



# Bulletin

2nd December 2024

## *From the Chair*

Dear Members

What a successful year. The shows have grown in numbers of exhibits displayed and the quality has been exceptional. Several judges have remarked on this. We have also had some great trips and speakers visit us. Thank you to all our members for your continued support, helping to make the BHS the successful and happy society that it is.

This year we changed the AGM to be an afternoon event, which worked well, so it will be scheduled for the afternoon next year.

Have you planted your A & B daffodils yet? I have planted mine and look forward to seeing your results in the Spring Show.

As much as I am not a fan of winter, I love this quote by Barbara Winkler, which seems to put everything in perspective and remind me that things in the garden are still happening.

“Every gardener knows that under the cloak of Winter lies a miracle... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dreams.”

We have an exciting programme of events planned for next year and hope you will be able to join us.

Wishing you all a merry Christmas and happy gardening new year

Gail Fraser – Chairperson.

*In this issue:*

*AGM*

The 2024 AGM was held on Wednesday 13th November | Page 2

*Late Autumn Show*

On display: a great variety of exhibits | Page 3

*Banstead Wildlife Field update*

...with something to celebrate | Page 4



# Annual General Meeting

A very successful and enjoyable AGM this year was held on Wednesday 13th November in the Community Hall. A splendid array of silverware was presented to the most successful exhibitors this year, including to Gardener of the Year, Sally Keywood-Gray.

The Show Secretary reported at the AGM that overall we had the most entries in the show since 1974 when we first moved into the hall, and thanked all the exhibitors and helpers for their inspiration. A splendid array of silverware was presented to the most successful exhibitors this year, including to Gardener of the Year, Sally Keywood-Gray.

**Best new exhibitor**  
- Sune Larsen-Walker

**The Harvest Festival cup**  
- Judith Henley and Ann Shore

**The Burberry cup (mixed flowers) and the Lady Carr cup (mixed flowers)**  
- Judith Henley

**The Cogswell challenge bowl (pot plants), the Mrs Cross Memorial challenge bowl (planted containers) and the Wade Branscombe Memorial cup (pot plant collections)**  
- Sally Keywood-Gray

**The F.W. Quenzer challenge cup (mixed flowers)**  
- David Peterken

**The Mrs Shackell cup (miniature flower arrangements)**  
- Signature

**The Lilian Williams Rose Bowl (formal flower arrangements), the Viola Sharman cup (arrangements of garden flowers) and the Certificate of Merit for the most points in all the flower arrangement classes throughout the year**  
- Diana Beck

**The Lilian Spring Craft cup**  
- Marion Charman

**The Branscombe Memorial Ladies vase (cookery)**  
- Nina Fassnidge

**The Banstead Horticultural Society Cup (gardener of the year)**  
- Sally Keywood - Gray

**The Powell Challenge Bowl (runner up)**  
- Signature

**The Gordon Braddy Cup for the most points in the non-Horticultural classes**  
- Nina Fassnidge

**The Andrea Mackie cup (runner up)**  
- Diana Beck.

A full set of results will be displayed at the April Show.

David Peterken, Show Secretary



The Banstead Horticultural Society Cup (gardener of the year)  
- Sally Keywood - Gray

## Rose tribute

The label has now been placed by the rose planted in front of Community Hall in remembrance of John Beck, Chairman of the Society 2014-2019.



## Late Autumn Show Prize Draw Winners:

- 1st £20 no.51, Kath Tiernan
- 2nd £15 no.58, John Burgess
- 3rd £10 no.62, Laura Edwards
- 4th £6 no. 46, Bob Charman

## AGM Prize Draw Winners:

- 1st £60 no. 65, Lynne Simkins
- 2nd £30 no. 69, Diana Beck
- 3rd £15 no. 54, Judith Henley
- 4th £6. no. 77, Nina Fassnidge

If you would like to join our committee, please contact me on [GailFraser35@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:GailFraser35@hotmail.co.uk) or any of the other committee members who would be happy to give you more information. We are a great and supportive team who work well together but would be delighted to have some new people on board to help and share your interesting ideas.

## Late Autumn Show

Once again, we filled the hall with quality exhibits for a magnificent show that impressed our judges and visitors. A great variety of exhibits from exhibition chrysanthemums to vegetables, craftwork from adults to our junior exhibitors alike, and cookery to flower arranging. Highlight of the show was George Seaborn's giant pumpkin, which was too heavy to lift (See below). It was wheeled to the show across the cricket field to the amazement of onlookers! George deservedly won a blue ribbon and a Surrey Federation of judges and lecturers Certificate of Merit.



Cups were awarded to our junior exhibitors for their efforts throughout the year.

Most points by girls and boys:

**The Doris Hewlett Challenge cup** - Holly Dietsch

**The A & G.A. Cross cup** - Charles Marshall

Runners-up:

**The Vi Griffiths children's craft cup** - Elizabeth Marshall

**The Stanley Baker challenge cup** - Elliot Dietsch



Other cups:

**The Jean Acott cup and the M.A Branscombe bowl for chrysanthemums** - Margaret Dietsch

**The Barnett challenge cup** - Ann Shore

**Blue Ribbons for outstanding exhibits were awarded to:**

Ann Shore (Harvest Festival, leeks, shallots and a jar of pickle); Jackie Russell (flowers other than those specified); Sally Keywood-Gray (a planted container); Peter Hammond (onions); Jane Mawer (shallots), Diana Beck ("Northern Lights"); Claire Abbott (gingerbread biscuits), and Bob Charman (a hand-made marquetry box)

**Certificates of Merit were awarded to:**

Sally Keywood-Gray (a pot grown foliage plant, a pot grown plant in flower and a collection of foliage pot plants); David Peterken (a planted container), Judith Henley (onions); Denham and Lesley Earl ("Northern Lights"); Sadie Evans (a decorated carrot cake); Jill Clark (a Dundee Cake), and Marion Charman (a collection of craftwork).

David Peterken, Show Secretary

## Plant Corner: *Helleborus niger*

Or Christmas rose.

With a height and spread of about 30cm it is small enough to accommodate in any garden. The leathery, dark green leaves add an interesting texture to the understory. It is the earliest hellebore to flower, and will

brighten the garden at Christmas with its large, white, bowl-shaped flowers up to 8cm in diameter. It grows in loam or clay, well-drained soils which are neutral to alkaline. It grows well in sun and shade and is drought tolerant

once established. Usually a stunning pure white, there are pink-tinted and lemon varieties. What prettier, more reliable herbaceous plant for the garden at this time of year is there?

# Banstead Wildlife Field update

with something to celebrate.

This year the annual Rotary Purple for Polio crocus planting was a happy community event that took place in our beautiful little field where we planted 12,000 crocuses.

This was a collaborative event hosted by the Society on behalf of the friends of Banstead Wildlife Field. The field has an educational remit and we were delighted to host guests of all ages and abilities. On the day support was provided by Banstead Rotary, Sutton Nonsuch Rotary, Banstead Village in Bloom, our Society, Banstead Village in Bloom, and the newly formed Friends of BWF group. Thanks also to Banstead Downs tennis Club who supported us with facilities on the day.

We were also later joined by MP Rebecca Paul, Councillor Nadean Moses, and Thomas Carmona from the Greenspaces team.

Crocuses were handed out to long queues of our community guests: Banstead Manor Luxury Care Home, local schools: The Beacon, Banstead Infants, Banstead Juniors, and St Annes, and followed by Surrey Choices for those with difficulties.

Finally there was an escorted tour around the site to enjoy the autumn colours and think about returning for spring and summer activities in the new year.

Diana Beck

**For more information** or to contact us about the friends of Banstead Wildlife field, field follow us on Facebook or see the website pages on [www.bansteadhorticulturalsociety.com](http://www.bansteadhorticulturalsociety.com) There you will find what we have achieved in 2024, everything and more. The new group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 9.30, (break over Christmas, resuming 15/1/2025) and we have a coffee break at 1030 - ideal if you want to come and support us with a hello, or to find out more.



▲ Our Mayor and our local schoolchildren literally jumping for joy, as they firm down the turf and make it hard for the squirrels to fill their store cupboard.

▼ Here, Gail Fraser and Norbert Dietsch welcome the Mayor and Mayoress.

► Our Mayor, Councillor Eddie Humphreys and the Mayoress, Sarah Humphreys who started off the planting.

►► The trenches had been advance dug by a collaborative team (another hastily needed on the day).

Photographs by Emma Sears at Reelfeel productions [www.reelfeelproductions.pixieset.com](http://www.reelfeelproductions.pixieset.com)



## Contacts

President and Show Secretary, David Peterken 01737 351 224 | Chairperson, Gail Fraser 01737 356 576