

Stalham & District Horticultural Society Newsletter

March 2026

Summary of Last Meeting (February)

Last month, we had an engaging discussion titled "Flowers & Ruins in the South of France." This region is exceptionally rich in wildflower diversity, showcasing a vibrant display of colour that changes with the seasons. Rosemary Ward presented the region's stunning Roman ruins, aqueducts, bridges, & castles. The area's unique blend of Mediterranean, Alpine, & rural landscapes create ideal habitats for thousands of plant & tree species. It was exciting to learn that some of these resilient plants can thrive in our own gardens.

Please remember that our meeting next month will be held a week earlier, on **Friday, April 10th**, starting at 7:30 PM. The topic will be "Rural Gardens & Biodiversity - The Role Our Gardens Play for Wildlife in the Countryside," presented by Jonathan Mitchell. Jonathan is a gardener, designer, & consultant at Teasels Landscapes & Garden Design, which has received multiple awards for its show gardens in recent years. He actively promotes the positive environmental benefits of gardens, exploring garden biodiversity science & how we can practically apply it to our own spaces.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the start of this meeting & membership fees will be due, which will remain £10 per year, with monthly meetings continuing to cost £2.

The Spring Show - Saturday, 18th April, 2026

Schedules for the Spring Show 2026 are available for FREE at our monthly meetings & online at www.stalhamhorticultural.uk. You may also collect free hard copies from the following locations: - **The Post Office in Stalham - A.G. Meale & Sons at Wayford & Sutton Hardware & Garden Centre, The Street, Sutton**

There is something for everyone, so do come & give it a try! The junior categories feature some great prizes. Please encourage your family & friends to participate

The show will be open to the public from 2pm to 4pm, when refreshments will be served. Additionally, several local stalls will be present, selling crafts and plants.

Group Trips

We have organised a few FREE group trips for members this year. The first is on **Friday, May 15th**, at the **Museum of the Broads**, featuring a boat ride & picnic. We'll meet at 5pm. Please bring a plate of food to share if you can. To sign up for the boat trip, or add your name to the baking list, please add your name at our meetings or contact Suzanne on 07780 985 425. Free to members; non-members are welcome at £7 per person.

On **July 17th**, we visit **East Ruston Old Vicarage**, where we'll have private access to the gardens. This trip is Free to members. & will start at 5pm. Refreshments will be provided.

We have a group visit planned to **Sonja Gaffer & Alan Beale's Tropical Gardens in Hellesdon on Sunday, August 16th**. This will be a personal tour of an inspiring garden that features a fascinating mix of exotic & tropical plants. Sonja 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!

It would be great if we could arrange car sharing, as parking is available on the road outside. The cost for the visit is £10 for members & £15 for non-members. We need to know the number of attendees, so please sign up & make your payment by the end of July.

Additionally, we hope to visit The Old Manor Farmhouse Gardens in Swanton Abbott in June, which is renowned for its exceptional design & conservation efforts.

Raffle & Tombola Prizes

We always appreciate your generous donations to the Show's Raffle and Tombola prizes. Please see Sheila if you can help. Thank you!

Call for Committee Members & Help

We greatly appreciate the support from all our club members; your contributions are vital to our success. However, we urgently need more members for our committee, as the current workload is becoming overwhelming. If you are able to help us out at the Show, please speak to one of the committee members. We would also appreciate some help between 3.30pm -5,30pm on Friday, 17th April, to set things up. Thank you!

Plant Fairs & Plant Donations for July

On **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**. He is hosting a "**Nurseries in the Garden**" event this year, with stalls throughout the garden. We would also be very grateful for any **plant donations** to sell at this event. Please keep this in mind when you are sowing seeds & propagating your plants. Thank you!

Suggestions

Is there a particular place you're interested in exploring together?

Or any topics you'd like us to find speakers on? Feel free to talk to any of us or leave a note in the suggestion box located on the table at the back, near the serving hatch.

Website for all information, including our diary & photos from the shows, as well as the baking lists for the Spring show & outings: **www.stalhamhorticultural.uk**