been a reminder that hot weather and Sweet Peas don't always make the perfect combination. While Sweet Peas thrive in cooler summer conditions, high temperatures can cause flowering to slow down and the plants to go to seed, finishing the season much sooner than we would like. So, if you live somewhere that experiences hot summers, why not get ahead of the heat with early flowering Sweet Peas?

Early flowering varieties are sown in autumn and overwintered, ready to produce their first flowers from April onwards. This means you can enjoy a wonderful display of Sweet Peas through spring and early summer, with flowering largely coming to an end before the hottest weather arrives. This growing method is particularly popular in warmer countries such as Australia and the USA, where avoiding the worst of the summer heat can make a significant difference to the length and quality of the flowering season.

The Solstice, Sunshine and Oyama series are all excellent choices for early flowering. Generally multiflora, they produce exceptionally long stems carrying multiple blooms, making them particularly good for cutting. Between the three series, there is also a fantastic range of colours, from soft pastels to rich, vibrant shades.

If you're looking for a way to enjoy more Sweet Peas before summer temperatures rise, autumn sowing and early flowering varieties could be the answer.

<https://www.englishsweetpeas.co.uk/>
<https://www.englishsweetpeas.co.uk/early-cut-flower--types>

Janet Hall



Member Spotlight - Forde Abbey Gardens, Dorset

Once upon a very long time ago, 12 monks from Waverley Abbey arrived in Dorset to establish a new cistercian monastery. It prospered and grew for 400 years until Henry VIII put the cat among the pigeons so they surrendered it to the crown and fled. Since then, a succession of wealthy noblemen have knocked bits down and added new bits to create this quintessential English stately home which provides the backdrop for a perfectly wonderful garden.



The gardens are huge and well worth exploring but it will take a while to do it justice. There are over 30 acres featuring classic borders, woodland, parkland, and an arboretum featuring many spectacular and unusual trees. There are also several water features including the tallest single jet pumped fountain in the UK, erupting like Old Faithful at regular times during the day. We managed to miss it on our trip but the advice was, make sure you're up wind of it!

But the thing that impressed us the most was their nursery and kitchen garden, so abundant, beautifully organised and scattered about with evocative sculptures of characters from English literature. Of course there are opportunities to buy some of their plants but we resisted the temptation as it would be several days before we were home again.



And for the weary garden explorer there is of course a welcoming café with plenty of inside and outside space for visitors to relax, refresh themselves and prepare for their next sortie. We will definitely return!

<https://www.fordeabbey.co.uk/>

Jim Cozens



Member Photos - Droughtbusters in My Garden



Miscanthus Kleine



Hakonechloa Macra



Hibiscus



Miscanthus Sinensis



Phlomis Italica



Rudbeckia nitida



Perovskia



Agastache



Choisya 'Sundance'



Indigofera



Hydrangea quercifolia



Buddleja



Armeria maritima



Scabiosa ochroleuca en masse



Alstroemerias/
delphinium



Erigeron karvinskianus



Sidalcea/Liatris



Verbena bonariensis/Gaura



Scabiosa ochroleuca



Roses

As the yew in my garden also seems to be thriving in this heat the theme for next month will be 'Topiary'. Photos must be taken by you in your garden. Please send your photo to comms@grayshottgardeners.net by 25th September.

Jobs for this month - September

Gardening in September

(excerpts taken from the RHS website)

Late summer progresses into autumn

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. Make the most of the remaining warmth while you can!

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

Dates for your diary



GRAYSHOTT GARDENERS
KEYNOTE LECTURE

Ann-Marie Powell

Reimagining Royal Roots:

A sustainable makeover for Hampton Court's
Great Fountain Garden

Wednesday, 14th October 2026
Doors Open 7.15pm, Lecture at 8.00pm
Grayshott Village Hall

Visitors £8, Inter-village clubs £5

Free light refreshments

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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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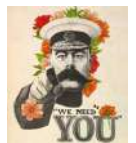
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more than houses

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.





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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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