

**Happy 90th birthday
to TREVOR!!!**

Chairman's Chat

Well, what a busy June we had, with our two club visits. 49 of you signed up for Witley Manor and enjoyed a thoroughly sociable evening, shared with Milford Horticultural

and Friends of All Saints. Kim and Guy Rockingham made us so welcome.

The views from the terrace and garden were simply amazing and there were so many different aspects to the garden itself. Phil has

sent me some photos for your memories (and for those who missed it). The jewel in the crown is that Kim has very kindly donated half of the proceeds to our club. The other Friends of All Saints to help with the upkeep of the building.



Last week 15 of us visited Plant Passion, a flower farm that prides itself on its sustainability. The tour of the field was lovely, again with beautiful views, but we were also treated to a very interesting talk on the company itself, British flower growers, carbon footprints and much more. If you missed out it's well worth booking a visit. It's

organised group, we had the bonus of tea and the time we had that and some of us bought her £10 but, as an home-made cake. By book with £5 off, it didn't really cost much at all! It was very hot, but the talk was in their barn, which houses the flowers and was kept nice and cool.



Thank you to Catherine for booking these and liaising with the owners and also to all of you for your cooperation, which helped Larissa and I to sign you up and check payments.

On another note, Jane our membership secretary, is a fan of old roses. Apart from those in her own garden she has made her annual pilgrimage to Mottisfont, known for them. In this changing climate, Jane has shared her thoughts on their resilience and this year's article is on page 2.

I have mentioned before that we have been offered a discount scheme by Thompson and Morgan. It's entirely up to you whether you take it up, but the catalogues and the code should be with us in September, ready to prepare for next year. Details are on page 3

And lastly: the Hapless Gardener moment (again). The deer, in particular the destructive muntjac, have found our garden. Well, we do back onto National Trust land, but they have found a way round our fences, which now have to be reinforced. I know many of you are suffering the same. They got into the greenhouse DURING THE DAY!!!! and ate 5 trusses of cherry tomatoes but also tasting and therefore destroying 5 large beefsteak de scription of munjac on page 3. Have a good summer! *Christine*

COMING UP

**SATURDAY 6TH
SEPTEMBER**

**AUTUMN
SHOW**

All the usual
goodies!

TEA

CAKE

GOOD COMPANY

**TUESDAY 16TH
SEPTEMBER**

BEN POPE

**How to make the
most of what
you've got**

**A well qualified and
highly thought of
speaker. Should be
really interesting**

Most old roses flower only once, but in the 18th and 19th centuries two groups of repeat flowering roses were developed. The first of these were the Portland roses, so called after the Duchess of Portland who brought a rose back from Italy to England, from which others were developed. Originally, thought to be a cross with a China rose, DNA analysis has shown them to be a cross between the Autumn flowering Damask and Gallica roses. However their colour range is very limited, and they were superseded by the Hybrid Perpetuals and the Bourbon roses. The first Bourbons were the result of chance, a cross between the Autumn flowering Damask and the old China blush roses found on the Ile de Bourbon (Réunion) in the Indian Ocean. Imported into France, further hybridisation with Gallica and Damask roses followed. They are generally medium to large shrubs, and have wonderful old-fashioned perfumes, With, I believe few exceptions, they are all fully double. The flowers vary in shape from a globular cup to quite flat, and are either stuffed with petals to overflowing or are quartered associate. Generally, they reach their peak in mid-June, with later repeats, but this year they were, like many roses, early, and started flowering in mid-May, peaking at least on to two weeks early, and when I visited Mottisfont Abbey in mid-June many were looking a little sad. They range in colour from white through pale shell pink to magenta with a one or two red varieties. I have a red L.D. Braithwaite in my garden, and Mottisfont Abbey has a red Gruss an Teblits. They also have the single flowered white Souvenire de St Anne's which seemed to be holding up better than many in the very hot conditions. Like most roses Bourbons repay a rich soil, sometimes spectacularly so. Many years ago, I planted the Bourbon, Souvenire de la Malmaison. I was hacking it back at a spread of about 8 ft and a height of around 4 ft, so I was surprised to find that it was typically around 4 ft in either direction. Then I remembered that when planting it, I'd dug up copious quantities of chicken wire. The rest, as they say, is history, but I've ordered one to plant this autumn, and I'll be buying a bucket of chicken manure to help it on its way. I thought that the Portland roses at Mottisfont were doing rather better than the bourbons, and perhaps that's due to their Gallica parentage. Perhaps breeders will go back to Gallicas in their attempts to develop roses that will withstand our increasingly hot summers.

Repeat Flowering Old Roses by Jane Foster



Witley 15 July 2025
LD Braithwaite –
Bourbon



Kathleen Harrop –
Bourbon



Madam Pierre
Oger- Bourbon



Comte de Chambourd – Portland Rose



Mottisfont
Abbey – 17
June 2025
Souvenire de
St Anne's -
Bourbon

MUNTJAC DEER, the smallest species in the UK, are stocky and about the size of a dog, with short antlers and distinctive tusk-like teeth. They have "growths" on their face, which are glands. Often "barking deer" because of their loud, dog-like calls, widespread across southeast England. Known for browsing habits, muntjac feed on shoots, herbs, and can severely impact woodland ecosystems by understory. *(I would like to add geraniums, phlox, beans etc etc!!)* This behaviour has been linked to the decline of species like nightingales, making them a controversial presence in the British countryside. The small, Chinese muntjac deer was introduced to Woburn Park in Bedfordshire at the start of the 20th century and rapidly spread into the surrounding area. It is now a common animal across southeast England and can be found in woodland, parkland and even gardens.



strange referred to as they are now their voracious brambles, which clearing the *astilbe*, French

Thompson & Morgan
Experts in the garden since 1855

Group Discount Scheme

Designed for gardening groups

What is it?
50% off seeds and 20% off all other live products (this includes - potatoes, garlic, onions, shallots, bulbs, plants, fruit)
Requires a **minimum combined group spend of £100 on seeds (after discount)** annually

More details for this scheme will come out in September, when T&M will send us some catalogues and the special codes. It seems that the best way to do this is to form yourselves into groups . There is no obligation to take part. The club does not benefit in any way. This is simply an offer from T&M to clubs that we wanted to make you aware of.

How does it work?

On joining, you receive:
- A **unique offer code**
- Requested number of **catalogues and order forms** (pre-printed with your code)

Group members must **quote the code** when ordering to receive discounts

Orders can be placed via **post, phone, or online;** items are **delivered directly** to members

Minimal admin for the group organiser – primarily distributing catalogues and publicising the code

Members can also **browse and order from the website**, reducing the need for printed materials

www.thompson-morgan.com/group-discount-scheme

PTO for page 4, the Ben Pope poster

Contact us via admin@witleygardening.org

Tuesday 16th
September 2025



BEN POPE

Making The Most of What You've Got

An inspirational talk on how to get the most out of your garden, whatever the size or space. The talk will include some design principles and styles, general upkeep and maintenance of the garden, and how to increase productivity and, importantly, plant health.

Ben, in his role as Head Gardener, is currently leading a team to maintain and develop a private garden in West Sussex.

Ben enjoys lecturing at the Chelsea Physic Garden and at West Dean College of Art and Conservation. He regularly writes for *Gardens Illustrated* and has recently published a practical gardening book 'What to Sow, Grow and Do'.

He is a member of the RHS Herbaceous Plant Committee



THE CHICHESTER HALL
WITLEY

Doors open 7.00pm for a
7.30 start

Entry free to members, £5
to non-members.

Welcome drinks available