

BRUTON & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

www.brutonhorticultural.org.uk

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025



COMMITTEE At the AGM in January, attended by 41 members, we thanked Anne Pember (refreshments) and Sue Carter (talks) for their time on the Committee. Both of them have kindly said they will remain as supporters of the Society. We welcomed Caroline Rathbone to the Committee and the other members of the committee were all re-elected at the AGM. We are also delighted to welcome Sarah Waller who responded to our request for new committee members and she will be looking after refreshments. We are still looking for another committee member so if you would like to join our happy group then contact Jan Juneman on 01749 813439.

In accordance with the Society's Rules, Jan Juneman was elected Chair and Janet Jones Vice Chair by the Committee. Full Committee details appear later in this newsletter.

Also in January our annual Winter Lunch was held at The Old Red Lion, Brewham attended by 21 members and guests who all very much enjoyed the excellent meal.

NEWSLETTERS We send out two newsletters a year, in February and September, detailing events and news for the next period. Most members receive their newsletters by email and we do also deliver some by hand or post. We never pass on email addresses. Our meetings appear on the diary pages of The Dove magazine and the whole year programme is available on the website as above, together with regular reports. We are keen to welcome new members, so please invite any friends who may be interested to a talk or visit to have a taste of what we offer.

Membership last year was 88 and in our centenary show year we would hope to increase this to over 100.

SEED ORDER In 2023/24 the Dobies seed order raised £34 for the Society. The scheme has changed with an increase in the discounts for members to 50% for seeds and 15% on other items but no longer a payment to the society.

Orders are made directly by members either online, by phone or by post and catalogues are available at talks or online to browse at your leisure. Remember to use the Society's discount code when placing your order. This is shown on the group booking form but if you are booking online or using the non-group form, please email Deborah on deborahmarygibson@icloud.com to request the code.

SHOW PHOTO CLASSES So that you have time to find subjects to photo over the next few months, the following are the photo classes in this year's Show Schedule:

- Centenary celebrated
- "Gone to seed"
- My shed
- Chocolate
- Winter wonderland
- Glasses
- Fire and smoke
- Front cover for "The Dove" - a black and white photo suitable for using as a cover for The Dove magazine, this needs to be of high resolution and a strong image linked to one of the monthly editions.

PROGRAMME Deborah and Sue Carter have put together a most interesting programme of visits and talks for this year. Please see the form on page 6 for booking your visits. Please complete and return the form to Janet whose contact details on the last page. There is a useful box on the programme pages for you to tick for your own reference.

We are always keen to have any ideas for future talks/visits so please send these to Deborah on deborahmarygibson@icloud.com

PLANT SALE We will be holding our Plant Sale/Coffee morning on Saturday, 10th May in Bruton Community Hall so please start potting-up divided perennials and planting seeds and cuttings. Please label these and bring them along to the hall on the morning of the sale. We also welcome cakes and savouries for the produce table.

ANNUAL SHOW The Annual Show Schedule will be available at the Plant Sale, from the Community Office, Library and the usual High Street shops well before the Show, which is on Saturday, August 16th at the Fitzjames Hall, King's School, Bruton, BA10 0ED.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

These are now for 2025, so please pay at the February or March meeting or send a cheque or BACS payment for £8. Details are at the end of this newsletter along with payments for any visits you may wish to make. Please make your booking and pay by 31st March.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Alison Bleasdale
ACTING CHAIR, PUBLICITY	Jan Juneman
VICE CHAIR, SHOW TEAM, VISITS ADMIN, WEBSITE	Janet Jones
SECRETARY	Jane Hodges
TREASURER	Hugh Wauton
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Caroline Rathbone
PLANT SALE ORGANISER	Sue Bradder
RAFFLE	Felicity Smith
REFRESHMENTS	Sarah Waller
SHOW TEAM	Anne Jelliffe
SHOW TEAM	Helen Parker
SPEAKERS	Vacant
VISITS, MEMBERSHIP, SEED ORDER	Deborah Gibson

Jan Juneman
Chair



PROGRAMME FOR 2025

Visits which need to be booked have a box beside them. This can be ticked for your own records. Talks are held in Bruton Community Hall, doors open at 7pm with free tea / coffee and biscuits from 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start.

MONDAY, 17th FEBRUARY Howard Burnett will talk about 'Orchids - growing and caring for them and the unusual and rare species'. Howard has been growing orchids for 50 years developing an interest and expertise in the more unusual ones. He trained as a judge with the British Orchid Society and was also a member of the Somerset Orchid Society, including being Chairman. Howard is willing to offer a 'surgery' for unwell plants.

FRIDAY, 21st FEBRUARY, 2pm

James Allen Heritage Walk, meet at the Market Cross, Shepton Mallet

A free event as part of the Snowdrop Festival. Learn about the remarkable legacy of the Snowdrop King, James Allen, the first person to breed snowdrops from the wild, who was born in Shepton Mallet. Note that the walk is 1.2 miles and a steady incline to Windsor Hill House. Duration is approximately 2 hours and no booking is required. As an alternative less strenuous option enjoy the snowdrop planters and snowdrop adornments around the town centre.

In the town there will be stalls from specialist growers of snowdrops, spring plants, climbers and plants for shade, which will be available for sale.

For further details of the snowdrop festival see sheptonsnowdrops.org.uk including free entry to open gardens at Kilver Court on 15th and 16th February.

SATURDAY, 15th MARCH, 2pm

Visit to Lower Shalford Farm, Shalford Lane, Charlton Musgrove, Wincanton, BA9 8HE

This is a member's garden open for the NGS, a combined opening with Forest Lodge. It is a fairly large open garden with extensive lawns and wooded areas with large drifts of daffodils, there is a stream running through it with several stone bridges. Refreshments will be available at both gardens.

Directions: On the B3081 from Bruton, just beyond Otter Garden Centre turn left, 1/2 mile on left with parking opposite the house.

Pay on entry, £10.

Full details at: ngs.org.uk/gardens/lower-shalford-farm-ba9/

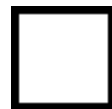
MONDAY, 17th MARCH Amelia Williams will talk about 'The care and maintenance of garden trees'. Amelia is a highly qualified Chartered Arboriculturist and Environmentalist with 20 years' experience, who runs her own consultancy.

WEDNESDAY 16th APRIL 6pm – Visit

Castle Gardens, Sherborne, talk and discount shopping.

Gold Club shopping visit with short talk and 25% discount on purchases. Please bring your membership card or speak to a committee member on arrival. Booking essential, members only.

Directions: Follow signs to Sherborne Castle, the Garden Centre is by the gates to Sherborne Castle.



MONDAY, 28th APRIL Deborah Harris will talk about 'Setting up a flower farm, seasonal flowers, succession planting and cutting'. Deborah, who is also an artist, will talk about her business, Church Farm and also bring flowers.

SATURDAY 10th MAY 9:30am

Plant sale /coffee morning in Bruton Community Hall. This is a fund raiser and shop window for the Society. Please support it and bring as many plants, seedlings, produce and cakes as you can. Please label these as it makes it so much easier for both sellers and buyers.

WEDNESDAY, 21st MAY, 8.30am**Coach trip to Kew Gardens**

Our coach trip is to the Royal Botanical gardens at Kew, the world-famous UNESCO World Heritage Site. The incredible living plant collections are among the largest and most diverse in the world and the site includes the world's largest Victorian glasshouse. Entry includes "The Power of Trees" exhibition exploring the enduring beauty of trees across art and culture and "Of the Oak", a one-of-a-kind immersive art installation that celebrates the oak tree as a vital hub of biodiversity.

Cost: members £41 including coach and entry (Newt members £23); non-members £44 (Newt members £26). If you are a member of the Newt then you must show your membership card (via your smart phone) at the visit for free entry. For non-Newt attendees this is the concession price, if you are under 65 then add £2 to cost of the visit.

Parking: Arrangements have been made for members/guests to park at Hauser & Wurth on the B3081, the road from Bruton to Wincanton. The entrance can be found on the left-hand side after going under the railway bridge and past Lyon House.

**WEDNESDAY, 4th JUNE, 2.30pm****Visit to Cadenham Manor, Foxham, Chippenham, SN15 4NH**

A glorious four-acre garden laid out in the 1950s with many rooms, divided by yew hedges and moats. The garden is known for its stunning displays of old roses, specimen trees, fountains and statues. There is also the White Garden, the Peony Walk and the Phlox Walk, plus vegetables, herbs, fruit trees, cut flowers and a water garden.

Cost: Members £14, non-members £17, includes refreshments.

Directions: On the B4069 from Chippenham, turn right in Christian Malford and left in Foxham. Cadenham Manor is on the right.

**MONDAY, 16th JUNE, 6pm** (alternative bad weather date - Thursday, 19th June)**Members' Garden Social, Cooks Farm, North Brewham, BA10 0JQ**

Held by kind permission of Patricia Stainton. This is county wildlife site with unimproved grassland meadow with wildflowers including devil's bit scabious, knapweed and betony.

This will be a special "Roses and rosé" event: members are invited to bring their favourite rose from their garden for a fabulous floral display and the best chosen for a prize. We also hope to have a celebration cake to mark out 100th show and a musical accompaniment for the evening. Sure to be fabulous!

Cost: £7 members, £9 non-members, includes a glass of wine and nibbles

Directions: From Quaperlake Street leave Bruton on right fork by the Toll Cottage on the Brewham Road, passing The Old Red Lion pub on the right, continue approximately 1 mile to the crossroads and turn right into a 'No through road'. Continue past some cottages to the bottom of the lane where there is an American style mailbox signed "Cook's Farm", keep on the lane and park in the farmyard.

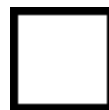



FRIDAY, 25th JULY, 2.30pm**Visit to Gasper Cottage, Stourton, BA12 6PY**

This is a secluded country garden of about 1.5 acres, with views out to glorious countryside. There is a luxurious planting of dahlias, grasses, asters, cardoons and other late summer specialities. A perennial meadow hosts an orchard and nascent forest garden with a wildlife pond. There is a pergola with herb terrace.

Cost: £13 member, £16 non-members, includes refreshments

Directions: Follow Stourhead signs, go through Stourton, after 1 mile, turn right after phone box signed Gaspar.


SATURDAY, 16th AUGUST, 2:30pm - Annual Show

Fitzjames Hall, King's School, Bruton, BA10 0ED

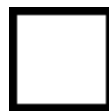
By kind permission of the headmaster. Show schedules can be picked up at the Plant Sale and after that from Bruton shops, the Library and Community Office. As this is a special year, when we celebrate our 100th show, we would like there to be a bumper number of entries so do please enter as many of the classes as you can and, of course, come along and support the show on the day.

WEDNESDAY, 10th SEPTEMBER, 2pm**Visit to Burrow Farm Gardens, Dalwood, Axminster, EX13 7ET**

A beautiful 13-acre garden with unusual trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants created by John and Mary Benger over 50 years ago. There is a lake and ancient oak woodland and a millennium garden with a rill. There is a cafe and gift shop.

Directions: Take the A303 (west) and just after you join the A30 turn left at Stockland Hill which becomes Worham's Lane, for 5.9 miles. Burrow Farm is on the left. What3words app: guidebook.fetches.fortress

Cost: £9.50 member, £10.50 non-members, free for RHS members



MONDAY, 15th SEPTEMBER Gill Hazel will talk about 'Rare and unusual bulbs'. Gill and her husband ran a business - Great Western Gladiolus – which gave her the knowledge and experience of bulbs and their cultivation.

MONDAY, 20th OCTOBER Castle Gardens Gold Club talk about 'Growing your own'. Topical tips on growing your own vegetables, maximising space and suggestions for different planting combinations.

MONDAY, 17th NOVEMBER Arthur Cole will talk about 'The Newt - 6 years' on'. Arthur last spoke to the Society as Head of Programmes 6 years ago when the garden at The Newt was being developed by its new owners. He will now speak about the implementation of the original plans, how the garden is now developing and plans for the future. The gardens were featured on Monty Don's 'British Gardens' TV series this year.

MONDAY, 19th JANUARY 2026 AGM and talk – details to be confirmed in the Autumn Newsletter.

SATURDAY, 24th JANUARY Winter Lunch

Details to be confirmed in the Autumn Newsletter.

VISITS BOOKING & MEMBERSHIP FORM 2025

Use this form for all your visit booking AND your membership (if not already paid)

EITHER post your completed form and cheque payable to Bruton & District Horticultural Society to: Janet Jones, "Crow's Nest", Holly Hill, Batcombe, BA4 6BL

OR email a scan of your completed form (or just email the details) to Janet at info@brutonhorticultural.org.uk confirming that you have paid by BACS. Lloyds business bank account. Account name: Bruton and District Horticultural Society. Sortcode 30-98-97 and account number 79058962. The reference should be Your name/Visits.

Please book by 31st March

Name:

Address:

Tel: Email:

VISITS	Number Attending		Total Cost (£)
	Members	Non-Members	
Wednesday 16th April - Visit to Castle Gardens No charge but booking essential			
Wednesday 21st May - Visit to Kew Gardens £42 members, £44 non-members <i>This is the concession price for entry to the garden, if you are under 65 then add £2 to cost of the visit.</i> Newt members If you are a member of the Newt then you must show your membership card (via your smart phone) at the visit for free entry. £23 members, £26 non-members			
Wednesday 4th June – Cadenham Manor £14 members, £17 non-members, includes tea & cake			
Monday 16th June - Members Garden Social £7 members, £9 non-members, includes a glass of wine and nibbles			
Thursday 25th July - Visit to Gasper Cottage £13 members, £16 non-members, includes refreshments			
Wednesday 10th September - Visit to Burrow Farm Gardens £9.50 members, £10.50 non-members Free for RHS members			
VISITS GRAND TOTAL:			
<i>Visit bookings and confirmation of payment will be confirmed by email or phone</i>			
MEMBERSHIP			
I/We confirm the membership fee for 2025 has been paid (please tick) OR			
I/We wish to make a subs payment (£8 per person)			
<i>We will send you a membership card and programme card for each member.</i>			