

Stalham & District Horticultural Society Newsletter

July 2026

Last month, we learnt "how to attract wild birds to our gardens" with speaker Neil Spinks. Drawing on his previous career in the seed industry, producing garden bird feed, habitats & nest boxes, Neil gave interesting, factual advice on caring for our feathered friends.

Next month, Friday 21st August - 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start

"Fungi - The Good, the Bad and the Ugly". Join us as **Dr Tony Leech** returns to share his insights into the fascinating world of fungi. Tony is Norfolk Recorder of Fungi & an award winning conservationist. He has dedicated decades to this intriguing subject, earning a reputation as a leading authority in his field.

This event precedes a **Foraging walk with Dr Tony Leech, 2pm, Wednesday 21st October 2026** meeting at the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, **Pigneys Wood** near North Walsham. This guided foray offers a rare opportunity to learn from one of the region's most respected fungi experts. For members only, Cost is £5 per person. Limited number for this event, so please sign up ASAP & make your payment by the end of September. Contact Suzanne: Email: sue@farmsidecottage.co.uk or tel/text: 07780 985 425. Please let us know if you need a lift. We'll try to organise car sharing where possible.

Raffle & Tombola Prizes

We always appreciate your generous donations for both the monthly Raffle & the Shows' Raffle & Tombola prizes for the Autumn Show. Please see Sheila if you can help. Thanks.

Volunteers for this month's Plant Fairs & Plant Donations

This Sunday, July 19th, we have the opportunity to promote our club at the **Artisan Fair on Stalham High Street**. This is a popular event, & we hope to have a few small plants for sale. We would greatly appreciate any plant donations.

Additionally, we have accepted an invitation from **Alan Gray to set up our usual stall at the East Ruston Old Vicarage on Saturday, July 25th**. Alan is hosting another "Nurseries in the Garden" event this year, with stalls throughout the garden.

We would be very grateful for any plant donations to sell at this event.

Contact Lucy: email ivyleaftree350@gmail.com or Tel: 01692 581163 mob: 07545 556 886 Suzanne on 07780 985 425. We can arrange drop-off or pick-up.

Volunteers - If you can spare an hour or two to help man the stall at either event, it would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to our Chairperson, Lucy.

We have a private group visit planned to **Sonja Gaffers Tropical Gardens in Hellesdon, on Sunday, August 16th. Start time is 2pm.**

Sonja will give a personal tour of an inspiring garden featuring a fascinating mix of exotic & tropical plants. She will be available to answer questions & will also provide tea & cakes. For those who haven't visited before, Sonja's garden is a hidden gem, & her cakes are amazing! The cost is £10 for members & £15 for non-members.

We need to know how many attendees there'll be, so please add your name to the list ASAP. Contact Suzanne: Email: sue@farmsidecottage.co.uk or tel/text: 07780 985 425.

Located at **33 Waldemar Avenue, Hellesdon, NR6 6TB**. Sonja's Tropical Garden is approximately 400 m from the Norwich ring road towards Cromer on the A140.

We'll try to organise car sharing where possible. Please let us know if you need a lift.

There is parking along the road outside of Sonja's address.

Schedules for the Autumn Show on September 5th 2026 are freely available at our monthly meetings & can be viewed/downloaded online at www.stalhamhorticultural.uk.

Free hard copies can be collected from: - **The Post Office in Stalham, Sutton**

Hardware & Garden Centre, The Street, Sutton, & A G Meale & Sons, Wayford.

There is something for everyone, so do come & have a go, & please encourage your family & friends to participate. Again, we are looking for Volunteers to help on both days, please. The show will be open to the public from 2pm to 4pm on Saturday, with refreshments served. Additionally, several local stalls will be present, selling crafts and plants.

If you are able to bake something for us to sell at the Autumn show, we would greatly appreciate it. Please pop your name on the Baking list. Contact Suzanne: details as above.

Call for help!

The Stalham & District Horticultural Club has been bringing together gardening enthusiasts for over 53 years. However, the committee has been operating below capacity for some time & haven't received enough offers of help to fill vacant roles.

We have secured entertaining speakers & arranged group trips, & we are committed to our activities through to April 2027. However, if you wish to see this club thrive, we urgently need people to step up to help us continue holding shows, meetings & events. If we cannot form a sustainable committee by the end of this year, we will have to formalise plans to wind down the club.

If you can spare some time to help, please get in touch with Chairperson Lucy Griffen by email at ivyleaftree350@gmail.com or by telephone at 01692 581163. Thank you!

See website for all information, including diary, recent photo's & Autumn Show Baking list.

www.stalhamhorticultural.uk