



Bulletin

7th July 2025

From the Chair

Dear Members

You will all be as relieved as I am to see the end of last week's heatwave, and the welcome rain that followed. I am loving being in the garden now, enjoying the beauty and peace of it, as well as escaping into my own little world as I am pottering around. I watch the cycle of nature as one flower stops blooming, another blossoms, fruit is ripening, and vegetables are ready to eat. It really makes me appreciate, with all the sadness, madness and destruction in the world, just how lucky and grateful I am for what we have.

At the Banstead Village Fair, last Saturday we had our usual stall with some lovely fuchsias for sale and had a lot of fun. We also have some lovely events to look forward to with our flower shows and an interesting talk on "tips and tricks to perfect cookery entries", along with a cream tea and an opportunity to catch up with friends (see P4). It is such a pleasure to meet up with you all at our events and we really appreciate your loyalty and support.

Best wishes, Gail Fraser, Chairperson

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Shows report

We had a very successful Mini Show and Open Day in May attended by many local organisations. More exhibits were staged than usual and we welcomed several new exhibitors who were well rewarded.

Despite the preceding rain and the heat on the day, the Early Summer Show was one of quantity and quality. Unfortunately visitor numbers were down in the afternoon due to the heat,

but we are fortunate to have so many dedicated members volunteers and we thank all concerned in the setting up and running of the show, especially those who provided cakes for the teas.



Carol Stacey's Blue Ribbon winning entry for A Victory Celebration.

Mini Show Awards

Blue Ribbons for outstanding exhibits: Jackie Russell (iris), Richard and Peggy Reid (peony), Carol Stacey ("A Victory Celebration"), Susan Bishop-King (pansies) and Lynne Simpkins (allium).

Certificates of Merit: Richard and Peggy Reid (iris), John Cooper (a foliage pot plant), Diana Beck ("Summer days are coming"), Sally Keywood-Gray (a foliage pot plant), Jane Mawer (a pot grown orchid), David Peterken (a flowering shrub) and Margaret and Norbert Dietsch ("A Victory Celebration").



Councillor Rich Michalowski, mayor of Reigate and Banstead at the Mini Show.

Early Summer Show

Cups

The Branscombe Memorial
Delphinium Bowl: Sally Keywood-Gray

The Marilee Cup (Iris): Jackie Russell

The Major Wade Cup for the best rose:
Jane Mawer

Blue Ribbons

For outstanding exhibits: Sally Keywood-Gray (a carnivorous pot grown plant), Jane Mawer (redcurrants and a specimen bloom), Jackie Russell (Erigeron), Signature (a single rose and carnations), Sune Larsen-Walsh (12 sweet peas and an arrangement of flowers), Nina Fassnidge (English madeleines) and Gail Fraser (a specimen carnation).

Certificates of Merit

Signature (pinks, a flowering shrub, any other vegetable, a pot grown plant in flower, and a wedding circlet), Judith Henley (annual flowers, ornamental foliage and mixed flowers), David Peterken (an arrangement of miniature roses), Sune Larsen-Walsh (alliums) and Nina Fassnidge (a marmalade cake and ginger muffins).

David Peterken, Show Captain



BHS membership



A warm welcome to all our new members who have joined at our last two shows. I hope you can come along to our next show later this month.

We currently have 231 members, including Vice Presidents,, which is very healthy for this time of the year.

The new horticultural year begins on 1st October 2025 and membership is then due for renewal. The new schedule is being looked over for different classes and possible changes due to the changing weather patterns and we hope that this will be available to you at the Autumn Show.

Meanwhile I look forward to seeing you at the Cream Tea on the 9th July, and Summer show on the 26th,

Jackie Russell, Membership Secretary

Cover photo of apricots
in Jackie's allotment.

Allan Lover

(1939 – 2025)



An appreciation by David Peterken

Allan was the only person in our society to have held the roles of Treasurer (2004-2008), Chairman (2013-2014) and President (2022-2024), often regarded as the main roles in any organisation. He also became a life Vice President in 2015.

With his experience of running Chipstead Flower Show for many years he was widely respected beyond Banstead and our Society. He could ask awkward questions, but his guidance and wisdom was always appreciated.

He was a true gardener and, reluctant to disturb his splendid garden, exhibited many pot plants. We remember particularly his alliums, which won six Blue Ribbons for outstanding exhibits.

Allan was an absolute gentleman always willing to help others, from someone needing help in their garden to deprived children, and from members of our Society to me personally.

We all have our memories of this lovely man who was like a genial uncle to us, always there for help and advice. He enjoyed a life well lived and will be sadly missed.

Banstead Wildlife Field

Developments in the Field are:

- A funding application has been made to replace the fence (installed 1990).
- In August the Downland partnership will replace the viewing platform and install five new benches in the pond area.

- We are currently asking for a policy change to enable an annual field cut, which is what a wildlife meadow needs, and seeking approval for the last major piece of infrastructure work in renovating the paths for accessibility.

The Society has been a great and solid support for the Friends. Thank you again. Do continue to visit. Banstead Wildlife Field, Basing Road, Off Bolter's Lane, SM7 2AH.

Diana Beck



Diana's Open Garden

A quick thank you to all who came to the Open Garden. It was a joy to see you all so informally on such a lovely day. Your donations have raised £450 clear profit for the Banstead Wildlife Field, so you made a great contribution.



Upcoming Events

Summer Show

26th July at 2pm in
the Community Hall

Don't miss this lovely show with its full selection of garden flowers and produce. This year KSS air ambulance will be attending.

Set up is from 7.00pm on the Friday any help would be appreciated.

Autumn Show

13th September at 2pm in the
Community Hall

Here is your chance to display your produce and talents with vegetables and cookery and much more. Please note that this year we have scrapped the age categories in the Junior classes so that they are open to all ages.

Set up is from 6.30pm
on the Friday.



Banstead Charities Christmas Event
4th October from 9.30am to 1pm in the
Community Hall

We will be supporting the gardeners' charity Perennial at this event. You will be able to buy your Christmas cards, gifts and craft items from the many local and national charities that take part.

Entrance fee £1.

Afternoon Lecture and Cream Tea

9th July at 2pm in
the Community Hall

Ann Thomas will be giving a talk on tips and tricks to perfect cookery entries. This is a must for all those aspiring to rival Nina Fassnedge at the Autumn Show.

Entrance fee
£3 members /
£5 non-members



Evening Lecture

10th October at
7.30pm in the
Community Hall

Sarah Foss, an experienced horticulturalist, will be coming to talk about flowers for urban wildlife.

Entrance fee
£2 members /
£5 non-members



Lottery Results

Spring Show

No.39 £40 Margaret Dietch
No.1 £20 Karen Murray
No.82 £15 Liz Collier

Early Summer Show

No.13 £40 Jane Mawer
No.6 £20 Judith Henley
No.31 £15 Claire Abbott
Peggy Reid

Contacts

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