

## **REPORT FROM LITTLE WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB - September 2026**

Little Waltham Gardening Club resumed its evening meetings in September when Brian Carline gave us a talk entitled 'The Science of Plants'. As a biology teacher for 40 years and with as many years as a gardener, Brian has a wealth of knowledge to draw on.

Brian began his talk about plants at their roots, the most important part of a plant. So obsessed with roots, Brian has been known to knock plants out of their pots in a garden centre prior to purchasing. Poor roots equals poor plant.

Most plants, when bought from a garden centre are growing in a compost that includes a slow release fertiliser (osmocote), that will feed the plant up to 6 weeks. Thereafter a supplementary food is required to maintain vigour. We were reminded that plants require nitrates (N) for leaf growth, Phosphate (P) for root growth and Potash (K) for flowers and fruit. Brian discussed a number of proprietary plant feeds that are widely available and reminded us to bear in mind the type of plant we are feeding. For example tomatoes require a high potash feed to induce flowers and fruit. Listed on the labels of plant feeds is information about the ratio between the main three elements N:P:K that a plant needs for growth. Tomatoes would give a good harvest if fed on a 4:3:8 feed and taste even better if some trace elements were present as in a sea weed feed. We were reminded to follow the dilution rate as advised on the packaging.

As a pelargonium and fuchsia grower, Brian was keen to demonstrate how to take cuttings, this being the optimum time of year.

This talk provoked numerous questions from the audience, and we all felt that even though we have been gardening for some years, we had learned something new.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 7th OCTOBER when the subject will be 'Plants that enjoy Shade', by Lynne Moore of 'Moore and Moore Plants'. In addition, Lynne will bring along plants for sale.

On 4th NOVEMBER The subject, will be 'Encouraging Birds to your Garden' by Glyn Evans.

We meet at 7.30pm in Little Waltham Memorial Hall (CM3 3 LN) where there is plenty of parking.

We are a small friendly group and we are happy to welcome visitors and new members.

For more information please phone Maggie on 01245 360042

Or visit. [www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk)