



NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Dear Members,

After such a hot and dry summer, we were expecting lower numbers of entries at this year's Show, but were pleasantly surprised by the exhibits that you managed to present – well done all of you! Interestingly, entries in the Cakes and Preserves and Crafts sections, neither of which are affected by the weather, were also lower than in previous years, but we were delighted that the Junior Section was well supported again. Our congratulations to all the prizewinners! The trophies went to:

The Ray Smith Memorial Trophy (best exhibit in Section A, Fruit/Veg):	Amy Hale
The Jubilee Trophy (most points in Section A, Fruit/Veg):	Frances Ellery
The President's Prize (best rose exhibit):	Judith Cheyney
The Hartpury Bowl (best pot plant):	Thalia McWilliam
The Peter Standing Trophy (best exhibit in Section B, Flowers):	Judith Cheyney
The Gladys Le Gros Hobbs Memorial Cup (best flower arrangement):	Jane Smith
The Chairman's Prize (most points in Section D, Cakes & Preserves):	Mary James
The Marie Ann Ellery Prize (best baking exhibit)	Louise Turner
The Mike Freeman Cup (best exhibit in the Junior section):	Tom Goldstone
The Craft Trophy:	Jane Overbury
The Needlework Trophy:	Judith Cheyney
The Mike Young Prize for Photography:	Oliver Hale

Awards of Merit were made to Harvey Mattinson, for carrots and runner beans; Louise Turner, for French beans and a photograph; Jane Overbury, for dahlias; Roger Lock, for machine-made bread; and to Oli Hale, Jane Smith and Frances Ellery, for photographs. You can find some **photographs of the Show** on our webpage at www.brimpsfieldvillage.org/brimpsfield-garden-soc.

A lot of people are involved behind the scenes of the Show, and we're grateful to them all for their help: members of the Committee obviously, but also all who helped set the hall up (and put everything away afterwards), the stewards, the lunch team (we serve an excellent lunch to the judges and stewards) of Judith Lonsdale, Jane Parsons, Liz Oakey and Iris Phillips, and the tea team of Larry Wallace, Richard Linenthal and George, as well as those who donated cakes for the teas. And apologies, and more thanks, to anyone I've forgotten. Many thanks to all of you!

Next year's Show is scheduled for Saturday **4th September 2027**, so make a note of the date now! And by the way, someone left a raffle prize at the hall; if you're missing a prize, get in touch and I can arrange to reunite you with it!

Our next meeting is our first autumn coffee morning, on **Saturday 3rd October** in Brimpsfield Village Hall, with a talk on '**Unusual Fruit and Vegetables**' by Kevin Alviti. Some of you will remember Kevin's entertaining talk a couple of years ago about his smallholding; as last time, he will be bringing some items for sale. After that, on 7th November, David Cropp will speak about '**New Plants From Old**' – an opportunity to find out how to fill your garden cheaply, or to grow presents for friends (or for our spring Plant Sale!). Then on 5th December we have a seasonal talk on '**Mistletoe: Fact, Myth and Legend**' from Dr M Jones. For all of these, coffee and home-made cakes will be on offer, for a modest sum, from 10.30, with the talks starting at 11am. I'll remind you about the spring talks in the next newsletter in January!

The home-made cakes are a major feature of our meetings, but we need more cake-makers to spread the load; please let us know if you can occasionally help us out (we can pay expenses). We're also starting to think about speakers for the 2027-28 season, and widening our range of subjects; we would welcome members' thoughts and ideas, either for a speaker or a topic, so please get in touch with those in the next few weeks.

In the meantime, remember not to tidy your garden too much for the winter; leave some cover for overwintering wildlife, and don't forget to leave out water in dry or frosty spells for them to drink and bathe!

Happy gardening!

Frances Ellery