



Bulletin

26th January 2025

From the Chair

Dear Members,

You will notice we have made some changes to the categories in our 2026/2027 schedule. This includes some exciting new ideas to make the shows more varied and challenging and include additional interest for the people who attend. Please check the schedule before you select the classes and exhibits you wish to enter. Any committee members involved should be able to answer any questions you have regarding your entries.

The spring show is such a lovely start to the year after the cold wet weather we have been experiencing. The show is so beautiful with the various daffodils, and other lovely spring flowers, it is such a joy see

all your entries. The occasional blue skies and dry sunny days, always entice me into the garden to look for the first snowdrops and what other bulbs are starting to come through. I now need to plan my garden and start sowing seeds. What flowers? What vegetable? Decisions decisions!

This reminds me of a quote by Josephine Nuese “Anyone who thinks gardening begins in spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the whole year; for gardening begins in January with the dream.” Happy gardening and happy dreams.

Gail Fraser, Chairperson



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Annual General Meeting

The 95th AGM of the Society took place on Wednesday 3rd December and was well attended,

Jackie Russell, our Vice Chairman and longtime Membership Secretary, was elected Life Vice President. Always smiling and cheerful, she is most visitors' first point of contact on the door and has done much to enhance the Society. She has two allotments and has won many cups for

chrysanthemums but also grows a vast range of flowers and produce, both fruit and vegetables. She also exhibits cookery and craftwork as well as making jams for the sales table. It was clear from the response that we all agreed she is more than worthy to be given the honour of Life Vice president.

Gardener of the Year, winning the Banstead Horticultural Society Cup, was President and Show Captain David Peterken. He won by just 8 points over Judith Henley who was awarded the Powell Challenge Bowl. Judith also won the Harvest Festival cup and the Burberry cup for mixed flowers.



David Peterken and Judith Henley

Other cup winners were:
The Gordon Braddy Cup (most points won in the non-horticultural classes) - Nina Fassnidge

The Mackie Family Cup (runner up), the Viola Sharman Cup and the Lilian Williams Rose Bowl - Diana Beck

The Corporate cup (most points won by an affiliated body), the Mrs Shackell cup (miniature flowers), the F.W Quenzer Cup (perennial flowers) and the Lady Carr Cup (annual flowers) - Signature Care Homes.

The Mrs Cross Memorial Challenge Bowl for containers, the Cogswell Challenge Cup for pot plants and the Wade Branscombe Memorial Cup for pot plant collections - Sally Keywood-Gray.

The Lilian Spring Craft Cup (most points in the craft classes) - Marian Charman

Diana Beck was also awarded a Certificate of Merit for the most points in the flower arranging classes throughout the year.

The minutes of the AGM will be published with the next edition of the bulletin.



Community Hall Border
The border is looking sorry for itself at the moment - as are most gardens at this time of year. However, we will be busy improving and maintaining it between 10am and 12.30pm on the third Wednesday of every month, weather permitting! If you would like to join us and pull out a few weeds you would be very welcome. We are planning to introduce more colour and scent to attract the bees, butterflies and moths.

Last summer we were thrilled with the hum of the bees and one day we even spotted this beautiful Jersey Tiger moth.

Watch out for more this year.

Jane Mawer

Plant Corner

Jackie describes another beautiful pelargonium for you to consider: *Pelargonium gibbosum*. Nickname the Gouty Pelargonium.

An unusual South African native which has thick stems and swollen nodes, as you can see from the photograph. This plant is a sub shrub in South Africa and grows quite tall. It is not at all frost hardy.

It has round lobed grey green leaves which appear from the swollen nodes. The green five lobed flowers are produced in clusters, and have a sweet fragrance at night, as the plant is pollinated by moths. Like *Pelargonium aethiopicum* this pelargonium also has a dormancy period, so water sparingly. A plant unlike any other pelargonium.

Jackie Russell



New Season, New Shows

We look forward to this year's show season, and to welcoming our usual high standard of entries from all our exhibitors. Last year we welcomed a number of new exhibitors and hope to see even more this year. We have moved the Spring show to March in the hope of catching the best of the Narcissi.

The new show schedule covering the next two years is now available. This will be sent to all current exhibitors and will also be available on our website. Other members can collect a copy at the first event they come to.

The committee have worked hard on the new schedule, reviewing the classes and updating the show notes and regulations. Exhibitors new and old should give them a good read. The main show classes include new challenges and extra classes; for

example, two classes for tulips, and some roses. The flower arrangers have new titles to interpret, and the cooks have new recipes and challenges. In the junior classes we have given new challenges and opened all the classes to any age, though if we have a lot of entries we may subdivide to reflect different ages.

David Peterken, Show Secretary

Late Autumn Show

We had a spectacular Late Autumn show, the largest for 30 years, with great displays varying from harvest festivals to tiny items of home-made crafts. Chrysanthemums and a huge range of other flowers were on display, along with vegetables, fruit, pot plants, flower arrangements and cookery.

Cups

M.A Branscombe bowl and Jean Acott cup (both for chrysanthemums) – Jackie Russell

Burkin cup (fruit) – David Peterken

Barnett Challenge cup (vegetables) – Ann Shore

Junior cups (most points throughout the year)

Doris Hewlett cup – Emily Crouch (winner)

Vi Griffiths cup – Holly Dietsch (runner-up)

A&GA Cross Challenge cup – Ryder Fraser (winner)

Stanley Baker cup – Elliot Dietsch (runner-up)

Blue Ribbons for outstanding exhibits were awarded to George Seaborn (two heavy weight pumpkins), Carol Stacey (a collection of craftwork and a carrot cake), Sally Keywood-Gray (a foliage plant and a collection of pot plants), Jackie Russell (chrysanthemums), Judith Henley (Harvest Festival), Marion Charman (a miniature flower arrangement), Susan Bishop- King (an exhibit of dried flowers), Jane Mawer (a painting), Margaret & Norbert Dietsch (an exhibit of Chrysanthemums), Bertha Dove, (hand-made sculpture) and Karen Murray (a collection of craftwork).

David Peterken, Show Secretary



Upcoming Events

Afternoon Talk with Cherill Sands
Wednesday 11th February at 2pm
Members £3, non-members £5

We start the year with a talk accompanied by afternoon tea on Tulips and Turbans by Cherill Sands covering the origins of the tulip and its onward journey over the centuries. Cherill returns after giving us an excellent talk on the Gardens of Surrey last year.

PLEASE NOTE that the time is different from the published programme.

Spring Show
Saturday 28th March at 2pm.
Set-up for exhibitors 8am to 11am
Members free, non-members £4

We open our 95th show season with a colourful display of flowering plants, flower arranging, pot plants, early season vegetables, cookery and Junior classes.

We will have our normal sales table and raffle together with our excellent teas.

We are grateful for help in the kitchen and elsewhere on the day of the show, and would particularly like some help setting up the shows from 6.30 on the preceding Friday.

Evening lecture by Barry Newman
Friday 10th April at 7pm
Members £3, non-members £5

April sees a talk on Growing and Showing Vegetables by Barry Newman. He is a well-known grower, exhibitor, lecturer and judge. He is a member of the Royal Horticultural Society's fruit, vegetable and herb committee and a former chairman of the National Vegetable society. As well as being a senior NVS judge, Barry serves on the judging and lecturing panel of the RHS. He is also a Britain in Bloom judge.

Coach Trip to Denmans and Parham House Gardens
Fully inclusive coach trip leaving Banstead Community Hall at 9.30am and returning by 6.15pm on Thursday 11th June 2026

We will first visit Denmans Garden, featuring dry riverbeds, walled garden, ponds and unusual plants and has year round interest. In the afternoon we make the short drive to Parham House Garden which consists of seven acres of pleasure grounds, laid out in the 18th century, and a four-acre walled garden.

For more details, including accessibility and refreshments, see our website or contact the secretary.

Application form is available as an appendix to this bulletin.



Prize Draw Winners

Autumn Show
No.56 £40 Peggy Reid
No.85 £20 John Edwards
No.33 £15 Sally Keywood-Gray

AGM
No.94 £60 Rachel Kearney
No.85 £40 John Edwards
No.40 £20 Margaret Dietch

Prize Draw 2026
There is still a chance to join our prize draw in 2026. Tickets will also be available until 31st March and an application form is available as an appendix to this bulletin.

Alternatively, sign up at the door at our events or the Spring Show.

Contacts

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