

NEWSLETTER 89

AUGUST 2026

Chairman's Chat

Well, it's finally here: the hosepipe ban. It had to happen and so we'll just have to cope. Even though I am on sandy soil, years of adding compost, leaf mould and shreddings has improved the situation and the older plants have established themselves sufficiently. Most pots went into the shade many weeks ago and the fuchsia baskets are sitting on pots in the shade. Things started flowering a bit better with the cooler weather: it all seems a bit topsy turvy to be saying that! However, it is now very hot again and it's a case of what can I save, rather than the summer stroll deadheading and picking bunches for the house (and friends). Rather strangely, I have some glorious Phlox plants with huge Hydrangea size blooms alongside others that have tiny flowers and have drooped and shrivelled so much they have had to be cut down and told "have another go next year". If anyone can throw light on that I am always ready to learn! I have to say that many of us considered going home and taking a rotovator to the garden after our club visit to Shalford House.☺ More about that on page 2. I am hoping my dahlias will recover for the Autumn show. We need even more of you to enter this year as we can't rely on a few show loyals to put loads of blooms in. One entry each from half the club will make it worthwhile to put the work in (and pay for the hall). If all else fails we can all have a lovely social afternoon with tea and cake and a raffle to help pay for it! *Christine*

COMING UP

AUTUMN SHOW
Saturday 12th September
2.30 till 4pm

ROSY HARDY
Wednesday 16th
September
7pm for 7.30

NATIONAL TRUST
Gertrude Jekyll
and Munstead
Wood
Tuesday 6th
October
7pm for 7.30

WGA SHALFORD HOUSE GARDEN VISIT

As this picture shows, with most of us stopped in our tracks to photograph the first vista of the garden, we were stunned from the word go by the beauty and quality of the planting at Shalford House. I am including some pictures in this newsletter but



they really can't convey the effect of seeing it for the first time. The sheer scale cannot be conveyed in a photo. The fact that they have irrigation has obviously helped a lot as the size of the leaves in the Spotty Dotty



that many of the pots were an expanse of pristine gravel. amazingly spongy and we floods



(Podophyllum) shows but the lack of holes in the hostas is a mystery even to the owners!

Although I noticed on quite a wide The grass was were told that it even this close to



the house, which is the slope. After we beautiful vistas and tea and cake in a was time to relax that the garden is Spring, so maybe



at the top of had taken in the many planting we were treated to lovely shaded space and there and chat. The owner told me also available to visit in the we can return.



Altogether a wonderful afternoon. Many thanks to Catherine for sourcing the garden and booking it for us. *Christine, chairman WGA*

LOSELEY Earlier in the month we were invited by Milford Horticultural to join them at Loseley gardens. This has been a bit of a tradition between the clubs. I was not able to join you for this but I know Catherine checked you all in and said it was a lovely afternoon.



MORE CLUB NEWS

SURREY FEDERATION

I will be forwarding the Surrey Federation newsletter shortly so look out for that. Beth Otway, who edits it, also writes for our local Vantage Point magazine (this month on Hardy Annuals) and does a great job of advertising our events on the Surrey website.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

This is your early warning that we will have to put up the membership fees for next year. If you have any thoughts on this feel free to contact us.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF HELP NEEDED.

Our next event is the Autumn show so please look out for a request and rota for volunteers to serve teas. We will also need more people to help set up on Friday evening as my husband, Norman will have had a foot operation by then so will have his feet up!

As you will know if you have taken part, there are an awful lot of tables and boards to set up the night before. It's a case of many hands make light work as so many of us have joint issues now!



Our next talk is by Rosy Hardy. Full details on page 4

**WEDNESDAY 16TH
SEPTEMBER**



**ROSY HARDY
OF HARDY'S
COTTAGE GARDEN
PLANTS**



**AUTUMN
FLOWERING
PERENNIALS**

Rosy is one of the UK's most celebrated horticulturalists renowned for her expertise in herbaceous perennials and sustainable gardening. Rosy co-founded Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants nursery in 1998 with her husband Rob. To date she has won 24 gold medals for her exhibits at RHS Chelsea Flower Show and has written a book '25 Years of Chelsea'.

Rosy is an RHS judge and serves on the RHS Herbaceous committee. Her talk will include plant material and a chance to buy some plants from her nursery on the night.

THE CHICHESTER HALL
Doors open 7.00pm for a 7.30 start
Entry free to members, £5 to non-members.
Welcome drinks available