RAYLEIGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Newsletter NOVEMBER 2025 www.rayleighhorticulturalsociety.co.uk e-mail peskypixie@supanet.com

# from the Chairman

Hi All,

It's hard to believe that 2025 is nearly at an end. I hope you have all managed to stay fit and well and have enjoyed this year in your gardens or on your allotment. At this point, I usually say what fruit and veggies have done well – however, despite our very unpredictable summer weather and erratic watering – ALL the fruit and veggies did extremely well (including an abundance of tomatoes and apples at the time of writing!) and all our freezers are now fit to bursting with produce to use throughout winter till next year.

It is now time to renew your membership for 2026 (see form on page 3 if you want to pay by cheque in the post) or you can renew at the Store or Club Meetings.

If you have not yet sent in your email address to us, then please do so as soon as possible to: **peskypixie@supanet.com** (as we are still planning to go "live" on email for your Newsletter early next year.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all our volunteers, whether you work in the Store or deliver Newsletters, the Society really appreciates all your efforts and couldn't do without you.

Finally, (with my Editor's hat on), I should also like to thank all the contributors to your Newsletter, without whom we wouldn't have a Newsletter!

With all Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Healthy 2026,

Colin Andrews

# Autumn Show 2025 (an account of the day)

Well as host for the Society I do what I can to help people at shows & club afternoons. Well on this occasion the Autumn show I was amazed more so than usual with the quality of the exhibits, I was thinking what an apple crumbles those apples would make & in the handicraft section, how someone would feel being given an exquisite item from the handicraft section, there was so many beautiful items. Loads of exhibits from our lady gardener Society member, 27 in total! Still more than I, and plenty more from the members for the many judges to keep them doing their stuff until the doors opened to the public. Those that helped on the day were, the treasurer taking entrance fees as people came in, then deep breath the people that ran the Tombola stand, there were 4 in all, assistant store managers wife & family giving a helping hand tear up the tickets of which there were many! Chairman & his wife on another table giving people club membership forms & advice on just about anything to do with the Society. Next you had the many tables with items from the store (which is adjacent to, Lower Wyburn's Farm, Dawes Heath Road, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 7NP. Which is open on Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday from 10am-12.30pm), on the tables run by assistant store manager & publicity officer was an abundance of tools, seeds, bulbs & more.

Now in no particular order those people who helped at the show or made a significant contribution, a lady who made the day go very smoothly was the vice chairman's granddaughter, with the councillor, Marianne Vernon. She helped by pulling & calling out the tombola tickets, others that helped with other duties were, most of the committee. The lady who brought many exhibits (27 in all) & a lady who works on the trains, all managed to take down the show with other members when it had finished in about half an hour, incredible!

Before I finish, I think a round of applause for the show manager who put the show together, its not as easy as you think, there's a lot involved in getting everything together on the day, I could list some of them but I would run out of room. Thanks to everyone who helped on the day, I apologise if I have not mentioned you. Have a wonderful time until next time.

***Mark Wilson, Hospitality.***

# STORE CLOSURE DATES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

The store will close from

**12.30 Saturday 13th December 2025**

and will re-open at

**10.00 a.m. Tuesday 6th January 2026**




# 2026 SHOW DATES



***Spring Show***

***SUNDAY MARCH 29th 2026***

***Autumn Show***

***SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6th 2026***

The show book with the class details will be available from mid January 2026 from following :

the store / club meetings and on line at www.rayleighhorticulturalsociety.co.uk,

Or post RHS 339 Eastwood Road, Rayleigh SS6 7LH,

*PLEASE keep an eye on the website for latest information on STORE - CLUB MEETINGS and NEWSLETTER updates*

**www.rayleighhorticulturalsociety.co.uk**

# STORE NEWS



Hi folks. If you have not visited the store recently, you may not know that we do now have a range of Spring bulbs in-store. These include daffodils (a choice of some 5 different varieties including Tete-a-tete), tulips (a fantastic variety of at least 14 different types and colours), and crocus. Also waiting for you to buy are the over-wintering onions (Radar and Autumn Champion). As always, our prices are very reasonable, just remember to bring your membership card.

I can let you know that our potatoes for 2026 are on order but to date delivery has not been confirmed. We usually take delivery about the third/ fourth week in January. Keep your ears/eyes open.

Please note that our last trading day for 2025 will be Saturday, 13th December and we re-open on Tuesday 6th January if you want to come and say hello.

Membership can be renewed from now at the store or by post see page 3 membership fee remains the same - £8.00 per year per family.

I would just like to say a huge 'THANK YOU' to my Merry Band of Volunteers without whom I would not be able to open the store. You are worth your weight in gold and anyone who wants to join our team, just give me or Ann a ring on 01702 527456. Just two and a half hours per week will help the Society and give you a buzz!

**Wishing you all a happy and healthy Christmas.**
David Baughen *Trading Store Manager*

# Social News

We are well on the road to Autumn as I write this but my garden today has been full of birds and the odd fox. There are a lot of magpies around at the moment, and the squirrels have some competition for the insects and nuts on my lawn after those terrific winds recently.

**I am currently speaking to people about our social afternoons. I need speakers so if you come across anyone you think may be of interest to our members, please do let me know.** I try to keep the presentations interesting and amusing for you - sometimes it works out well! The costs we are facing for 2026 appear to be going up in leaps and bounds so we may have to increase our Social Afternoon entry fee in the New Year. I do try and keep costs down. Remember that the November meeting is the last one for 2025 (Friday 7th November). Hopefully I will see you there.

**Keep Well and have a lovely Christmas and New Year.**
Ann Baughen *Social Secretary*




Today (Sunday) David, myself and several other R H S members visited the beautiful gardens at Tree Tops at the kind invitation of Monica Knight.
Monica's garden is 'Splendiferous' as David's pictures show. Her method of gardening is very interesting, using the permaculture practices and some great ideas she has for the production of fruit and veggies.
Monica is a generous host and is passionate about passing on her knowledge







## JUST A REMINDER

The store opening times are:
TUESDAY — THURSDAY
SATURDAY
10.00 a.m. till 12.30

# Volunteer Secretary Needed

Are you one of those people who miss life at "the office"? Would you like to be part of a team, using your note-taking and other office skills working with Rayleigh Horticultural Society? If the answer to the above is "yes" then read on.

We are looking for a secretary to join our Team. To take notes at our Committee Meetings – usually 4 or 5 per year, and to send out occasional correspondence. Some keyboard skills would be useful, but you don't have to be a computer wizard.

If you are interested and would like to find out more about the role, please contact: Ann Baughen, on 01702 527456.

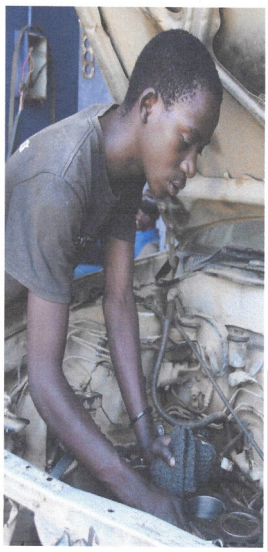
## TWAM Tools with a Mission

Tools with a Mission is a Christian charity that collects unwanted usable tools, refurbishes them, sorts them into trade tool kits and sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation.

We believe that people in extreme poverty don't just need a one-off financial handout that may allow them to eat for a day, they need a way to consistently earn money and put food on the table **every single day**.

We give them the push that they need to build their own businesses, giving them a sustainable income and **putting poverty in the past for good**.

Every year, we send around 20 containers filled with over 320 tonnes of tools to local community groups and skills centres, giving these communities the resources to develop a mindset of **independence, not reliance**.



If you would like to donate some of your old tools, give us a gift, or join our dedicated team of volunteers, visit our website at **twam.uk**, or give us a call at **01473 210 220**.

**Find us on:**

Tools with a Mission
2 Bailey Close
Hadleigh Road Ind Estate
Ipswich IP2 0UD

Your local contact is our Hospitality Officer

Mark Wilson on
01702 512010
in Eastwood

# Club Meeting reports by Pat Hill

## "Mayor's Chauffeur"

Adam Tregoning retired from being a musician in the military and decided he wanted a different sort of job. He saw an advert for Southend Mayor's Chauffeur and thought that would do fine. When he went for the interview they told him they were actually looking for someone for the post of Mayor's Officer and Macebearer. He liked the sound of that, and got the job. Macebearers have been around for about 800 years and originally protected the Mayor whose job was basically to collect taxes. Southend's first Mayor was Thomas Dowsett (you will recognise that name from Southend Hospital!) and since then there have only been 9 Macebearers although many Mayors. The official residence, Porters, was bought by the council in 1935 and visits costing £6 pp can be arranged - phone 01702 215141 or email adamtregoning@southend.gov.uk. It is a lovely old building with an impressive garden and we have heard good reports from people who have visited.

## "visit India"



Anyone who enjoys wildlife programmes on TV would have been interested in the September talk. Mary & Graham Brace are keen photographers who regularly visit India to photograph the animals and birds, and their photo's were certainly good. There are quite a few National Parks which we envisage as jungle but are actually forest. Only accredited guides are allowed on the tracks through the reserves and vehicles are not allowed to stray off them. Consequently the animals are used to the jeeps carrying people with cameras and usually find them 'interesting' but can disappear into the undergrowth if they wish. Wildlife corridors are being created to link reserves to widen the gene pool and prevent interbreeding. I think everyone found the talk interesting as there were a lot of questions afterwards which Mary & Graham were happy to answer.

## "VOLCANIC ASH"



Ron Coutts was the very knowledgeable speaker on a wet October afternoon, so we are grateful to our members who braved the rain - not so many as usual but we weren't surprised. At first Ron showed us slides of his garden, then and now, and it has certainly changed since he moved there in 1988. The front garden started out as lawn and flower beds and is now packed with plants and just narrow paths to the front door and sideway. The back has also evolved with pergolas and lovely garden furniture among the exotic plants. Ron gave us several tips, including using old potting compost for sowing seeds to avoid overfed leggy seedlings. His preferred fertilizer boost for pots and also the open garden is volcanic ash and our Store Manager, David, piped up from his store table at the back 'we sell rock dust in the store, it's the same thing'. There were a lot of questions and answers and Ron sold many of the plants he had brought along.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL POSTAL FORM for 2026




**Name**.....

**Address**.....

.....

**Post Code**.....

**Telephone number**.....

**MEMBERSHIP FEE £8.00**

Per household per annum.

Send this form with a cheque made payable to "Rayleigh Horticultural Society"

**To:** The membership secretary,

**Rayleigh Horticultural Society,**

Mr. & Mrs. C. Andrews, 339 Eastwood Road, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 7LH

### IMPORTANT

Rayleigh Horticultural Society works hard to keep your personal data secure. As a membership organisation we do not and will not share your data with any other organisation or individual who is not a member of our Committee.

***PLEASE SIGN HERE to agree to the society contacting you, i.e. Sending newsletters etc.***

Signed.....

As well as by post, membership may also be renewed at the store or club meetings,

## HELP- IDEAS NEEDED!!!

I am looking for plant related subjects for future club meeting talks, any suggestions please e-mail me at couttsier636@outlook.com. *Thanks Ron*

# The 2025 PLANT SALE

Thank you to all our members who responded to our request for more sellers at our annual plant sale back in the spring. We had a good turnout of around 15 tables with a wide variety of plants ranging from perennials, bedding plants, tomatoes, runner beans, sweetcorn, strawberry plants and even pond plants. Prices ranged from 50p to several pounds for large plants but all were excellent value - and were offered with planting advice if needed. The weather was kind to us and it was a good morning. The date of the 2026 sale will be in your next newsletter, on the website, and on the back of your membership card, so please mark it on your calendar, pot up a few self sown seedlings, take some cuttings and when you sow those packets of seeds and have some over they can repay you for their cost. If you don't fancy being a seller (and it is good fun) come along on the day and find some bargains, there is no admission charge. The store will also be open for purchases so you can stock up on potting compost at the same time.

## 2025 AUTUMN SHOW PHOTOS







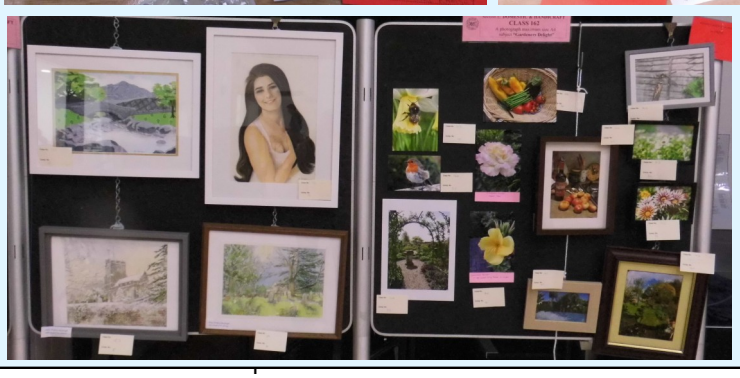














Editors: Janet & Colin Andrews, 339 Eastwood Road, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 7LH Email: peskypixie@supanet.com