



Bulletin

10th August 2026

From the Chair

Dear Members,

The Summer show was fantastic, the quality of all the exhibits was of such a high standard, especially the vegetables. Despite the weather you all managed to produce such amazing entries. It is also great to see new members entering and winning prizes. I would like to thank David Peterken and all the people who work so hard to set the hall up and who make the shows such a success. I would also like to thank all the people who donate such delicious cakes for us to sell and those who help in the kitchen serving and clearing away the teas and coffees.

I am looking forward to the talk by Major Paul Whittle about 'Stately Mansions and Gardens', along with a cream tea, on Wednesday 19th August. He has travelled all over the world and has some exciting stories to tell.

Another date for your diary is Friday 14th October when Steve Eddy is talking about the 'Creation of the No Name Nursery'. I have visited his nursery, which is stunning. You can often hear his talks on the radio on a Sunday morning, and his slots are always interesting. Such a lot to look forward to and meeting all our members at the next show.

Happy gardening, Gail Fraser, Chairperson



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..... Summer Shows

Early Summer Show

This was great show though down on entries compared with previous years but the quality was as always terrific from our exhibitors. (I heard it described as a really pretty show – Ed)

The Major Wade Rose cup for the best rose in the show was won by our Chairperson Gail Fraser.

Blue Ribbons

Richard and Peggy Reid (herbaceous perennials), Signature C.H. (a hanging basket and a miniature flower arrangement), Judith Henley (mixed flowers, any other vegetable, culinary herbs), Susan Bradley (a planted

container), Sally Keywood-Gray (a pot plant in flower and a collection of houseplants), Jill Clark (a Victoria sandwich) and Carol Stacey (decorated cupcakes).

Certificates of Merit

Gail Fraser (any other roses and “Anything Goes”), Judith Henley (annuals, herbaceous 3-5 kinds, ornamental foliage), Signature C.H. (a specimen flower and a pot grown foliage plant), Diana Swift, a new exhibitor (roses), Nina Fassnidge (cluster flowered roses), Jill Clark (miniature roses), Sally Keywood-Gray (a planted container), Jackie Russell (a carnivorous pot plant), Yvonne Perriam (a pot plant in flower), Dave Chapman (a lemon drizzle cake) and Carol Stacy (French madeleines).



Summer Show

What a great show, with over 300 exhibits from 35 exhibitors. The hall was filled with quality exhibits, despite the difficult growing conditions. Many thanks to all our exhibitors and to those who help us set up, man the entrance, sales table, raffle, kitchen and plant stall.

Cups

The Edwards cup for early season vegetables – Judith Henley

The Collett cup for sweet peas – Andrew Toller

Blue Ribbons

Judith Henley (a Summer Harvest, 4 herbs exhibited separately, a collection of 3 vegetables and any other vegetables), Carol Stacy (a pot grown orchid, something new from old, shortbread), Sally Keywood-Gray (a pot grown plant), David Peterken (any other salad vegetables, tomatoes), Gail Fraser (blueberries), Ann Shore (hydrangeas) and David Crouch (figs).

Certificates of Merit

Ed Nash (dahlias), Signature C.H. (mixed flowers), Diana Beck (an arrangement of flowers), Nina Fassnidge (a vegetable based cake), Susan Bishop King (figs), Jackie Russell (grapes).

In the junior classes Certificates of Merit were won by both Holly and Elliot Dietsch for a friendship bracelet and a decorated hat, with Ryder Fraser also winning a prize.

David Peterken, Show Secretary

..... Autumn Show

Following our successful Summer Shows we are now looking forward to the Autumn Show on the 12th September. We have already had several successful new exhibitors this year so why not join them and have a go. The whole committee is willing to give advice.

There is a separate class this year for pears, and new challenges for flower arrangers, cooks and our junior exhibitors.

Setting up is from 6.30pm on the Friday, and we are always grateful for any help, setting up. We would also appreciate providing cakes, assisting in the kitchen or helping us in any way on the day itself.

Exhibitors must remember to enter by 8pm on Wednesday 9th September to the Show Secretary on peterkend@aol.com or 01737351224, or the Assistant Show Secretary on sallykg@aol.com. Late entries are only accepted at their discretion. If you have entries (daffodils, roses etc) where you are not sure what they class they go in please tell us so we leave some space. We would rather you entered too many classes and then withdrew on the day. There is no penalty for that.

Exhibitors are reminded to always bring spare produce with them to allow for damages on route and to allow themselves time to get their exhibits staged.

Top Tray class

This is for a collection of three vegetables from carrots 3, cauliflowers 2, onions 3, parsnips 3, peas 6 pods, runner beans 6 pods, tomatoes 6, French beans 6, sweetcorn 2, peppers 3, chilies 6, cucumber 2, courgettes 3, red beet 3, aubergines 2.

Space allowed is, 450 X 600mm (18in by 24in). Cloths and boards may be used. No accessories including onion rings, plates etc, though parsley may be used a garnish. Onion tops may be tied or whipped with raffia or string.

Each vegetable will be judged out of 20 points, 7 for shape, size and colour, 7 for condition, and 6 for uniformity.

David Peterken, Show Secretary

..... Banstead Wildlife Field Summer 26 Update

The volunteer team has made strong visible progress at Banstead Wildlife Field this summer, while continued dry weather has created challenges for the pond, field safety and planned path works. Volunteers have removed a substantial copse of trees with their roots, opening up a clear view from the roadway of the newly painted dragonfly and pond area. End-of-term schools' activities were well attended, and we hope to build on these developing relationships in the autumn. We have also been attending local summer events to raise awareness of the field and support fundraising through home-grown plant sales.

The prolonged heat and drought mean the pond has now sadly dried out completely, and the field is tinder dry. Evidence of barbecues and fireworks has been reported because of the fire risk. Path renovation works have also been delayed well into the autumn, as contractors have been affected by the same weather conditions. Upcoming events include five



half-hour sessions of Storytelling for families with young children on Friday 14th August; places are limited and must be reserved through Banstead Library. Children must be accompanied. We will also offer storytelling and activities on 20th September at Lady Neville Park for the Art in the Park event. Volunteers



are welcome on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 9.30am, with tools and training supplied, or at 10.30am for a cuppa and a welcome. Find us at Basing Road, off Bolter's Lane, SM7 2AH.

Diana Beck

Upcoming Events

All events are in the
Community Hall, Banstead

Banstead Combined Charities Christmas Event

Saturday 3rd October
from 9.30am to 1pm

This event features many charities,
both local and national. We will be
supporting Perennial, the gardener's
charity selling Christmas cards
and other merchandise.

Afternoon lecture and cream tea

Wednesday 19th August
from 2pm to 5pm

Major Paul Whittle will give a talk
on Homes and Gardens.

Autumn Show

Saturday 12th September
from 2pm to 5pm

This is our big show with over 100
classes, including crafts as well as
horticultural, flower arranging and
cooking classes. As usual we will have
refreshments, produce for sale and a
raffle. See Page 2 for more details.

Please note that the talk on the role
and training of blind dogs on the 2nd
December will be held from 2pm to
5pm, not at 10am as stated
in some Programme of Events
and the Schedule.

Prize Draw Winners

Summer show

£40. No 49.
Gail Frazer

£20. No 85.
Linda Smith.

£10. No 4.
Jane Mawer



Drought and Heatwave in the Allotment

This has been a very difficult year for allotmenters. It is bad enough for gardeners but having to travel to an allotment rather than using the back door makes even once a day watering difficult.

We in SES's area do not have a hosepipe ban but nevertheless we should be responsible in our use of water. I just use a watering can and that way I direct water only where it is needed. I never water potatoes, instead planting them deep with grass cuttings and earthing up as they grow. My potatoes won first prize at the Summer Show.

Certainly some vegetables have struggled but others have thrived, particularly tomatoes, peppers and aubergines. Courgettes, squashes, pumpkins and sweetcorn are also enjoying the long hot season.

Roll on the Autumn Show!

Finance matters

You may recall that at the AGM last October, I highlighted a trend in our funds which have been decreasing over the last few years. We briefly discussed the need for a larger than normal increase in subscription so as to reverse this trend. There appeared to be a consensus at the AGM that the current subscription of £7 seemed low for what the Society offers and that, for instance, a £10 per year subscription would still be very good value.

Accordingly, the committee are proposing to increase in the subscription from 1 October 2026 to £10 but with joint membership at £18. There will also be a bigger discount (to be 50%) on the entrance fee for members on evening talks and coffee mornings.

Do feel free to contact the treasurer (BHSTreasurer@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

Robert Collier, Treasurer

Contacts

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