NEWSLETTER 87
JUNE 2026

Chairman's Chat

It's been a while since the last newsletter so we have a couple of important items in this one. I have done a full report on the plant sale on page 2, but thank you all for making this work successfully. We are close to the Watts gallery visit now so can we ask you to sign up by Friday this week, so that we can give numbers to our guide. Full information is on page 3. No-one seems to have noticed but Bob tells me that the pdf files of our web pages had ceased to be supported by the company we pay. He has spent a considerable amount of time fixing this for us. Bob is our ex- treasurer, who moved away from the area so we are forever grateful to him for supporting us in this way. We all enjoyed a very informative and well-presented talk on fuchsias by Carol Gubler last month and I visited her nursery in the week after. An amazing place. Trevor brought in a beautiful rhododendron to win the BAFTA . There are no meetings until the show on 12th September but stay in touch as we have 3 garden visits lined up for June and July. *Christine*

COMING UP !! Our summer season of optional garden visits replaces the evening meetings in June and July. In August we have a summer break.

Wednesday 10th June
EXTRA GARDEN VISIT TO the WATTS GALLERY GARDEN.
Full details on page 3

Tuesday 7th July
JOINT GARDEN VISIT To LOSELY
The cost will be £12 plus an optional £7.50 for afternoon tea.
Sign up details after the Watts Gallery visit.

Wednesday 22nd July 2.30 till 5.pm
SHALFORD HOUSE GARDEN. One of the best in the area.
Watch out for the sign up, which will start after the Watts Gallery visit

THE 2026 PLANT SALE

Thank you for all your help with the plant sale. It was incredibly successful and made us a good bit of extra money to help with the increasing costs of meetings and to keep up our high standards without raising the fees too much next year. (see a summary below)

We branched out with a garden equipment stall, a pop- up cafe, and a strawberry stall, run by the friends of All Saints, who gave us a contribution. It was rather a challenge for us setting up and pricing, as people were coming in early and we had a few comments from visitors that it was rather manic and a lot of plants went before 10am.

We have lessons to learn to make it run a bit more calmly and will be talking in committee about changing the timings so there is a gap between delivering and selling so we can get plants priced up in time. All in all, though, for our second sale independent of the Witley fair, we were incredibly pleased with all the help we had and the success of the selling and everybody stayed in very good spirits. In true village style, 2 ladies donated their left- over plants from their charity sale and then we donated our left overs to a sale in aid of a community garden, so nothing was wasted.

Norman (hard working hubbie) has been browsing the old minutes again and came up with this gem, which seemed very appropriate to our situation that day. We had a little chuckle over it ……..

PLANT SALE FINANCIALS

Income:
£803.30

Costs:
Hall hire £65
Biscuits and milk £37.47
84 Plants to grow on £26

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

There have been flower shows in Witley since the 1860s and keeping order has long been a headache for the Organising Committee. The Minutes record that *"The Hon Sec was authorised to make the necessary arrangements with the Superintendent at Godalming" and the accounts show the Police being paid 12s 6d in 1898 rising to £1 12s 6d in 1909. Three Police were requested when the shows resu after the Great War in 1920.*

GARDEN VISIT WATTS GALLERY

Winner of Guildford in Bloom 2025 Nature Champion Award.

Wednesday 10 June 2026 2pm
£7.50 per head
(Parking is £1.00 per car per day payable individually on arrival)

TO BOOK PLEASE EMAIL US AND PAY ONLINE.
If paying this way is not possible then just let us know you are coming and pay at the desk on the day.

THE PLAN

Please gather in reception, where Marion will greet us.

The visit will start at 2pm with a garden tour from Chris Sharples, Head Gardener.
He will likely start at the Gallery gardens and then take the group over to Limnerlease House and Studios grounds, possibly via the orchard with the bee hives, and the Physical Energy sculpture.
The tour will probably take a minimum of 60 minutes.

REFRESHMENTS

There is a small cafe on the Limnerlease side where the group could buy drinks and cakes and sit outside, weather permitting, at the end of the tour. Otherwise, they can return to the Cafe on the Gallery side.
There are scones as well as cakes available in the main cafe and Vegan and Gluten free cakes too. Refreshments are not included in your ticket
Last orders in the cafe 4.30pm.

FACILITIES

Toilets available next to main cafe and next to House and Studios. No toilets at Chapel.

OTHER INFORMATION

House and Studios accessed up Hill on woodland paths. There is wheelchair access but taking a slightly longer route up the Hill. There is limited drop off area at the top of the hill next to the House for anyone unable to walk up the hill.

The shop and contemporary gallery can be visited until 5pm (free). The beautiful chapel is open until at least 5.30pm and the cemetery grounds are also worth visiting (free).
Should anyone wish to visit inside the Gallery and House and Studios the admission costs £18.00 pp unless 8 or more people visit when the cost is £15.00 pp. This needs to be arranged in advance. A minimum of 90 minutes is needed to do the site justice in addition to the Garden Tour. WGA will not be able to organize groups of 8 to get the lower entry fee but you are welcome to gather with friends if you want to take advantage of this opportunity.

The special exhibition from 21 May is the **Art of Wallpaper: William Morris Design**,