



NEWSLETTER

May 2025

Dear Members,

Our next event, on Wednesday **25th June**, is the **self-drive outing**, which this year is to Oak House, Gretton, a one-acre secret garden which the owners have developed over 30 years, with places to sit and enjoy the scented plants, particularly roses; there are also ponds and a wildflower meadow. We meet at the garden at 2pm; the visit and refreshments are **free to members**, or £5 (visit) and £5 (refreshments) to non-members (please feel free to bring a friend!). To get there, drive to Winchcombe, turn left in the centre of the town (second left after the church) into North Street and follow this for just short of 2 miles to Gretton, where you turn left into Greenway Lane; Oak House is a little way along on the right. The postcode is GL54 5ER. We need to let the garden know numbers for the teas, so if you're coming, please let us know by Thursday 19th June; respond to this email, or phone 01452 862412.

Our **Open Gardens** event in Brimpsfield will be on Saturday **12th July**, with several gardens open and cream teas in the Village Hall – more details in the next newsletter, but make a note of the date now!

Don't forget that our **Annual Show** is on Saturday **30th August**; I hope to have schedules available in time for the Open Gardens event. The **photographic classes** this year will be 'Flowers', 'All Creatures Great and Small' and 'Close-up' (and of course the humorous caption class) – there should be something there for everyone! The Photography Trophy this year will be awarded on a points-based system, to the exhibitor whose entries score the most points in total. Time to get snapping ...

The Committee is starting to consider our programme for 2026-27 – yes, it's a long way off but these things take time to organise! – and in particular speakers for our coffee morning events. We would like to know what topics you would be interested in. Besides talks on specific plants or plant groups, ideas might include plants for difficult situations or (for example) gardening in drought; wildlife, including local flora or fauna; environmental / green issues; flower arranging; hands-on participation and/or demonstrations; or you might have other ideas entirely. Please let us know and we'll do our best to find a speaker on the subject – or tell us if you know of a good speaker.

Long-standing members in particular will know that the Garden Society has cared for the Village Hall garden for the past 25 years. The garden was in need of major renovation and has been mostly cleared, and we propose to hand responsibility for it back to the Village Hall, so that it can be used as an outdoor seating area; please let us know if you have any comments on this.

You may have heard that there is a new (to the UK) disease, Usutu virus, that in particular affects blackbirds, and which is thought to be the cause of a decline in their numbers. It has not yet been recorded in Gloucestershire but has been noted in adjacent counties and will be heading this way. The British Trust for Ornithology is running a citizen-science monitoring scheme to gather data on blackbirds, until this autumn; if you'd like to take part, you can find out more and sign up at [Blackbirds in Gardens | BTO](#). Spare some time to help one of our most popular garden visitors.

Happy gardening!

Frances Ellery

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