NEWSLETTER 88
JULY 2026

Chairman's chat July 2026

Dear all, we are in the middle of a couple of very active months, despite having no formal talks. I for one, am quite grateful that we are not coping with hall activities during this very hot weather. The visit to Watts gallery was well attended and very enjoyable. It was a very successful tour with Chris, the head gardener, who was an amazing guide and opened our eyes to looking at the gardens from a different perspective. There is quite a lot of emphasis on nurturing what wants to grow there on a very difficult sandy dry soil. Chris is one dedicated gardener! Lots of fun anecdotes as well. Chris's team at Watts Gallery won the 2025 Guildford in Bloom Nature champion award. Chris took us up to the house, explaining the planting in the hillside on the way and we were treated to a stunning view of the well -known sculpture "Physical Energy". I think some of you knew that this was destined to be alongside the A3 but that was decided against and you can now look down on it from the house. Thank you to Marion Lewis for making the suggestion to visit Watts Gallery Garden and for liaising with Catherine and also to Phil Lewis and Catherine for the photos. We just about avoided the rain on a dodgy day so were very lucky.

Photos: clockwise from bottom left: Chris Sharples, an unusual type of Eryngium, angelica, Physical Energy, our group with Chris outside Limnerlease

This weather is challenging! But my dahlias are now coming into force so hopefully I will have some blooms for the Autumn show in September. The rest of the garden has coped remarkably well, although it's hard to find enough shade for the fuchsias and the sweet peas have definitely gone on strike! The small leaved Salvias are loving it, the larger leaved (such as Amistad) not so much and I think the garden and I would both like a little respite now. A lot of us are on sand here but there are seams of clay running through, so if you are on one of those you will wonder what my problem is. However, you will I know, have your own problems due to the nature of baked clay.

We have an amazing garden to visit this month. This is our main garden visit of the year and by all accounts it will be stunning. Thank you for promptly signing up for this. We will need to send numbers in a week before the event, so by 15th July please. Last year, it's first with the NGS, this garden only opened twice and drew an enormous number of visitors. Well worth a visit. If you havn't joined one of these before then it's a special treat to be offered a private visit. There will be one other small local club there. The cost includes afternoon tea, so particularly good value. Do sign up for this great opportunity.

Christine Cox, Chairman WGA

Tuesday 7th July
JOINT GARDEN VISIT To LOSELY

The cost will be £12 plus an optional £7.50 for afternoon tea. If you have signed up for this please bring cash to Catherine on the day.

Wednesday 22nd July 2.30 till 5pm
SHALFORD HOUSE GARDEN. One of the best in the area.

The poster is on page 3 and sign up has started. There is a web entry for Shalford House where you can find out more about it. I noticed that it is a cashless venue.

The directions for Shalford House :

Shalford House, Square Drive, Kingsley Green, GU27 3LW

Take the A286 Midhurst Road from Haslemere
Travel approximately 2 miles south along the A286 and turn left at the brow of the hill into Square Drive. It is a narrow junction so please take care.
Follow Square Drive for 1/4 mile and take the left -hand branch of the drive and follow it to the bottom. Shalford House is the last house in the lane.
There will be some directions in Square Drive to the parking area. Please drive slowly as it is a narrow road.

Meeting up

We will meet up for the register (☺☺) before entry. I'm guessing this will be in the car park, but if I hear otherwise I will let you know.

WEDNESDAY
22nd JULY 2026
2.30 till 5.00pm

Witley GARDENING ASSOCIATION

SHALFORD HOUSE
PRIVATE GARDEN VISIT

This is a new garden to the NGS, opened for 2 days only last year and was a huge success with the visitors causing a traffic jam on the Midhurst road on the second day it opened.
We are fortunate to be able to book a private visit to the garden and hopefully the owner who is a garden designer will be there.
There is an undercover area where the tea and cake will be served , plus seating around the garden.
The house and garden are easy to get to, approximately 3 miles south of Haslemere off the Midhurst Road.
There is plenty of parking in an adjacent field, flat gravel areas wheelchair friendly and disabled persons toilet facilities.

ADDRESS
Shalford House Garden , Kingsley Green,
Haslemere, GU27 3LW

Parking, wheelchair friendly, disabled toilets all available

COST: garden visit and afternoon tea £15
PREPAYMENT AND BOOKING ESSENTIAL
Details to follow nearer the time.