

# 🌸 HGS Horticultural Society – Spring Newsletter 2026 🌸

## A Celebration of Spring

Isn't it amazing how beautiful the Suburb looks in spring? The foresight of past and present gardeners—planting cherry, purple plum, and hawthorn trees along our roads, or magnolias and wisteria in private gardens—truly pays off at this time of year. A simple walk through our community can lift anyone's spirits.

Do take time to explore:

- The planters and orchard in Lyttelton Playing Fields
- Central Square
- The ever-interesting beds in Northway Gardens

We are incredibly fortunate to enjoy such surroundings.

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## What We've Been Up To

While the gardens have been waking up, the Society has been busy. Over the past few months, members have enjoyed a range of informative and social events:

### 🌱 Luscious Lawns Talk

Geoff Hodge delivered an excellent session on lawn care. Members learned:

- How to keep moss at bay
- Effective aeration techniques (using a garden fork and top-dressing with sharp sand)
- When to scarify (April or September)

The session sparked plenty of questions, all thoughtfully answered.



## Hedge Maintenance Workshop

Led by Frank Hawkins, this hands-on workshop explored maintaining hornbeam, plum, and privet hedges.

Participants worked on the hedge around the Kid's Garden, successfully reducing both height and width while learning that an **inverted V shape** promotes healthy growth.

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## Container Gardening

The Sunshine Garden Centre shared expert advice on creating impactful container displays using:

- **Thrillers** – the central focal plant
  - **Fillers** – surrounding support plants
  - **Spillers** – trailing plants cascading over the edges
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## Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

On a wonderfully sunny day a group of members spent a morning on a guided tour of Kew Gardens. They were able to enjoy a vast Arboretum (over 11,000 trees) and Alpine rock gardens, with something to see in every corner.

Particularly spectacular were what are believed to be the longest herbaceous borders in the country – and possibly in the world – the Great Broad Walk Borders which stretch out in a rainbow of colour.

At more than 320 metres, the borders offered an adventure of the senses - fresh fragrances, dazzling flower beds and feathery grasses.

Originally designed as an impressive promenade to the Palm House, the borders were replanted in 2016 and are an ideal inspiration for our own gardens.



## Social Moments

Each event was complemented by a relaxed gathering with a glass of wine or soft drink at Fellowship House—a wonderful way to connect with fellow members.

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## What's Coming Up

If you missed recent events, there's plenty to look forward to:

### Upcoming Events

- **10 May** – Annual Plant Sale at Fellowship House

Discounted plants, herbs and vegetables for sale

- Members: 10:00am
- Public: 10:30am

We would encourage all of you to also bring any spare home grown/propagated plants to the Plant Sale to sell alongside plants from Finchley Nurseries. This will raise funds for future Hort Soc events.

- **17 May** - Open gardens - 92 and 100 Hampstead Way.
  - Part of the National Garden Scheme scheme, adults £10, children free all proceeds go to charity 1.30 - 5.30 pm
- **30 May** – Coach trip to Oxford (*sold out*)
- **1 June** – Ikebana Flower Arranging Workshop led by Hort Soc member Yuki Yagioka
  - St Jude's Church 2-4.40 pm (location may change)
- **13 June** - Flower Show, Free Church Hall (sign up Tuesday 9 June at Fellowship House from 7pm)

### Volunteers

All of our events are organised by the Hort Soc committee, but we can always do with a helping hand! In particular we will need some strong arms to help set up the next flower show on Friday 12 June (evening) and Saturday 13 June in the morning. There are also one-off events that require support on an ad-hoc basis. And if your own garden is not keeping you busy enough the Centenary Bed outside Fellowship House is maintained by the Society and any extra assistance would be most welcome.

If you are interested in lending a helping hand please contact the Society.

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## ★ New Event

### 15 June

An evening with renowned gardener, broadcaster, and writer **Sarah Raven**, alongside journalist and author **Adam Nicholson**.

In collaboration with Britain's Biggest Living Garden and St Jude's, members can book discounted tickets for just **£5** (normal price £10). <https://www.stjudeonthehill.com/events>

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## 🌻 June Flower Show

### 13 June

Don't forget our much-loved annual flower show!

- Check your handbook or visit the website for class details ([www.hortsoc.co.uk](http://www.hortsoc.co.uk))
  - First-time exhibitors are warmly encouraged—helpers will be available on the day
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## 🛠️ Ideas?

As you can see there have been quite a few events already this year, but we are always open to new ideas and would like to hear from you suggestions for future events, for example topics for talks, workshops, outings etc. If there is a subject you think would interest members do please let Alison know by email at [events@hortsoc.co.uk](mailto:events@hortsoc.co.uk)

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events and continuing to grow our vibrant gardening community together.

🌸 *Happy gardening!* 🌸