

Newsletter

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Dear Members,

Welcome to our August Newsletter

Our annual summer social at the end of July was a lovely evening at Oldwych Farm House, courtesy of Sarah Beaman, who very kindly opened her eclectic gallery and beautiful garden for us to enjoy the summer evening and each others' company.

Our 76th annual show was a great success despite the weather. We managed to fill the tables and the hall looked splendid.

We would like to thank the many people, not just the committee, who gave their time to make it so successful, it does take a considerable effort to put it together and without everyone's help it would not be possible.

Sharon and Michelle



BDHS 76th Annual Show

Ann Fenton

From the posters and banners we put up in the village from early July, just about everyone in Balsall Common will have noticed that we held our Annual Show on Saturday 19th July. Despite the showers on the day it was a very successful event, with lots of beautiful exhibits on display from our members. A steady stream of visitors appreciated seeing the fruits of this year's labours as well as the opportunity to buy from the plant stall, take part in the raffle and enjoy refreshments and homemade cake.

Everyone I spoke to commented on how beautiful and professional everything looked. A show of this scale and quality can't take place without commitment from our committee and our members and so, many thanks are due to:

- The volunteers who helped set up the hall on the Friday night and those who helped clear up on the Saturday after the show
- The Stewards who accompanied our judges, ensured that we got the scores in on time and put out the prize cards
- The scribes who wrote out the award cards and entered the scores into the spreadsheet
- The cake bakers who did us proud and ensured that our refreshments were in high demand
- Those of you who grew and donated plants for our plant stall
- The volunteers who manned our plant stall, sold raffle tickets, wandered around among the exhibits answering questions from the public and those who helped with serving the refreshments and keeping the "café" space looking inviting

...and of course those of you who entered the classes - in total we had 341 exhibits and although this was slightly down on last year, it was an amazing accomplishment given the weather conditions in the weeks before the show. Thank you to Nigel Briggs (our photography judge) for the photos below. More are on our website.



2025 CUP WINNERS

DEELEY CHALLENGE CUP Awarded for the most points in Sections A & B - Vegetables & Fruit
[EDWARD COTTERRELL](#)

MAISEY CHALLENGE CUP Awarded for the most points in Section C - Flowers and Foliage
[HELEN JONES](#)

DAHLIA BOWL Awarded for the best dahlia bloom in class C44
[LAURA EDEN](#)

POT PLANT CUP Awarded for the most points in Section D - Pot Plants
[BARBARA HAYNES](#)

SOCIETY CUP Awarded for the best exhibit in Section E - Flower Arrangements
[SHARON NELSON](#)

HEART OF ENGLAND TROPHY Awarded to the best exhibit in section F - Photographs
[SANDRA HEARD](#)

PRODUCE CUP Awarded for the most points in Section G - Produce and Baked Goods
[ALISON WATSON](#)

BALSALL TROPHY Awarded for the best exhibit in section H - Arts and Crafts
[JENNIFER LEEMING](#)

WILKINS CHALLENGE TROPHY Awarded to the best entry in Section K - Plants from Plugs
[HELEN PEMBERTON](#)

SOUTHFIELD GERANIUM CUP Awarded for the best geranium or pelargonium in the Show (D54)
[JANE BRENNAN](#)

JARDINERIE CUP Awarded to the Novice with the most points in the Show
(A Novice is a person who has never won a first prize at a BDHS Show)
[SHARON NELSON](#)

RHS BANKSIAN MEDAL Awarded for the highest total of points in classes A, B, C, D & K (Excluding winners in the previous 2 years)
[EDWARD COTTERRELL](#)

BALSALL CHALLENGE CUP Awarded for the second highest total of points in all classes
[JANE BRENNAN](#)

CHALLENGE CUP Awarded for the highest total of points in all classes
[HELEN JONES](#)

Recipe of the Month – Green tomato chutney

This easy recipe is a wonderful way to use up a glut of green or under-ripe tomatoes. If you don't grow your own tomatoes, you'll find that it's just as delicious made with ripe red ones.

Ingredients

500g green (underripe) tomatoes, chopped
200g shallots or onions, finely chopped
1 small cooking apple, peeled, cored and chopped
200ml malt vinegar
1 red chilli, sliced (optional)
50g raisins or sultanas
1 tsp yellow mustard seeds
1 tsp ground ginger
½ tsp fine salt
75g light brown muscovado sugar

Instructions

1. Put the tomatoes, shallots or onions, apple and 100ml vinegar in a large, heavy-based saucepan. Bring to the boil, then simmer gently for 30 minutes until tender.
2. Stir in the chilli, if using, the raisins or sultanas, mustard seeds, ginger, salt, sugar and remaining 100ml vinegar. Continue to cook for 30-35 minutes more, or until the mixture has thickened this will depend on the ripeness of the tomatoes.
3. Ladle into sterilised jars while the chutney is still warm. Seal and store in a cool cupboard for at least 1 month before serving.

Cook's tip To sterilise jam jars, first check the jars are free from cracks or chips. Preheat the oven to 160°C, gas mark 3. Wash the jars in hot soapy water, then rinse thoroughly and shake off excess water. Put onto a baking tray and place in the oven for 10 minutes, until dry. Fill with the chutney while still warm, then seal.



NOTICE BOARD

BDHS Meetings:

2025 Monthly Meeting Dates

Members welcomed from 7:30pm - Tea/Coffee and cake/biscuits available. Please remember to bring a mug with you if possible, it helps the environment and the clearing up after the meeting.

Please register on entry to the hall . A sales table is present featuring various items such as plants and sundries. We also hold a monthly raffle with tickets available for sale at £1.00 per ticket for wonderful garden related prizes.

The meetings start at 8pm.

Guests are welcome - there is a small charge of £3 for entry which includes refreshments.

Guest Speakers

25 th Sept.	Val Bourne	A year at Spring Cottage
30 th October	Dawn Fisher	Pond Plants
	<i>(Lincolnshire Pond Plants)</i>	

Other BDHS dates:

27 th Nov	AGM & Buffet – 7:30pm. Village Hall, Balsall Common
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Further events/details will be announced once they are finalised

Other Dates for your diary:

From 6 th April	Temple Balsall Sunday Teas 2:30pm - 4:30pm. Rekurs the 1st Sunday each month from April to September.
From 30th March	Wren Hall Sunday teas served between 2pm and 5pm. Funds are raised for a different charity each week. Last Sunday Tea for 2025 is Sunday 26th October.
7th September	Shrewley Village Show. There will also be a display of Shrewley archive photographs by The Four Parish History Group.
7 September	Westwood Heath Allotments, opens at 2pm for viewing, refreshments available and auction at 3.30pm of show produce
13th September	Wren Hall Autumn Garden Show. Open to the public from 2:30 pm. Refreshments available
20th & 21st Sept	Haseley Church is open. Refreshments available. There will be a display of Haseley archive photographs by The Four Parish History Group.