



Bulletin

12th October 2026

From the Chair

Dear Members,

What an exciting 95th year we have had, with great shows displaying outstanding exhibits, interesting and entertaining speakers, and wonderful trips. We have been busy planning an equally exciting programme of events for next year, which we hope you will enjoy and will be distributed soon.

I can't believe how quickly the year has flown by, as I remain busy in the garden, starting to prepare the garden for winter and next year, pruning, cutting and

dividing perennials, taking in tender plants and planting spring bulbs. Gardens bring so much joy, happiness and pleasure, but also a lot of hard, yet satisfying work and a tranquil place to escape.

I look forward to seeing you at our final show of the year and the AGM in November.

Wishing you all good health and happiness,

Gail Fraser, Chairperson

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Autumn Show

The Autumn Show exceeded our expectations in the number of exhibits filling the hall. The hot weather and drought continued all summer and into autumn and made growing conditions, especially for fruit and vegetables, very difficult. Not surprisingly, it was the grapes and tomatoes that stole the show in the vegetable classes whilst the roses, annuals, perennials and shrubs, together with flower arrangements, hanging baskets and pot plants made for an exciting and colourful exhibition.

Many thanks to all of our many exhibitors.

Awards in the Junior Classes

The Uncle Fred cup - Holly Dietsch

The Uncle Bert Cup - Elliot Dietsch

Sophie and Isobel Ford, and Ryder Fraser also won prizes.

Holly and Elliot both won Certificates of Merit.

Cups

David Peterken won the Burkin Rose cup for the most points in the rose classes throughout the year, the Village Tradesmen's cup and the Banstead Gardeners Challenge for collections of 4 and 3 vegetables respectively. David also won the Parks Challenge Bowl for the most points in the fruit classes together with the National Vegetable Societies Silver Medal for runner beans. Ann Shore won the Shackell cup for the most points in the vegetable classes and Signature CH the Presidents cup for the most points in the dahlia classes. Gail Fraser was awarded the PE Smith cup for the most points in the soft fruit classes throughout the year.

David Peterken



Prize Draw Winners

Autumn show

£40. No 16.

Margaret Surgeoner

£20. No 63.

Rachel Kearney

£10. No 39.

Marion Charman

Upcoming Events

All events are in the Community Hall, Banstead

Late Autumn Show

Saturday 7th November
from 2pm to 5pm

This is our show with everything. Late season flowers, vegetables, fruit, pot plants, flower arranging and a big range of craft work classes for adults and juniors alike. In the craft work please note there is a new class for a hand-made article featuring machine work and show regulation 7 must be followed. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution will have stand and we will be selling Christmas cards on behalf

of Perennial, the gardeners charity, together with the usual teas, stall and raffle.

Afternoon Talk

Wednesday 2nd December
from 2pm to 5pm

(Please note that this is now in the afternoon, not the morning as stated in the schedule)

A talk by the Guide Dogs for the Blind will be accompanied by mince pies and drinks.

AGM and social event *(See Page 4)*
Friday 20th November at 7.30pm

This year has seen in the number of exhibitors entering classes across the board. The result is that some of the cups awarded at the AGM are too close to call. Please come along to the presentations.

We also hope to have surprises for you.

Plant Corner



This has been a great year for nerines, native to South Africa and one of my favourite bulbs. Allan Lover, our late president, was partial to nerines and so when these splendid flowers bloom in all their glory I am reminded of him. He often cursed them when they did not flower in the greenhouse.



This year Nerine Corusca Major, a red nerine, blossomed for the first time with me this year. It loves full sun and freely draining soil. This particular nerine spent the summer baking in my greenhouse at 48c so it obviously likes the heat.

Jackie Russell

(Thanks also to Jackie for the front cover photograph)

Banstead Horticultural Society

Annual General Meeting 2026

Notice is hereby given that the 95th Annual General Meeting of Banstead Horticultural Society will take place on Friday 20th November at the Community Hall, Park Road, Banstead, SM7 3AJ to which all members are invited.

By Order of the Committee.
Margaret Dietsch, Secretary.
01737 362709

Order of Proceedings,
Doors open at 7pm.
AGM begins at 7.30pm.

After the AGM, raffle, prize draw, informal social event, light buffet and drinks.

If you wish to present a proposed rule change under rule 11 it must be notified to the secretary by Friday 23rd October 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 03.12.2025
(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 Autumn '26 Update

Over the summer, we removed two large areas of self-seeded saplings from around the pond. Our friends at Broadleaf Tree Services brought a compact, remotely controlled machine that followed its operator like a little dog. It removed the roots brilliantly and was great fun to watch—rather like a tame little monster eating them up.

As the seasons change, we are at last grateful for some autumn rain. The pond dried out completely, but these conditions made it easier to remove the invasive reedmace (bullrushes)



our Epsom College group to create an early snow scene.

After nearly a year, our original path contractor withdrew from the project. The good news is that, subject to approval of our top-up funding application, the new contractors have offered a provisional start date of 2 November. I will breathe a huge sigh of relief once the work is complete and look forward to

this month and inspect the liner. The reedmace released clouds of fluffy seeds, to be scattered joyfully by

offering mini tours in the New Year for anyone interested.

In 2027, we will continue our community activities with the schools, scout groups, and Croxsons, as well as possibly set up some wellbeing classes. We plan to replant the raised beds, create a mini orchard, and continue our woodland path creation. This dead hedge by Keith is a work of Art, that makes safe the unexpected gully as the new path arrives in the field.

We aim to enable a recreational and educational space to be enjoyed, so do visit. We meet 9.30am on the first and third Wednesdays of the month in Basing Road, off Bolters Lane, SM7 2AH.

Diana Beck

Contacts

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