



## NEWSLETTER

July 2025

Dear Members,

We had feared that people would avoid the Open Gardens day because of the heat, but in fact it was very successful, and the (rather dry) gardens and the cream teas seemed to go down well with everyone! It was good to see so many of you.

It's time for the **Annual Show** again, this year on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August**, in **BIRDLIP Village Hall** (not Brimpsfield). Birdlip Village Hall is behind Birdlip school. We rely on members to make it a success, so do take a look at the Schedule of Classes (attached) and consider what you might have to enter! As I say every year, first-time exhibitors always do well at the Show, so don't hold back!

Along with the Schedule, you should receive with this newsletter a pair of entry forms and a document with tips on How to Exhibit at the Show; all these will also be available on the Society's webpage at [www.brimpsfieldvillage.org](http://www.brimpsfieldvillage.org) (under the Garden Society tab). The soft-copy Schedule comes in two forms: one (the 'read copy') with all the pages in logical order, and one (the 'print copy') arranged so that, if printed two pages to a sheet, it can be folded into a booklet. Paper copies will be available for you to pick up in the Brimpsfield phone box, at the Village Hall bar, and at Ruby's Bar in Birdlip – or direct from me at the Old Post Office, Brimpsfield.

Regardless of how many times you have exhibited in the past, **PLEASE READ THE SCHEDULE CAREFULLY** – and also the How to Exhibit at the Show document, which contains much helpful advice too. There's a lot of information in both, covering questions that I've been asked in the past, and advice passed on by judges over the years; some are general tips, and some are specific to certain sections or classes. I'm happy to answer queries if you're unsure about anything, and refer them to the judges if necessary; I also have a copy of the Royal Horticultural Society's Show Handbook, which I can consult for you (last year's query was whether rhubarb was officially a fruit or vegetable; it's a fruit). I'm also occasionally asked whether you can put in more than one entry per class; no, the Schedule Rules (no. 6) say you can't! – and, although it isn't stated anywhere, I don't look kindly on multiple entries per household in the Fruit, Veg and Flowers classes, unless you can convince me that you really do have 'his' and 'hers' potato patches or roses!

Even if you don't enter, do remember to **come along in the afternoon**, from 2.30, to admire the exhibits and to enjoy tea and homemade cakes; prizegiving is at 4pm and is followed by a charity auction (in aid of the Brockworth Hedgehog Rescue, our charity for this year) of any exhibits that exhibitors would like to offer. After all of this you can collect your prize money, but please do wait until proceedings are over before doing that and taking your exhibits away; it's distracting to those taking part in the auction when exhibitors are packing up and going to and fro. We won't keep you late.

If you're coming from outside the Brimpsfield/Birdlip area, please note that the A417 is scheduled to be closed on the weekend of the Show; local roads are likely to be busy, so do take care when travelling.

Our next event after the Show is the first of our autumn coffee morning meetings, on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October, when Duncan Coombs will talk on The Shaded Garden – many of us have a shady area in our plot, and some ideas for planting it are always welcome! As usual, we meet in Brimpsfield Village Hall, with refreshments available from 10.30 and the talk starting at 11am.

This year has been much better than last for butterflies; the Big Butterfly Count runs until 10<sup>th</sup> August, and is a great way to involve children (and yourself) in nature and your garden. It only takes 15

minutes, although you can do it as many times as you like. Details, and identification charts, are available at <https://butterfly-conservation.org> .

I have details of a couple of outings being run by other gardening groups; I will send these out separately by email, so as not to have too many attachments to this mail. The handful of you who still receive the newsletter in hard copy only can get details direct from me if they are interested.

Happy exhibiting, and good luck!

Frances Ellery