

Stalham & District Horticultural Society Newsletter

May 2026

Last month's talk on **Gardening for Climate resilience & Biodiversity** by Jonathan Mitchell was compelling & inspiring. We learnt not to rush being tidy in our gardens, to delay cutting back, ditch the chemicals & allow beneficial predators to manage the pests. Embrace the weeds, build compost heaps, add a pond if possible & create as many diverse areas as we can whilst observing how the natural balance develops.

Next Month - **Friday 19th June 2026**, we look forward to a talk on **How to Attract Birds to Your Garden** with Neil Spinks. It should be interesting, especially with the recent change in recommendations about feeding birds in our garden.

Thank you to all who helped at the **Spring Show**, with the setting up & manning of the various tables, the stewarding & for all the lovely produce baked for the refreshment stall. As always, you were very generous. The support provided by all involved is greatly appreciated, & every contribution played a vital role in making the event a success.

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 also be collected from: - **The Post Office** in Stalham, **Sutton Hardware & Garden Centre**, The Street, Sutton & **A G Meale & Sons**, Wayford.

Raffle & Tombola Prizes

Thanks to all those who kindly donated items for the Spring Show. 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. Thank you.

Group Trips

For all the following trips we need to know how many attendees there will be, so please sign up if you're interested. The list will be available at all of our meets. Or contact Suzanne: Email sue@farmsidecottage.co.uk or tel/text 07780 985 425 We'll try to organise car sharing where possible. Please let us know if you need a lift.

- On Sunday, **June 14th, at 2pm**, we have a private group visit to **Old Manor Farmhouse Gardens in Swanton Abbott**. An award-winning garden that has been shortlisted as one of the nation's favourite gardens, it features Trees, Herbaceous borders & lawns, a clematis & rose walk, a spiral wildflower meadow, yew hedges & a knot garden of box hedges. The cost is £10 per person, including afternoon tea. Non-members are welcome. Payment will be required before the end of May 2026

- On **July 17th**, we visit **East Ruston Old Vicarage**, where we'll be privileged to have private access to the gardens. This trip is **Free to members**. Although officially starting at 5pm, you may arrive from 4.40pm to give you a bit more time to peruse the plant shop & make any purchases before it closes at 5pm.

Light refreshments will be provided. £5 per person for non-members.

- We also have a group visit planned to **Sonja Gaffers Tropical Gardens in Hellesdon** on **Sunday, August 16th**. Sonja will give a personal tour of an inspiring garden that features 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. Please sign up & make your payment by the end of July.

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!

Important announcement

The Stalham & District Horticultural Club has been bringing together gardening enthusiasts for over 53 years. However, we are now at a critical turning point. Our committee is currently operating below capacity, & we need to fill vacant roles. 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 the 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, email - ivyleaftree350@gmail.com or telephone - 01692 581163. Thank you!

See our website for all information, including diary & recent photos from the show.

www.stalhamhorticultural.uk