



Bulletin

12th May 2025

From the Chair

Dear Members

What a wonderful way to start the year! Our Spring show was an outstanding success with great attendance, lots of new members joining and an array of beautiful exhibits. The hall looked a picture. There were delicious home-made cakes, so a huge thank you to all of you who were busy baking.

As I should be writing this, I am looking out of the window, enjoying the vista and transfixed by the beauty of nature. My garden looks at its best at this time of year, with lots of blossom on the fruit tree, the lilac tree looks and smells divine, and my wisteria and clematis are a mass of flowers and there is an abundance of

beautiful tulips dotted around the garden. I love watching the little birds busily darting around preparing their nests and singing happily. I am feeling very blessed and hope you are getting the same pleasure from your gardens too.

We are now looking forward to our Mini Show and Open Day on Saturday 24th May at 2:00pm, followed by the Early Summer Show on Saturday 21st June, which I am sure will be as wonderful as our Spring Show.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next few events. Come along and enjoy a relaxing afternoon with friends.
Gail Fraser Chairperson



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A Summer of Shows



Late Spring show and Open Day

This popular event will be accompanied by stands from many local organisations including Banstead Village Residents Association, Banstead Arts Festival Society, Banstead Wildlife Field, Banstead Commons Conservators, the Alpine Society, two groups promoting bonsai trees, the Woodland Trust, the British Trust for Ornithology, and Valley Art.

The show opens at 2pm, but entries in the show can be staged from 1.30pm. Exhibitors are encouraged to display their entries in their own vases, but a small supply of water and our own vases will be situated in the Mead Room (just inside the hall entrance to the right). As soon as the exhibits are in, they will be judged. Class 18 has had a name change to 'A Victory Celebration'

Please note the Mead Room will be used for overflow from the tearoom in the afternoon.

Teas will be available together with the normal raffle.

Early Summer and Summer shows.

A reminder that we are setting these shows up beforehand on the Friday evening. This allows exhibitors to stage entries from 8am on Saturday. A reminder that we have changed the junior classes, so the all the classes are open to any age.

Engraving.

Please do not take any cups for engraving at Mr Snobs as we are looking at alternatives for this expense.

David Peterken

Community Hall Border

This little fellow was watching the Border Gardening Group tidying up the border. He was delighted when we had finished because we had provided so many worms for his lunch!

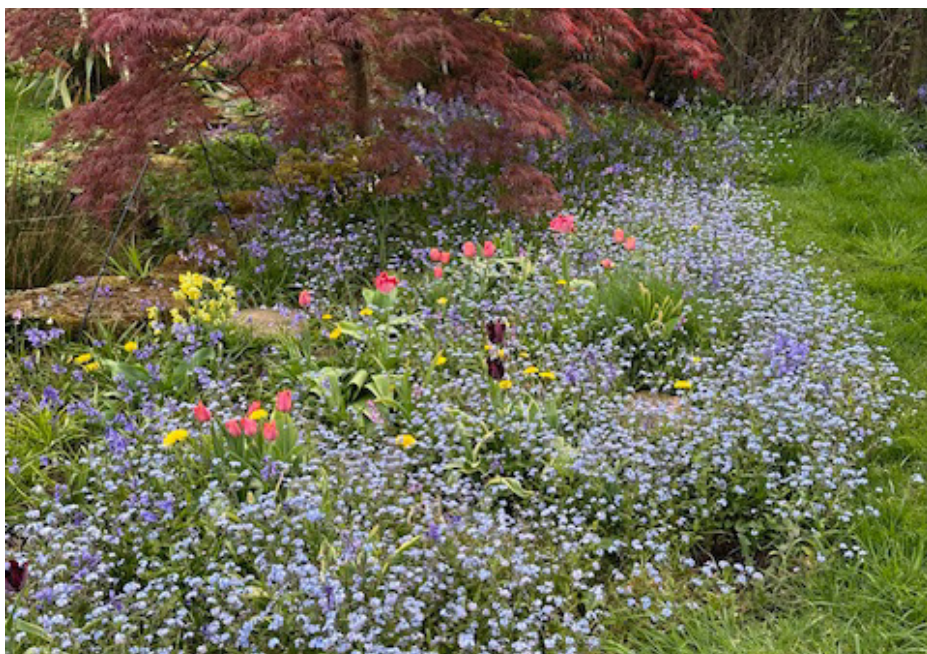
Margaret Dietsch



Volunteers Needed



The provision of teas and cakes at the shows is extremely popular and we are lucky to have so many members who bake and provide those splendid cakes. However, if we are to continue with this, we need volunteers to help us serve them. If you are prepared to help for a couple of hours please contact us or just go to the kitchen and offer to help.



Desirable Dandelions

This spring has been marked by a plague of dandelions but perhaps they do have a place in the border as can be seen in this photo from Sally Keywood-Gray.

Did you know that the taproot of a dandelion can help to fertilise the soil by pulling calcium and other nutrients from deep in the ground making them available for other plants? The tough, wide-spreading roots can also aid in soil aeration. And don't forget they are highly nutritious, containing potent antioxidants.



Banstead Wildlife Field

On the 12th March, while the crocuses were in full bloom, Broad Leaf Tress Services came in to make over the felled tree into a teaching area and raised bed.

Diana Beck



We had an excellent lecture by Jim Arbury from the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley on fruit growing with an emphasis on pruning. Jim accompanied the talk with some great pictures to demonstrate how to renovate older trees as well. It was well received, and Jim answered many of your questions at the end of the talk.

Spring show Another spectacular show!

The Hall was filled with a lovely array of exhibits which impressed the judges.

The A and B bulbs this year were Red Devon and Tresamble respectively. Many found that the A bulbs flowered too early for the show but there were still others who managed to hold them back and contribute to the wonderful yellow benches of daffodils on display.



Cups & Awards

The Chairman's Cup:
Sune Larsen-Walsh

The Betty Maddams Cup (for most points in the Narcissi classes):
Sune Larsen-Walsh

The Jack Howell Cup (for most points for the bulbs provided by the Society): Signature

Claire Abbott won the **certificate for the best vase of narcissi** awarded in memory of John Goddard.

Blue Ribbons for outstanding exhibits were won by Claire Abbott, (narcissi, division 2ww), Signature (narcissi division 11 and a miniature flower arrangement), Diana Beck (hellebores and 'A New Awakening'), Jill Clark and Judith Henley (both for flowers other than those provided for) Sally Keywood –Gray (a pot grown primula and a collection of pot plants), Sune Larsen-Walsh ('Little Gems'), Nina Fassnidge (a simnel cake), Jackie Russell (Garibaldi biscuits), and Carol Stacey (a seasonal painting).

Certificates of Merit were won by Robert Collier (narcissi A 1 stem), Sally Keywood-Gray (Narcissi from Division 2,3 &4 and a pot grown orchid) Jane Mawer (a pot plant in flower), Gail Fraser (an arrangement of Narcissi and a seasonal painting), Sune Larsen-Walsh (a buttonhole), and June Samarco (a seasonal painting).

David Peterken

We will have a stall selling fuchsias, at the Banstead Village Fayre on Saturday 5th July outside the church in the High Street.

Tickets for 'An Afternoon with Adam Frost' (from BBC Gardeners World) on Wednesday 5th November, are on sale now at £20 and selling fast. They can be purchased on-line, at any of our events or from Banstead library.

Contacts

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