

BRUTON & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

www.brutonhorticultural.org.uk

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2026

COMMITTEE At the AGM in January, attended by 50 members, we thanked Sue Bradder for her 15 years on the Committee, latterly as Plant Sale Organiser. We also thanked Jan Juneman for her 20 plus years on the committee, the last three as Chair. Both Sue and Jan have kindly said that they will remain supporters of the Society and both were given heartfelt thanks and lovely flowers at the Winter Lunch.

As noted in the Autumn Newsletter we welcomed Debs Duffy to the Committee to join the Show Team. She and the other members of the committee were all re-elected at the AGM.

In accordance with the Society's Rules, Jan Juneman stood down at the first Committee meeting after the AGM. Janet Jones was elected Chair and Deborah Gibson Vice Chair by the Committee. Full Committee details appear on page 6. We are looking for two new committee members so if you would like to join our happy group then please contact Janet on 0753 085 2418.

In January we held our annual Winter Lunch at The Stapleton Arms in Buckhorn Weston where 29 members enjoyed a very good meal in relaxed surroundings.

NEWSLETTERS We email two newsletters a year, in February and September, detailing events and news for the next period. We post / hand deliver where requested but it is cheaper and easier by email. 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. Visitors are charged £4 per talk.

We had 99 members last year.

DISCOUNTED ORDERS FROM SEED SUPPLIERS Members get discounts from Dobies and now Thompson & Morgan as follows:

- Dobies - 50% for seeds and 15% on other items.
- Thompson & Morgan - 50% for packet seeds and 20% for all "other live items".

Orders are made directly by members either online, by phone or by post and catalogues are available at talks or online. 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 that you want.

SNOWDROPS FOR SALE: At our talk on 16th February Celia Marsh, one of our members, will be selling snowdrops in the green. This is a fund raiser for The Growing Space in Wincanton, a charity offering therapeutic gardening to people of all ages with support needs. The bulbs come from Snape Cottage Garden, East Lambrook Manor, Avon Bulbs and other specialist local growers. They include:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| • Cedric's Prolific | • Modern Art |
| • Cowhouse Green | • Primrose Warburg |
| • Ketton | • Reverend Hailstone |
| • Lambrook Greensleeves | • Seagull, |
| • Magnet | • Shepton Merlin |
| • Melanie Broughton | • Sutton Courtenay and maybe a few others. |

Celia is also happy to arrange alternative collection/delivery. Please contact her on Celiajmarsh@googlemail.com for more information.

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:

- Natures Patterns (e.g. spirals, textures etc)
- Sport - anything from cricket on the beach to Wimbledon
- Trees (living or dead)
- Visitors to your garden
- Out in the sun
- Seeing red
- At work
- 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 Caroline have put together a most interesting programme of visits, talks and events 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 are on the last page. There is a useful box on the programme pages for you to tick for your own reference.

This year we are setting up an "Ad hoc Garden Visits Group" and are hoping to have visits in February or March and in August. These will be arranged nearer the time and according to the weather via WhatsApp, phone or email. We will compile an initial contact list based on those who have previously attended visits or who have said that they are interested. If you would like to be added to the Ad hoc Garden Visits Group then please tick the box on page 6.

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

PLANT SALE We will be holding our Plant Sale/Coffee morning on Saturday 9th May in Bruton Community Hall, BA10 0EB from 9:30am. Last year was a record one for the Society which we'd love to beat this year 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, 22nd August at the Fitzjames Hall, King's School, Bruton, BA10 0ED.

MEMBERSHIP FEES These are now due for 2026, so please pay at the February or March meeting or send a cheque or BACS payment for £8. Details are on page 6 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
CHAIR, MEMBERSHIP, VISITS ADMIN, WEBSITE	Janet Jones
VICE CHAIR, VISITS, SEED ORDERS.....	Deborah Gibson
SECRETARY	Jane Hodges
TREASURER	Hugh Wauton
SPEAKERS	Caroline Rathbone
SHOW TEAM	Anne Jelliffe
SHOW TEAM	Helen Parker
SHOW TEAM	Debs Duffy
RAFFLE..	Felicity Smith
REFRESHMENTS	Sarah Waller
VACANCY	x 2

Janet Jones
Chair

PROGRAMME FOR 2026

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.

Please note that a few gremlins crept onto our programme card: The visit to Longstock Park Water Gardens is at **2pm** on 13th May (*not 2am*); the visit to Stoberry House is on **Wednesday** (*not Friday*) 15th July; and the show is on Saturday **22nd August** (*not 15th August*). The dates and times below are correct!

MONDAY, 16th FEBRUARY Colin Higgins, known as 'Higgy', will speak about 'Learning nature's way - gardening for insects'. 'Higgy' is a well-known photographer, wildlife gardener and garden designer from Yatton in Somerset, who is keen for everyone to attract more beneficial wildlife into their gardens. He will also be bringing some of his cards and bird/insect boxes for sale.

FEBRUARY/MARCH – the first of our ad hoc garden visits - A visit to be arranged nearer the time and according to the weather via the Ad hoc Garden Visits Group.

MONDAY, 16th MARCH Ewen Jones and Charles Couzens will speak about the 'Forest of Selwood' charity's environmental projects. This charity was recently founded by a number of local environmentalists with the aims of reviving nature, reconnecting people with the landscape and slowing climate change. Ewen is a co-founder and Project Director for the Forest of Selwood, former Bruton Mayor and former Chair of Bruton Town Council. Charles is a Trustee of the Charity and a long-time resident of Bruton who has worked in sustainable development and environmental management with such organisations as the Woodland Trust, Wildlife Trusts and Soil Association for over 40 years.

WEDNESDAY 15th APRIL 6pm – Talk and discount shopping

Castle Gardens, Sherborne, DT9 5NR

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.



SATURDAY 9th 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. Don't forget to pick up your show schedule.

WEDNESDAY, 13th May, 2.30pm

Visit to Longstock Park Water Garden, Stockbridge, Hampshire, SO20 6EH

A peaceful water garden with charming wooden bridges, meandering paths and diverse flora providing a soothing ambiance in stunning Hampshire countryside formerly owned by a founder of the John Lewis partnership. Cold drinks and light snacks available at the garden with the Farm Shop and cafe 1 mile away.

Cost: Members £10, non-members £10

Directions: Take the A303 (east) and after 41.7 miles, head south on the A3057. After 3.2 miles turn right onto Fullerton Road (signposted for Longstock), cross the river bridge and take the first turning to the left signposted to Longstock. The garden car park is on the left in 0.75 miles after you've passed the Farm Shop and Café.



WEDNESDAY, 10th JUNE, 2.30pm**Visit to Karmacations, Buckland Newton, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 7RP**

“Magical” sums up this brand new Japanese inspired oasis tucked away in magnificent Dorset countryside. The Garden of Tranquility is full of surprises, stories, scenery and sculptures with royal connections. Highlights include a stunning metal bridge, charming tea house, lucky torii Gate, gilded stepping stones, Buddha island and ancient meadow. Maximum group size 40 so book early. Dogs welcome.

Cost: Members £12, non-members £12, includes tea, cake and goody bag!

Directions: Head south on the A357, A3030 and B3043 toward Buckland Newton. Drive past the Buckland Newton village shop on the left and after ½ a mile turn left into Bookham Lane. Drive up the lane past the farm on the left then drive downhill past the stables. Park in the field opposite the red gates garden entrance on the right.

**MONDAY, 22nd JUNE 6.00pm** (alternative bad weather date - Thursday, 25th June)

Members' Summer Social, Wellspring Cottage, Castle Cary, BA7 7LL by kind permission of Jane and Anthony Hodges. Jane is the Society's Secretary and we are delighted that she is hosting us in her recently acquired and still developing garden.

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

Directions: From Bruton/Wincanton turn right off A371 (Cumnock Road) at the former Waggon & Horses pub on to Wyke Road keeping left where the road divides, Wellspring Cottage is on the lefthand side. Parking is possible at The Hut, Shepherd's Gate, Wyke Road, 100 feet past Wellspring Cottage.

**WEDNESDAY, 15th JULY, 2.30pm****Visit to Stoberry House, Stoberry Park. Wells, BA5 3LD**

Breathtaking views over Wells Cathedral. This 5-acre family garden is planted sympathetically within its landscape providing stunning combinations of vistas accented with wildlife ponds and water features. In comparison the 1½ acre walled garden is full of interesting planting, colour and interest for every season - irises, salvias, newly planted wildflower area and a new modern rockery.

Cost: Members £13, non-members £14, includes tea and cake

Directions: From Bristol - Wells on A39, turn left into College Road and immediately left through Stoberry Park



AUGUST – the second of our ad hoc garden visits - A visit to be arranged nearer the time and according to the weather via the Ad hoc Garden Visits Group.

SATURDAY, 22nd AUGUST, 2:30pm - Annual Show**Fitzjames Hall, King's School, Bruton, BA10 0ED**

As this is one of our regular highlights, we always hope for a bumper year, whatever the weather! Do please consider entering for some of the many and varied classes that are on offer for adults and children and come along to support the show on the day. Full details in the show schedule which can be picked up at the Plant Sale and after that from local shops, the Library and Community Office.

WEDNESDAY, 16th SEPTEMBER, 2.30pm**Visit to Empire Farm, Throop Road Templecombe, Somerset, BA8 0HR**

Sally Morgan's 200-year-old walled garden, recently featured on BBC Gardeners World, was once the garden of a rectory. The garden extends to about two-thirds of an acre and features a kitchen garden, orchard and large ornamental area with an extensive water harvesting system, herbaceous beds and gravel garden area. With climate change in mind, the plant selection is focussed on climate resilient plants, biodiversity and permeability while the beds are all heavily mulched. Sally is a 'no-dig' organic gardener, writer and speaker and will walk us round the garden. There will be free time to explore for ourselves before refreshments, the garden is flat but not wheelchair friendly.

Cost: Members £7, non-members £8, includes tea and cake. There is a limit of 30 visitors.

Directions: Head south on the A357 towards Templecomb. After 3.6 miles turn left onto Throop Road. The garden is on the right after 0.2 miles.



MONDAY, 21st SEPTEMBER Gold Club Talk by a Castle Gardens member of staff about 'Putting your Garden to Bed. Speaker to be confirmed.

MONDAY, 19th OCTOBER Talk by Chris Smith of Pennard Plants about 'Growing Unusual Edibles'. Chris Smith co-founded Pennard Plants Nursery in 2001 within a Victoria walled garden in the village of East Pennard. Chris specialises in heritage varieties of edibles - vegetables, fruit, flowers and herbs, with around 600 varieties of seeds, all available by mail order. Chris has long been involved in horticulture and has won Gold Medals at Chelsea.

MONDAY, 16th NOVEMBER Talk and demonstration by Myra Cox from Highbridge. Myra is an experienced creator of seasonal decorations for the home who has taught her art to many garden clubs and workshops. She particularly likes using foliage commonly found in people's gardens so they can replicate her arrangements at home as well as re-using and repurposing containers.

MONDAY, 18th JANUARY 2027 AGM and Talk - details to be confirmed in the Autumn Newsletter.

SATURDAY, 23rd JANUARY 2027 Winter Lunch - details to be confirmed in the Autumn Newsletter.

VISITS BOOKING & MEMBERSHIP FORM 2026

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:

Please add my mobile number to the WhatsApp Ad hoc Garden Visit Group or use my email



VISITS	Number Attending		Total Cost (£)
	Members	Non-Members	
Wednesday 15th April - Visit to Castle Gardens No charge but booking essential			
Wednesday 13th May - Visit to Longstock Park Water Garden £10 members, £10 non-members			
Wednesday 10th June – Karmacations £12 members, £12 non-members, including tea, cake and goody bag			
Monday 22nd June - Members Garden Social £7 members, £9 non-members, including a glass of wine and nibbles			
Wednesday 15th July - Visit to Stoberry House £13 members, £14 non-members, includes tea and cake			
Wednesday 16th September - Visit to Empire Farm £7 members, £8 non-members, includes tea and cake			
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 2026 has been paid (please tick) OR			
I/We wish to make a subs payment (£8 per person) <i>We will give you a membership card and programme card for each member.</i>			