



NEWSLETTER

June 2025

Dear Members,

We hope to see many of you at our main summer event, the **Open Gardens** in Brimpsfield, on **Saturday 12th July** between 2pm and 4pm(ish), and we hope that the weather will stay fine for the afternoon! You can pick up a map showing which gardens are open – we are hoping that there will be eight of them – at either Yew Tree Barn or The Old Post Office; the cost is £5 per person (children free), which entitles you to a cream tea in the Village Hall that afternoon as well as visiting the gardens. If you're coming by car, please park at the Village Hall and, on leaving the car park, turn right and Yew Tree Barn is the first entrance on the left. The Old Post Office is at the other end of the village, opposite the turning towards Cranham, but parking opportunities there are very limited.

There will be a variety of different garden styles on display, from the carefully planted and maintained ones to my rather chaotic plot! We shall be away from home just before the event, so our garden is likely to be even less cared-for than usual. I am gradually trying to reclaim it from the overgrown state to which I've allowed it to descend, with some success; but I also garden with wildlife in mind, which involves a certain amount of deliberate untidiness. Gardening for wildlife can be a rather hit-or-miss affair; you can't be too particular about what wildlife will turn up. I know that one member put out a hedgehog box, only to find it occupied by a rat. I left some logs half-buried in soil, hoping to create a home for stag beetles. Instead they got woodworm. But a hedgehog visits every evening to drink on the patio, we see a good variety of birds nesting and feeding in the garden and there's a patch of about 100 orchids in the grass (they may or may not still be in flower next month), so we must be doing some things right. Whatever the style of the various open gardens, we hope you'll find something in each of them to give you ideas for your own patch.

Don't forget about the Annual Show on Saturday 30th August; I hope to have lists of this year's classes available at the Open Gardens event, although the full schedules will go out to members with the next newsletter later in July as usual. Remember that there's a photo class for 'Flowers' – plenty of opportunities at the event! The other classes are 'All Creatures Great and Small' and 'Close up', and the humorous caption class.

Happy gardening!

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