



Bulletin

29th August 2023

From the Chair

Dear Members

Our coach trip to Hyde Hall turned out to be fantastic. I was worried about the weather and travelling on the M25, through the Dartford Tunnel. Yet my worries were unfounded, it was a gloriously sunny day and we sailed through the tunnel with no delays either way. When I walked through the cottage garden, the first garden I visited, I was transfixed, it was breathtakingly beautiful. All the other gardens were equally lovely, and the surrounding views and the vegetables were superb. The day finished with an excellent cream tea. The whole event was truly amazing and the garden really is worth a visit.

Our shows, thanks to you all, just seem to get better and better. The quality and variety of exhibits are outstanding and we are receiving plenty of visitors.

I was terribly upset to hear the sad news about Gillian Wooldridge, who was another key part and great asset to the Society. It made me stop and think about how important it is to make the most of every day and enjoy the things around you. I am sure your gardens and plants bring you much peace, happiness and help you to appreciate the beauty and fragility of life.

Wishing you all good health and happiness.
Gail Fraser, Chairperson

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Summer Shows

Both our Early Summer and Summer shows were very successful, filling the hall with colour and many impressive exhibits. All our judges were delighted by the standard, and indeed a rose specialist judge said that it was the best show he had seen in years. Congratulations to all our exhibitors. They were both the largest shows we have had for 20 years. How do we do it!

Diana Beck won the Mrs Bristow Challenge cup for a box of 6 specimen roses, Jane Mawer won the Major Wade Rose cup for the best rose, Gail Fraser won the Marilee cup for the most points in the iris classes throughout the year, and

Keith Lewis won the Branscombe Memorial Delphinium Bowl. At the Summer Show Ann Shore won the Edwards cup for early season vegetables and Sally Keywood-Gray the Collett cup for sweet peas.

Blue Ribbons for outstanding exhibits were awarded as follows:

Early summer show - Diana Beck, Jane Mawer, Keith Lewis, Judith Henley, Sally Keywood-Gray, Signature CH, and Nina Fassnidge.

Summer show - Nina Fassnidge, Margaret and Norbert Dietsch, Ann Shore, Sally Keywood-Gray, Jane Mawer, David Peterken, Debbie Fox, Signature CH, Yvonne Perriam, and Charlotte Payne.

Congratulations also to the following for achieving a Certificate of Merit:

Early summer show - Sophie Ford, Charles Marshall, Debbie Fox, Richard and Peggy Reid, Denham & Lesley Earl, Tricia Payne, Marion Charman, and Diana Beck.

Summer show - Gail Fraser, David Peterken, Signature CH, Judith Henley, Jane Mawer, Patricia Payne, Nina Fassnidge, Cath and Terry Tiernan, Claire Abbott, and Debbie Fox.

David Peterken



It was a good year for the roses...



Autumn Show

This year's Autumn show is on Saturday 9th September in the Banstead Community Hall at 2pm. As usual refreshments will be available and Councillor Jonathan Essex will be presenting the prizes. We also hope to have the A & B narcissi bulbs for sale at £7.

We will be setting up the show on Friday the 8th from 6.30pm and we would be most grateful for any help. Exhibits can be staged between 8am and 11am on the Saturday morning but any exhibitors unable to make it may enter exhibits from 8pm on Friday evening.

We welcome new and/or inexperienced exhibitors.

The Show Captain is available in the hall to help and to solve any spacing problems. All our exhibitors are very friendly and willing to share a wealth of knowledge on how to display exhibits. Staging facilities, vases and water are provided in the hall foyer. Plates and other staging are available directly on the show bench.

David Peterken, Show Secretary

Further Information for Exhibitors

Class 64, Banstead Gardeners Challenge, is for a collection of 3 vegetables from the following: carrots (3), cauliflowers (2), onions (3), parsnips (3), peas (6 pods), runner beans (6), tomatoes (6), peppers (3), sweet corn (2), aubergines (2), courgettes (3), cucumbers (2), French beans (6), potatoes (3). The collection should be displayed in an area 450 x 600mm (18 x 24 ins). Cloths or boards may be used. No accessories such as onion rings or plates are permitted. A garnish of parsley is allowed. Each vegetable judged for size and colour (7 points), condition (7) and uniformity (6). Total 20.

Remember class 72, collection of fruit, can contain dessert and culinary apples.

Anyone wishing to enter class 89 should contact the assistant Show Secretary on 07734033012. All of the accessories must be used in the exhibit.

In the cookery classes please follow the recipes in the schedule where appropriate. The judge is provided with the recipes which will be on display. We have had several exhibits recently which have not followed the published recipe.

Do not forget we have two domestic classes for males only, the Barm Brack cake in class 92 (recipe provided) and class 90 for an arrangement of flowers.

David Peterken

10 Year Partnership Success

Celebrating 10 years of free garden service for BHS members. Book now for Autumn help.

The garden service partnership between Epsom College and BHS has succeeded over the last 10 years during which time I and other members, have enjoyed the company of a student (or two) visiting my garden during the winter months to help with the more straightforward tasks. They learn, I learn, and it is rewarding for all who take part. Our small friendly group will support newcomers over a cup of tea and cake to share rainy day tactics, other inventive ideas and successful outcomes. The College has extra volunteer places for this season. So, if you are interested and within Banstead or a 15-minute drive of Epsom College please contact me to discuss more on 01737 271243 (answerphone) or by preference diana.beck@tiscali.co.uk

Show Refreshments

On behalf of the committee I wish to send my heartfelt thanks to Mary Quick, for all the hard work and dedication she has shown to the Society, organising and managing the refreshments, as well as baking many delicious cakes. After 15 years, on the refreshments and raising lots of money for the BHS, she has decided to step down. I know Mary didn't want a big fuss, but I just wanted to say a big thank you and I hope we will continue to see you at future shows where you can enjoy the exhibits and sit down with a nice cup of tea.

Gail Fraser





Fascinating Fennel

Foeniculum vulgare 'purpureum'

This is not the root vegetable, but a beautiful addition to either the herb or the ornamental garden. Bronze leaves complement other plants with lovely soft texture as well as unusual colour.

Benefits: Versatile

- Ornamental foliage: dense fluffy early texture opens out with age. Pretty bronze colour rather than purple as named
- Ornamental flower umbels (into seed heads) give height in early autumn
- Edible leaves, and seeds

- Different seasons of interest: as foliage plants with really tactile fluffy foliage early on

- Fits well into small spaces

Needs: sun, well-drained soil

To propagate simply remove seed heads and save them, but beware self-seeding, unless you are happy to have them anywhere – otherwise you will have lots of mini plants to relocate.

Diana Beck

Banstead Village Day and Fuchsias

As in previous years Margaret Dietsch has nurtured and potted on fuchsias for sale at the Banstead Village Day. This year she sold all but three at a rather quiet Village Day, and made £223 for the Society. The remainder were subsequently sold at the Summer show. We were delighted with the results.



In Memorium

Gillian Wooldridge

You will be saddened to hear of the passing away of Gillian Wooldridge who did much for the Society. Gillian joined the Society in 1979 but did not actively take part until later in life. Gillian

became involved in helping Lilian Spring with the plant sales and later with planning the flower bed by the Community Hall, which we are now renovating. She joined the committee and took on various roles including lottery co-ordinator and assistant treasurer. She was a well-known local figure with a decent-sized garden which some of the committee helped her with in her later life. She will be sadly missed by her many friends and family.

David Peterken

Contacts

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