



NEWSLETTER

May 2026

Dear Members,

After our very successful Plant Sale – it was good to see so many of you there! – we look forward to our **self-drive outing** on **Tuesday 23rd June**, to Wicks Green Farm, Longney. This garden is in a rural area near the Severn, south of Gloucester, with flower borders, vegetable garden, pond and an orchard with old local pear varieties. They also have alpacas! As last year, the Society will cover the full cost of the visit, including tea and cake, for members; guests will be very welcome on payment of the £10 charge, so feel free to bring a friend or two. The postcode is GL2 3SP and the What3Words reference is broom.almost.messy; the quickest way is via the M5, leaving at junction 12 and heading west round the south of Quedgeley via Elmore towards Longney, and the farm is signed on the left about a mile before Longney, but I suggest you use your satnav or a map to find it. The journey from Brimpsfield via the M5 should take around 30 minutes; we meet at the farm at 2pm. We're aware that some members can't make weekdays, so provided that enough people are interested (minimum of 6), we are prepared to have an additional outing to the same venue on **Saturday 6th June**. Please let us know as soon as possible if you'd like to come on either date (and specify which, and how many people); we need numbers a week before each date, so don't delay! Email brimpsfieldgardensociety@gmail.com with names and dates.

Our summer event this year will be a treasure hunt around Brimpsfield, with cream teas in the Village Hall, on **Saturday 4th July**; it will be open to members and non-members. There will be more details in the next newsletter, but make a note of the date now!

After that, the next event is our **Annual Show**, on Saturday **5th September**; I hope to have schedules out next month. The **photographic classes** this year will be 'A tree', 'An action shot' and 'A quiet corner' – and of course the humorous caption class. We're keen to encourage more young exhibitors, and so the 'Children's' Section will be renamed the Junior Section. As you know, young exhibitors don't have to be members to enter that section, but if there are some who would like to enter the adult classes but don't belong to a member family, we propose to offer a Junior Membership of the Society at £1 to allow them to take part. One of the Junior classes is that old stalwart, an **animal made from fruit or vegetables**, but we are also trialling a similar fun class for adults – get creative and show us your cauliflower sheep, pineapple hedgehog or other vegetable creature! We look forward to seeing what you can come up with!

Those of you who were at the AGM will know that we are considering whether we should change the Society's name to Mid-Cotswold Garden Society, to be more inclusive of those outside Brimpsfield. The Chair, Judith Cheyney, outlines the reasons for this in her words below; please read these carefully and let us know your thoughts. Only paid-up members will

be able to take part in the decision, so do ensure that you've paid your subs by the time of the Show to have your voice heard.

At the AGM members voted to continue supporting the Brockworth Hedgehog Rescue as our chosen charity. You probably know that the RSPB has changed its position on feeding birds and now advises that we shouldn't put out food for them through the summer to help stem the disease trichomonosis that is proving deadly to small birds such as finches; it is important, however, to put out water for them and other wildlife such as hedgehogs to allow them to drink in dry weather. Be sure to change the water regularly, daily if possible, and to keep birdbaths and saucers clean and occasionally disinfected. Your local hog, and birds, will be grateful!

There are many local gardens open to visitors in May; Cotswold Farm at Duntisbourne Abbots is open for the National Garden Scheme on the weekend of 30-31st May (see the NGS website for details of this and other gardens). Cheltenham Horticultural Society are running a coach trip to Morton Hall at Redditch, followed by a visit to Webbs of Wychbold at Droitwich, on Wednesday 24th June, and are offering places (£36 including refreshments) to non-members; details are in the flyer attached to the email version of this newsletter. Have a good day out, wherever you go!

Happy gardening!
Frances Ellery
brimpsfieldgardensociety@gmail.com

From the Chair of the Society:

The Society's committee is looking into ways that we might attract new members as well as attract more existing members to attend the Society's events and we will be widening our range of talks to include wildlife and the environment. We are also considering changing the name of the Society as there appears to be a perception that having 'Brimpsfield' in the name the Society is primarily a Brimpsfield one. In order to make it appear more inclusive and following a 'sounding-out' of members at the recent AGM, we propose the change of name to 'The Mid-Cotswold Garden Society' The committee would welcome your views or thoughts on the matter ahead of a vote from all paid-up members at the end of September.

Judith Cheyney
Chair