

WALTHAM GARDENERS' SOCIETY

Chairman's Report for 2025/2026

It was a busy period for the Waltham Gardeners' Society during May and early June with our mini plant sale and talk by Philip Oostenbrink and our visit to Tram Hatch Garden.

Our mini plant sale on 20th May produced a wonderful array of plants and seedlings grown by our members, not all were sold but many found new homes. Great thanks to all those who contributed and participated.

Philip Oostenbrink's talk on Walmer Castle Garden provided an interesting history on the Garden's creation and Philip's work in developing it further, with a visual presentation that showcased the special features. It is not too far to travel and well worth a visit.

Our visit to Tram Hatch Garden was organised by Janet and Andy Beal and not only did they find us a horticultural gem in the depths of rural Kent but organised the weather to shine upon us.

Pam and Alan Scrivens have spent the last 41 years developing a wonderful garden with a series of gardens within the garden, each with its own character and an extensive collection of plants, shrubs and trees.

Spread over 3 acres bordered on one side by the start of the river Stour the whole garden was immaculate with not a weed in sight.

Sadly our presenters from Country Lane Flowers for our demonstration on arrangements for the Annual Show on 8th July were struck down with Norovirus. However, a small group met and over a cup of tea or coffee discussed our gardening endeavours and put the World to right. We hope to have Country Lane Flowers back with a presentation later in the year.

Saturday 2nd August dawned dry again for our Annual Show. What an amazing display, we gardeners always complain it is either too wet or too dry a year but this year it has been truly challenging with very little rain. But despite this over 250 exhibits provided a great sight as people entered the Hall.

There was an excellent turnout for the Children's Classes. Congratulations to all of them and thank you for entering your wonderful exhibits.

Our concluding speaker event for the year was a talk by Linda Warner from Country Blooms in Bossingham on The Flower Grower's Year on Tuesday 14th October.

It was a delight to welcome Linda surrounded by an array of blooms from her flower farm in Bossingham.

Linda started 13 years ago inspired by Sarah Raven and supported by the Uk Trade Association "Flowers From The Farm".

To conclude 2025 we held our AGM on 11th November and apart from reviewing our year's events commenced preparation for the 2026 programme.

The first event of 2026 was our Traditional Annual Dinner held on 10th March at The Granville, Lower Hardres, attended by 15 enthusiastic members with everyone enjoying an evening of good food and good company.

Our next speaker evening on Tuesday 12th May and we welcome Steve Edney and his partner Louise Dowle to talk to us on Dahlias and summer sparklers.

Les Leslie
Chairman
Waltham Gardener's Society