



September 2026 Newsletter

Hello

Still very warm and we're into September already. What a year of weather we've had. Thank you for the positive feedback about the Show and thank you to everyone who entered making it a success, remarkable given the relentless heat we and our plants have had to endure!

Don't forget the Chalfont St Giles Show in on Saturday 5th September whether you want to browse or enter. You can make a saving by buying Admission tickets in advance. Talking of dahlias, Chenies Manor has its Dahlia Festival on Monday and Tuesday afternoons through to October. Best to book in advance.

And we are delighted to welcome our September Speaker Alec White of Primrose Hall Peonies, Chelsea Gold winner, details below.

Just one Garden is open under the National Garden Scheme in September and the following link takes you to the NGS site - https://ngs.org.uk/gardens/near/buckinghamshire/?all_gardens&temp=17376352691238259657 *Julie*

Next Meeting

Wed 16th September at 8pm
Church Hall, Church Lane Chalfont St Peter SL9 9RJ

Alec White

'Growing & Exhibiting Peonies: Behind the Medal'

Alec White, of Primrose Hall Peonies, will share with us his passion and success in growing Peonies leading up to the many medals he has won at RHS shows including 5 at Chelsea alone.

Alec White trained as a Lawyer and practiced for a few years but the lure of growing plants as his great grandfather had done professionally was always there. Once he was hooked he wrote his book 'A Love Affair with Peonies' and has written many articles for gardening publications. He stocks some rare and collectible cultivars and his plants are displayed at Wisley.

You may have seen RHS Chelsea on Gardeners World BBC2 at 7pm on Fri 22nd May when Mary Berry spent time with Alec at his Nursery and then at his stand at Chelsea. The displays were magnificent.

<https://primrosehallpeonies.co.uk/>

Julie

OUTINGS

Our last Outing for the year, in conjunction with Chalfont St Giles Gardens Association will be: -

Wed 25th Nov RHS Wisley Glow

RHS Discount card: The RHS is offering affiliated clubs use of a Discount Card enabling up to two club members gain entry to any of the five RHS gardens with 50% off. Email Karen at CSP_GardenClubKaren@outlook.com to reserve the card for a date that suits you.

Discounts: On production of your membership card, you get 10% off outdoor plants not already on offer at both Rowan Garden Centre and Farnham Common Nurseries. We also get 50% off seeds and 20% off live plants and bulbs at Dobies either on line or using an order form. Visit the Hut or contact info@gardenclub.org.uk for the discount code which is valid until the end of August.

JANE'S SEPTEMBER GARDEN TIPS

As autumn approaches, and I think it's going to be early this year after such a hot dry summer, many plants are showing signs of stress, so let their leaves fall as self-preservation.

It is also time to start clearing up the garden by removing debris to prevent pests and diseases over wintering, but try and leave a small corner untidy for hibernating hedgehogs and beneficial insects.

Pick off diseased rose leaves of black spot or rust and dispose of them, not forgetting any leaves that have fallen on the ground, cut back faded rose flowers.

Clear away annual flowers keeping any seeds and then planting up with spring bedding, primulas and wallflowers (pinch out the tips to encourage bushier plants) which are perfect in borders and containers or spring bulbs which will grow up through the bedding.

Give wisteria a final prune to encourage flowering spurs, cut all side shoots back to 20cms and tie in any leading shoots needed to extend the cover across the wall or fence.

As crops and plants are cleared away, put the debris into a compost container (make or buy) it will provide an instant home for all the garden and kitchen organic matter (not woody, diseased materials or cooked foods). It will rot down and make compost so you can return goodness to your soil next year.

As areas of soil are cleared plant a green manure such as mustard which act as a soil improver when dug in later in the year or cover in black plastic to prevent weeds.

Divide perennials and collect seeds. Give evergreen hedges a final trim. Net ponds to prevent leaves falling in.

As crops finish in the greenhouse give it a good clean out (disconnect any electrical equipment and cover sockets).

Disinfect the inside including paths, brickwork, staging, pots and tools. Rinse well, check gutters and down pipes.

Plant new strawberries plants for fruiting next year as soon as possible. Choose and plant bulbs now, but wait until November to plant tulips.

During the last months of dry weather lawns have suffered and really look dead, especially once the top 4" of soil has dried out, given adequate rainfall they will normally fully recover. Hopefully!!! Less cutting lawns this year!!

Install water butts to capture the rain we will hopefully have during the winter, it all helps conserve our precious water.

Jane

Summer Show Report 15th August

Firstly, I would like to thank the show team of Julie, Grace, Fiona, Teresa and Laura who, after many months of planning, managed so successfully to pull the show together. I must also thank the main committee, partners and friends, for all your support, so willingly given, in helping to set up and on show day itself. We also have a very willing band of volunteers, some of whom have helped for years plus some new helpers this year, who all play a vital part in the show and help it run smoothly. Many thanks to you all of you, for the organisation and hard work beforehand and on the day of the show, it really is team work.

This year we again achieved a very good level of exhibitors with 517 entries from 65 competitors of all ages. Thank you to all of you who entered the show, again to a very high standard. We also had a good spread of classes and were able to produce a wonderful display of flowers, floral art, vegetables, photographs, cakes, jams, creative, novices and juniors, despite the very challenging hot dry summer once again and not being able to use our hosepipes. As usual, we had a good level of members and non-members entering the show. We advertise the show on many platforms, local and social media. We also include a QR code on the schedule and flyer with a direct link to the schedule. Our new flyer this year was very kindly designed by Marie Cavanagh from Fired Works in Chalfont St Peter. We are indebted to her, as it was very striking and colourful.

It was a busy afternoon with many people visiting the show, again we exceeded expectations with the numbers. We received some very pleasant complimentary comments during the afternoon.

This year, as last, we included the crafts in the garden again as an extra attraction which were once again very popular, I hope you all had a chance to visit and make your purchases. The stalls were very popular during the afternoon. I hope you think once again that this added an extra dimension to the show, with lots of variety.

We should like to thank everyone who entered the show and all the visitors who came to view the exhibits, visit the crafts stalls in the garden and catch up with friends during the afternoon, and enjoy the wonderful refreshments, (we sold out of all Karen's delicious cakes) and the raffle, it was a good to see you all.

Once again thanks for supporting us, after what had been an extremely hot week, however it was slightly cooler for show day.

Jane and the Show





HUT REPORT - SEPTEMBER

OPEN ON SUNDAYS 10am to 12noon

Greetings from the Garden Hut team. It has been an exceptionally quiet last month for trading at the Hut which is not surprising in light of the hot dry weather. Our suppliers have indicated this lack of activity is not unique to us but it appears that the weather patterns are turning and gardening will become easier to undertake.

The hut has good stocks in place and we believe our prices are still very competitive as they should be for the benefit of club members. Recently, we have received a donation of a number of watering cans (an example pictured, surplus stock from a garden centre) and are pleased to offer these in return for a small donation to club funds. Our suggested donation is £5 so less than half the price of the large watering cans we normally have available for sale. We also still have available the stepping stones that we advertised in the July newsletter.

With the advent of more gardener friendly weather conditions we would also like to remind members that the Hut has product spreaders for applying lawn treatments, and a sieve shaker available for loan.

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Simon

With kind thanks to Paul Upward and Fiona Ashman for their photos of the show.



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