

SEA REPORT ON SOCIAL EVENTS ARRANGED FROM 25 OCTOBER 2024 TO DECEMBER 2025 FOR OHSCA AGM ON 24 OCTOBER 2025

SEA organises social activities and events to bring the community together. Mailchimp reminders are sent out to those members who have provided their email address to Peter Whisson. We welcome offers to help with activities, to join the SEA sub-committee, or any suggestions for future events. Please contact the Convenor, Lorna Durrani, via social@ohsca.org.

SEA ACTIVITIES IN 2024/5

Monthly coffee mornings: Coffee mornings continue every fourth Wednesday of the month, at the Hampton by Hilton Hotel, 7 St Margaret's Street, 11.00–12.00. They continue to be popular. The next meeting is on 26th November 2025 (no meeting in December).

Games Evenings were held on 4 November 2024 and 2 December 2024. They were discontinued in 2025 because of poor support.

Special Walks: All well attended apart from the visit to see the Purple Emperor, probably because of the early start and distance involved.

- 23 February 2025 Goodnestone Park to see snowdrops & hellebores & tea at The Tea Shop
- 26 April 2025 Bluebell Walk & lunch at The Granville
- 30 June 2025 Purple Emperor Walk in Dene Park, near Tonbridge.
- 22 July 2025 Guided Walk by Dick in Westgate Gardens followed by lunch

Summer Lunch Party: Sue Lakeman and Peter Taylor-Gooby kindly hosted this year's summer lunch party on 28th July 2025. This was very enjoyable.

The Gardening Interest Group (GIG): Signed-up members of GIG are informed of local gardening events. They can make use of the network for sharing information and getting gardening advice by contacting Alison Culverwell, Helly Langley, or Sue Hodge. The following events took place in 2025.

- 27 March 2025 Gardeners' Question Time & Seed Share @ Phoenix at 2.30pm.
- 26 May 2025 GIG Plant & Produce Share @ Dick & Hazel's house at 10.30–12.30.
- 20 June 2025 GIG Visit to Godinton to see the delphiniums. Poorly attended.
- 12 September 2025 Visit to Goodnestone on NGS open day.
- 3 visits to members' gardens.

Weekly walks: They are scheduled to take place on Friday mornings at 9.30am. There is a WhatsApp group set up so people can communicate in advance about whether the walk will take place. Anyone wanting to be in the WhatsApp group was directed to contact Lucy Fletcher-Jones. However, as no-one has been attending for some time, it has been agreed to discontinue the walks.

Revised on 25 September 2025

Talks: We arranged five talks in 2024 which were well attended. Phil Perkins talked about his archaeological work in Tuscany on 18th November 2024. The second Poetry event scheduled for 10th December 2024 was cancelled because of poor support. In 2025 we arranged five talks including:

- 28 January 2025 Talk by Peter Taylor-Gooby about his book about Aspasia, the Immigrant Queen
- 14 March 2025 Talk by Doreen Rosman about Canterbury during the war years
- 29 April 2025 Talk by Peter Donaldson about his book on the Sports Personality of the Year
- 30 September 2025 Talk by Patricia Marsh on Aphra Behn
- 18 November 2025 Talk by Robert Heywood about St Augustine's Hospital

Informal Lunches: this was a new addition to the programme for 2025. The first informal lunch was held on Tuesday 5 August 2025 at The Old Gate Inn. It was attended by 15 people and was very enjoyable. It was agreed to hold an informal lunch at The Old Gate Inn every 2 or 3 months. The next lunch will take place on 11 November 2025 (date to be confirmed) and in January in 2026.

The Safari Sale was arranged for Saturday 16 August 2025 at 3 sites. It was cancelled because of poor support.

Annual General Meeting: SEA supports the AGM by providing refreshments for the social part of the evening.

Lorna Durrani, OHSCA SEA Convenor social@ohsca.org

SEA sub-committee: Susi Brain, Alison Culverwell, Helly Langley, Margot Leslie, Hazel & Dick Vane-Wright, Lorna Durrani.