



Bulletin

20th October 2025

From the Chair

As summer passes, we welcome the wonderful colours and changes in our gardens that autumn brings; I love the varied and beautiful colours of the trees, the reds, oranges and yellows, demonstrating that nature is still able to delight us. Our harvest of apples this year has been magnificent, lots of apple pies and crumbles, how delicious! It is fun to see the children collecting conkers, just as I did when I was a child, their shiny brown coats, so beautiful.

I am really looking forward to seeing my chrysanthemums in flower and the other changes happening in the garden.

I am also looking forward to seeing Adam Frost in November. The tickets for this are all sold out and we have a waiting list. We have our last show of the year on 8th November which will be delightful with all the lovely vegetables, colourful flowers and crafts on display.

Gail Fraser, Chairperson

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Autumn Show

What a lovely Autumn show with the hall full of flowers and vegetables. The judges were so impressed they would like to join us in thanking all the exhibitors who made it such a fantastic display. The local MP, Rebecca Paul, attended in the afternoon and was also most impressed.



Awards

Cups

The Village Tradesmen's cup, the Shackell cup for a collection of four vegetables and the most points in the vegetable classes, and the Banstead Gardeners challenge: David Peterken

The Presidents cup for the most points in the dahlia classes: Judith Henley

The Parks challenge bowl for fruit: Ed Nash

The P.E. Smith cup for the most points in the soft fruit classes throughout the year: Jane Mawer

The Burkin fruit cup: Signature C.H.

The Uncle Fred cup: Holly Dietsch

The Uncle Bert cup: Ryder Fraser

Blue ribbons for outstanding exhibits were won by Richard and Peggy Reid (Annual flowers), Ed Nash (pears), Diana Beck (Elegance in green and gold), Claire Abbott (Barm Brack), Carol Stacey (cupcakes), and Nina Fassnidge (lemon curd).

Certificate of Merit were won by Judith Henley (dahlias, small fruited tomatoes and a truss of tomatoes), Ed Nash (dessert apples), Diana Beck (an arrangement of flowers), Susan Bishop-King (Elegance in green and gold), Sally Ekins (harvest plait), Robert Collier (barm brack), Jackie Russell (lemon curd) and Yvonne Perriam (stone fruit jam).

David Peterken,
Show Secretary

Upcoming Events

Late Autumn Show

At the Community Hall from 2pm to 5pm on Saturday 8th November (Members free, non-members £4).

This is the show with everything, chrysanthemums, late autumn flowers and foliage, vegetables, fruit pot plants and lots of classes for craftwork. This is your opportunity to display your hidden talents, from pottery to painting, and knitting, amongst others. You are encouraged not to put entries in that have been displayed before.

Remember we have changed the junior classes so that exhibits can be put in the classes by any age group.

Set up is on the Friday evening with exhibits accepted from 8.00am on Saturday morning.

The end of the year presentation for the cups won in classes competed throughout the year will be presented at the Annual General Meeting with many too close to call.

We are busy planning the next schedule. Suggestions are welcome; please direct any feedback to David or Sally.

Adam Frost

At the Community Hall from 2pm to 5pm on Wednesday 5th November (Ticket holders only).

Enjoy an afternoon with Adam Frost from BBC Gardeners World.

Annual General Meeting

See page 4.

Prize Draw Winners

Summer Show

£40. No.82 Liz Collier
£20. No. 31 Claire Abbott
£15. No. 88 John Burgess

Autumn Show

£40. No.91 David Peterken
£20. No.37 Sally Keywood-Gray
£15. No.79 Liz Collier

Plant Corner



Grow Your Own Saffron

It's simple: buy corms of *Crocus sativa* and plant them now or in the spring. They are autumn flowering, perennial and will grow well in containers, border or naturalised. To harvest the saffron, the world's most expensive spice, just pick the three red stigmas from each flower and allow them to dry naturally in a small airtight jar. Use it in rice dishes particularly paella or risotto. There are health benefits too as they contain antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. What is not to like? The taste perhaps? but then you still have the beauty of the shining purple flowers.

Diana Beck

Geranium p ardens

I have always liked geraniums and pelargoniums, since I was a small person. I find the smell of the leaves attractive, although for some it is the opposite. Over the past few years I have bought some species plants, one of them *p ardens*, is unusual in that it has a semi dormancy period during which it dies back completely. And yes, I have thrown a plant away thinking it had died.

Another feature of *p ardens*, is that it has tuberous root structure, which you can see in the photograph. This photograph was taken this week, showing the new foliage growth after the summer dormancy period. It does make a handsome plant. The flowers are borne in clusters, red in colour with a black patch on the petals, unusual in the pelargonium family. It likes full sun, well drained compost and protection from frost.

Jackie Russell



Autumn Trees

This poem caught the eye, and the imagination, of our chairperson, Gail Fraser. Although it's a children's poem (from the website classroompoems.com),

autumn leaves always seem to have the magic and beauty to bring out the child in all of us.

Autumn Trees

*The trees are kind of pretty
In their autumn gold and brown.
Leaves are bright orange-reddish
But all will soon fall down.*

*Then they dry and crackle
as we crunch them with our shoes.
I guess it's time for autumn now
as summer takes a snooze.*

(By Denise Rodgers
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Banstead Horticultural Society Annual General Meeting 2025

NOTICE is hereby given that the 93rd Annual General Meeting of Banstead Horticultural Society will take place on Wednesday 3rd December 3pm at the Community Hall, Park Road, Banstead, SM7 3AJ, to which all members are invited.

By Order of the Committee

Margaret Dietsch, Assistant Secretary.
01737 362709

Order of proceedings

– 2.30pm Doors open

– 3pm AGM begins

After: Raffle, prize draw,
and informal social event:
light buffet and drinks.

Agenda

If you wish to present a proposed rule change under Rule 11, it must be notified to the Secretary by Wednesday 5th October 2025 to allow circulation to the membership within the required notice period.

1. The president's welcome
2. Attendance and apologies
3. Minutes of the AGM of 13.11.24 (these have been circulated)
4. Matters arising (to be dealt with under the appropriate agenda item)
5. Chairman's vote of thanks

6. Secretary's annual report

7. Treasurer's report

8. Elections in accordance with Rule 5

a. Officers

b. Committee (8 vacancies)

c. Independent examiner

9. Any other business

10. Presentation of awards

11. Date of next AGM

12. Close of meeting.

Banstead Wildlife Field



*Banstead Wildlife Field,
Basing Road, Banstead SM7 2AH*

It has been a busy autumn in the field. We scythed half the field with our new scythe and succeeded in persuading the council to do the other half by machine. We used the hay in tepee stacks made from pruned saplings in an overgrown copse. We have cleared the first path through the impenetrable woodland (parallel Bolter's Lane and entered from alongside the raised beds).

Our group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9.30am and manages a range of different

activities to suit everyone's abilities. The fence will be replaced in a couple of weeks and our scout friends will help recycle some of it into compost bins. Then on 7th November from 10 am, with Rotary's lead and donation, we will again work with local schools to plant a further 4000 crocuses towards eradicating polio worldwide. This Purple for Polio project symbolises the purple ink mark that verifies a vaccinated child. We hope to be able to show visitors round to celebrate all the upgrades and potential for enjoyment and learning in our beautiful field.
Diana Beck

Banstead Village Day

The BHS stand at the Banstead Village Day, with its beautiful fuchsias, drew the crowds, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Zelanie Cooper. All but five of the fuchsias were sold.



Contacts

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