



# Bulletin

6th June 2023

## *From the Chair*

### Dear Members

We have had a busy time since our last bulletin with lots of exciting events, so a big thank you to you all for your help and support.

Our coach trip to Arundel Castle was superb. We saw a fabulous display of different tulips and enjoyed the opportunity to wander around the historic town of Arundel. We were very lucky to have the bonus of beautiful weather.

Although I was unable to attend, I heard we had a very successful Spring show. Our mini show was another great success, with wonderful exhibits, accompanied by the splendid sound of the piano, played by

Pearl and Ralph as people wandered around. There was a real community spirit, with a variety of different local groups in attendance and lots of new people visiting, resulting in a really busy afternoon with a real buzz to it and lots of positive feedback.

There is still much to look forward to this summer with shows in June and July and another coach trip. I love being in the garden at this time of year, admiring the beauty of nature and where there is always something new to discover.

Happy gardening,  
Gail Fraser, Chairperson

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..... *From the Show Secretary* .....



## *Spring Show*

Congratulations and a big thank you to everyone who helped set up the show and exhibited. Despite the late show we were able to fill the hall with colour, with many Narcissi and other plants in blossom or flower. It was particularly pleasing to see ranks of tulips, flowering shrubs and A & B bulbs. This last accounted for no less than 40 exhibits. A was Tahiti 4 Y-OR and B was Sir Winston Churchill 4 W-Y.

We launched the front garden competition and are most grateful to Bob Charman for his display boards showing Alpines and other plants. The judges awarded many Blue Ribbons for outstanding exhibits, and the flower arranging judge was particularly struck by the quality of our miniature arrangements. We were low on flower arranging and cookery entries, and had no Junior exhibitors. Have you any talented off-spring? Please encourage them to enter.

The Mayor of Reigate and Banstead, Councillor Frank Kelly presented the prizes at the end of the show.

Cups:

- The Betty Maddams Cup for specialist narcissi - Debbie Fox
- The Jack Howell Cup for the most points for the A and B bulbs - Alison Urwin



The Mayor of Reigate and Banstead, Councillor Frank Kelly presenting David Peterken with the Chairman's Cup.

- The Chairman's Cup for the most points in the main Narcissi classes - David Peterken
- Blue Ribbons for outstanding exhibits were awarded to Debbie Fox, Alison Unwin, Sally Keywood-Gray, Jane Mawer, Nina Fassnidge, Diana Beck, Richard and Peggy Reid, Ann Shore and Marian Charman.



## *Open Day / Mini show*

We had a successful open day with a mini show on Saturday 20th May.

Many thanks to all the exhibitors and helpers, especially those on the raffle, sales tables, refreshments and plant

stall. A special thanks to Ralph and Pearl for providing the hugely popular musical background. We are also grateful to following local community organisations for attending: The Woodland Trust, Banstead Village Residents Association, Banstead Village in Bloom, The Alpine Society, Valley Art Group, Banstead Arts Festival Society, and the Banstead History group.

Blue Ribbons for outstanding exhibits were awarded to Diana Beck (perennial flowers), Gail Fraser (flowering shrub), Ann Shore (bearded iris), Barbara Salmon (a foliage pot plant), and Lewis Wood for a display of Bonsai.

Certificates of Merit were awarded to Jackie Russell (bearded and dutch iris and a display of Drosera); Sally Keywood-Gray (a foliage pot plant), and Margaret & Norbert Dietsch (pansies and a foliage pot plant).



## Summer Shows

*Early Summer Show: 17th June | Summer Show: 22nd July*

Both are at the Banstead Community Hall. Set up on the Saturday morning with staging available from 9am, and open to the public from 2.00pm. Any help would be most useful and greatly appreciated.

We are always grateful for any contributions of cakes for sale in the afternoon. If you are entering a cookery class please think about making two, or just bring one along. Contributions may be made towards your costs.

Show notes:

- In the June show, class 88 for the longest stick of Rhubarb is open to everybody
- Do not forget in the July show we have craft classes for adults
- The Banstead Gardeners Challenge in the July Show is for a vase of mixed flowering plants containing between 5-10 stems, taken from a minimum of 2 different kinds of plants. The vase will be viewed in all directions, to be displayed in the exhibitors own container: 25 points for colour, form, condition, quality

and freshness of the flowers on display, and 10 for overall presentation and the effect of the flowers in the vase. No seed heads, berries or artificial material allowed.

## New Members

We look forward to seeing some of our new members exhibiting. Have a go, the Show Secretary is always available to help, as are many of our exhibitors especially those on the committee. Any advice before the show can be given as well. We all started as novices but have learnt much over time.



Jackie Russell's unusual and optimistic bean frame

## On the Allotment

Another difficult year and it's only June!

First the winter gave us two severe prolonged frosts. My overwintering broad beans survived the December attack but the February one finished them off. This is the first time in 21 years that I have no broad beans by mid-June. By the end of February I can usually count on having made early sowings of parsnips, peas, and all year round lettuce but this year the soil proved too cold.

Then came the rain. And how it rained. It began at the beginning of March and it was still raining in the middle of May. Two sowings of carrots failed, another first in 21 years. Other sowings of parsnip, kale and sweet corn were slow. My plot became slug city so cabbages, cauliflower and purple sprouting broccoli stayed in the greenhouse.

Now the rain has stopped and there is none forecast. Are we in for another drought like last year?

On the bright side, the sun has come out and it is warm at last. No late frosts so the fruit trees look productive. The redcurrants and gooseberries are fattening up nicely and the onions are beginning to swell.

And the runner beans are good to go!

Ann Shore



# *T.L.C. for you and your container plants May to June*

It's Sunday morning, clear skies and warm. The spring greens of the garden are glowing and I will share with you how caring for my permanent container plants has improved their lot and created a feeling of peace and happiness for me.

The reason for growing permanent plants in containers is to increase the range of plants that could not otherwise be grown such as:

- Having no planting spaces on a permanent solid patio
- Growing ericaceous plants such as spectacular Azaleas in alkaline areas
- Portability of something slightly tender that needs winter protection
- Supplying sharp drainage on heavy clay soils
- Vigorous problematic plants which run in borders such as mint or ivy
- Suiting the plant to aspect: i.e. in deep shade, or harsh sun.

At this time of year all permanent plantings need an overhaul. This can be done earlier in the year, but by now all permanent plants are showing the success or failure of surviving the winter, and it gives a chance to identify and head off problems, and add in some bedding colour if wished.

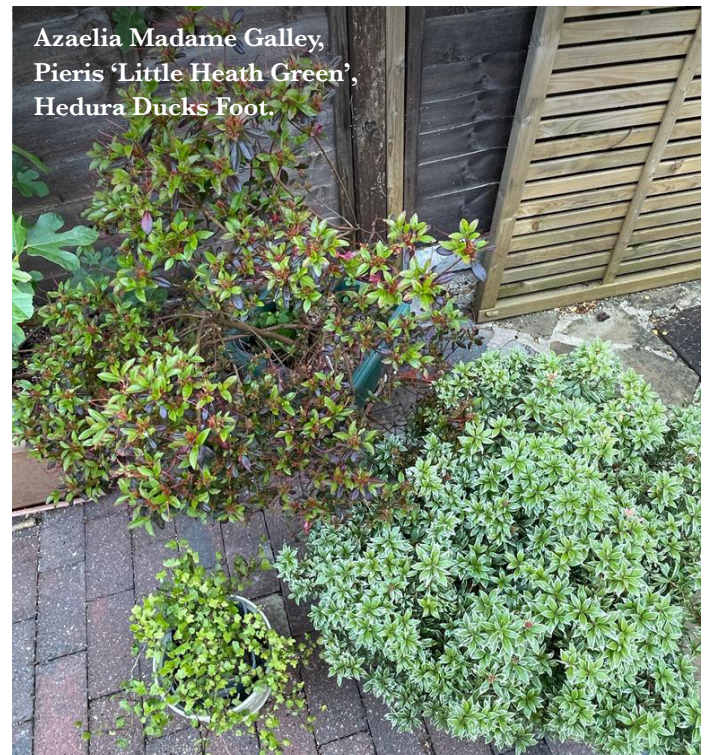
Check the plant thoroughly for dead dying or diseased material, spent flowers and remove. Then consider form and prune to a natural and pleasing shape. Please do not 'hedge your plants unless you are specifically looking for a topiary effect. A happy plant, joyfully exhibiting its natural shape, is a delight.

Where plants are too heavy to re-pot for fresh compost, clean the top of the soil of weeds, leaf debris and

rubbish, aerate the surface and add a shallow layer, 1 or 2 inches (3cm), of good compost mixed with slow release Osmocote granules. Apply carefully round retained underplanting such as little wild violets. Finish neatly with gravel or forest bark to conserve water and prevent splashing. Then give the plant a good soak with Growmore liquid feed. Buy from the Tattenhams Allotment shop (see your Schedule) they are so much cheaper (at £6 per litre) than other sales outlets.

The zen bit comes from caring for your plants with quiet concentration on their needs, enabling them to thrive and giving you long lasting pleasure over the next year.

Diana Beck



Azalea Madame Galley,  
Pieris 'Little Heath Green',  
Hedera Ducks Foot.

## *Special Offer*

The society has an RHS Garden Entry Discount Card, which allows two adults 50% discount on entry to any RHS Garden (Bridgewater, Harlow Carr, Hyde Hall, Rosemoor and Wisley) but not flower shows or glow events. Any one wishing to use this can contact either Diana Beck or David Peterken.

The society has 6ft wooden trestle tables available for hire at a reasonable rate, if any one would like to hire them or knows of somewhere they would be needed please contact the Vice Chairman.

## *Hanging basket competition*

This year in addition to the best front garden competition, we are also holding a hanging basket competition. Entry forms are available on our website or at the shows and should be with the show secretary by 30th June. At the time of judging hanging baskets must be at the front of the house.

## *Last Chance...*

There are still a few tickets available for our coach trip to Hyde Hall on Thursday 13th July. They can be ordered via the website or you can book at the Early Summer Show on Saturday 17th June.

### **Contacts**

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