



Newsletter

PRESIDENT: Wendy Jenkinson CHAIR: vacant position

TREASURER: Helen Jones 07870327524

SECRETARY Michelle Sutcliffe 07790004750

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: Sharon Nelson 07778573692 & Michelle Sutcliffe

WEBSITE: www.bdhs.club

Dear Members,

Welcome to the May edition of our members' newsletter.

What a wonderful turnout for the end of April meeting when Josh Egan entertained us with his talk on 'Classy Plants for Classy People part 2'. He was amusing, engaging and full of expert knowledge. Josh was also very surprised at the bounteous and beautiful array of entries for the monthly flower spike and pot competition, which he found rather difficult to judge.

Our Garden trip on 14th June to Shropshire is fast approaching. We will be visiting two gardens:

The Dorothy Clive Garden - with its many areas of diverse interest within a 12 acre, hillside garden. These include a new winter garden, an edible woodland, a woodland quarry with waterfall, an alpine scree and pool, rose walk and amazing seasonal borders. Additionally the garden has several notable collections of plants including: rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, sarcococca and hydrangeas.

And, Hodnet Hall Gardens - described by their head gardener as kaleidoscopic in early summer, with laburnum, pieris, davidia, philadelphus and peonies in full bloom, alongside more exotic species. The herbaceous borders are heavily scented and abuzz with bees. Geranium, helenium and erigeron vie for attention with primulas, Erica, tree peonies and delphiniums.

The coach will leave the Co-Op car park, Balsall Common, at 8.30 am and return at approximately 6.30pm. You can have lunch at one of these venues or bring your own. The cost is £35 per person - optional guided tour of the Dorothy Clive garden is now sold out. If you would like to join us contact Helen Jones to check whether there are tickets/coach seats still available (number at top of newsletter).

Each month we offer plants to purchase which have been grown and donated by members. If you are able to contribute plants please do bring them along. This helps to raise funds for the society's activities.

Our 77th Annual Show will take place on 18th July 2026. The Show Schedule/Guidance (including entry form) is available on our website: <https://www.bdhs.club/competitions-awards> - further information will be available at meetings as the date approaches.

The BDHS Annual Plant Sale on Saturday 9th May was a great success, raising £830. Thank you to all who made plant contributions on the day and thanks also to all those who purchased plants. Money raised goes towards the costs of our brilliant speakers and supporting transport costs to visit gardens annually, amongst other activities. Thank you also to the team who turned out at 8am on the morning of the sale to price up plants and assist with sales. We were so lucky to enjoy, yet another lovely early summer morning.



Michelle was fortunate enough to attend The RHS Malvern Spring Show on the opening day when Pershore College were awarded the RHS gold medal for their Student Led Floral Display. Last month's speaker, Josh Egan, was manning the plant sales stand and was quite rightly delighted with his students achievements.



RHS Gold—Pershore College Student-led Floral Display and plant sales:
Celebrating women in Horticulture who have made an exceptional contribution to the industry: Gertrude Jekyll 1843-1932, Ellen Wilmott 1858-1934, Beth Chatto 1923-2018

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next meeting on 28th May when we will be hosting Carol and John Matthews for their talk 'Vintage Garden Tools'.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our long serving members, Val and David Cotterrell who recently celebrated their 60th (Diamond) wedding anniversary.

Sharon & Michelle

Monthly Flower Spike and Pot Plant Competition

Points are awarded for first, second and third positions (First – 5 points, Second – 3 points and Third – 2 points). This monthly competition is designed to recognise the efforts of our members having grown their own plants for submission. Judging is by our guest speaker on the evening.

Prizes are awarded for the highest aggregate points at the end of the annual competition period (March to February). Multiple entries are allowed, though only one award will be made per entrant.

Pot Plants



Streptocarpus
Barbara Haynes 1st



Begonia Rex
Felicity Hill 2nd



Auricula
Helen Pemberton 3rd

Flower Spikes



Wisteria
Alison Watson 1st



Peony
Diana Jagger 2nd



Arisarum Proboscideum
Alison Watson 3rd

The competition was judged by our guest speaker on the evening, Josh Egan Head of Horticultural Studies at Pershore College. Photos and names of the winning entries are also published on our website.

NOTICE BOARD

2026 B&DHS Meetings:

Monthly Meeting Dates (Thursdays at 8pm unless otherwise stated)

Doors open from 7:30pm with tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits free of charge. Please remember to bring a mug with you if possible, it helps the environment and the clearing up after the meeting. The meetings start promptly at 8pm

Guests are welcome - there is a small charge of £3 for entry (including refreshments).

- **May 28th** Vintage Garden Tools – Carol and John Matthews
- **June 25th** Sweet Peas – Phillipa Cooper
- **July 30th** Summer Social Evening
- **September 24th** Plants for the Late Garden – Jack Wildgoss
- **October 29th** The Garden Chemist – Dr Alison Foster
- **November 26th** Annual General Meeting – 7.30pm start.

Other BDHS dates:

Sunday 14th June - Annual Garden Trip - Dorothy Clive Garden and Hodnet Hall Garden, Shropshire.

- Tickets are £35.00 per person and limited to coach capacity. Departure at 8.30am from Co-Op car park Balsall Common. Additional £2.50 pp charge for guided tour at Dorothy Clive Garden only.

Saturday 18th July from 8.30am MEMBERS' FLOWER SHOW - St Peter's Church Hall, Balsall Common

- More details will follow over the next months. We need as many entrants as possible to ensure a successful show and future of our Society.

Other Dates for your diary:

19th -23rd May 2026

- RHS Chelsea Flower Show

19th June to 2nd August

- RHS Botanical Art and Photography Show, Saatchi Gallery, London

8th – 12th July

- RHS Badminton Flower Show

22nd – 26th July

- RHS Sandringham Flower Show

25th – 27th September

- Malvern Autumn Show

Sunday 7th June

- Styvechale Open Gardens - Styvechale Gardens, Baginton Road, Coventry, West Midlands, CV3 5DE from 12:00 to 18:00 For full details visit: <https://ngs.org.uk/>

Jobs in the Garden for May

Gardening in May - Summer's on its way

As bulbs fade and herbaceous borders grow in leaps and bounds, it is now clear that summer is approaching. Sowing and planting out bedding can begin, depending on when the last frost is in your area, and you can take softwood cuttings. It's also time to let the lawn grow long and get a buzz from seeing all the insects that arrive to feed on the flowers.

- Watch out for late frosts. Protect tender plants - Frost can affect many plants, and is particularly damaging to tender new growth and blossom in the spring. The risks of frost damage can be reduced by taking steps to protect the plants in your garden.
- Earth up potatoes, and promptly plant any still remaining - Potato plants need 'earthing up' as they grow, to protect early shoots from frost damage and ensure the developing potatoes aren't exposed to light, which turns them green and poisonous.
- Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month (except in cold areas) - Bedding plants provide a temporary decorative seasonal display for containers, hanging baskets, beds and borders.
- Water early and late to get the most out of your water - recycle water when possible.
- Hoe off weeds in vegetable patches
- Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days
- Mow lawns but consider leaving some areas uncut for wildlife, or mow less often so flowers can bloom
- Check carefully for nesting birds before clipping hedges
- Cut back tender shrubs and sub-shrubs such as Penstemon, Caryopteris and Fuchsia after the danger of frost has passed.
- Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs
- Watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs and remove by hand if causing damage
- Now is a good time to divide waterlilies and other pond plants to increase stocks or control vigorous growth.
- By May, newts are laying their eggs singly on leaves of plants such as brooklime, and early frog and toad spawn will now be developing into tadpoles, which soon disperse into the water.
- If you want fish, introduce them after new plantings have established. Avoid introducing goldfish to wildlife ponds, because they will eat frogspawn and disrupt the natural balance
- Check and repair pergolas, arbours and arches if needed.
- In dry spells, you can treat timber structures with wood preservative and stain. Only do this in a well-ventilated space, to reduce the risks to your lungs and eyes. Make sure you use appropriate products. Creosote, for example, is no longer legal.
- Go through your shed and remove any old, out-of-date garden chemicals. If in doubt of how to dispose of them, your local authority tip should be able to help.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs such as japonica or Japanese quince after flowering. Evergreens such as Viburnum tinus can also still be trimmed this month.
- Prune overcrowded, dead or diseased stems of Clematis Montana once it has finished flowering.

Members monthly prize Quiz

Please submit your answers to the quiz below to the Co-Editor, Sharon Nelson, at: sharonmarie1406@btinternet.com

The first submission received with the most correct answers will win a copy of the RHS Garden Magazine and will be announced in the next edition of our newsletter.

We received no entries for the April quiz and therefore there is no winner to announce this month!

The answers to last month's Quiz were: 1.Saint Dorothy, 2.Cucumber (which is a fruit and not a vegetable), 3.Fruit, 4.Grapefruit, 5.The Garden of Cosmic Speculation, 6.Mango, 7.Rose (or Rosaceae), 8.Garden gnomes, 9.False -It's tulip bulbs, 10.Carnations

May 2026 - Quiz Questions

1. Who was the presenter of Gardeners' World from 1969 to 1976?
2. What name is given to the Japanese art of flower arranging?
3. Helianthus is another name for which flower?
4. Which television presenter and gardener owns a garden in Herefordshire called Longmeadow?
5. Often used in salads, what has the botanical name nasturtium officinale?
6. Vanilla flavouring is derived from which flower?
7. What has varieties beefsteak, plum and cherry?
8. Which tree was traditionally planted in graveyards and is associated with eternity?
9. What word is used to describe plants that like acid soil and will not grow in alkaline soils?
10. Which fruit was cultivated from crossing a blackberry and a raspberry?

Good Luck.

If any members would like to make contributions to the monthly newsletter please get in touch with the editors as we would love to hear from you. Please email to either sharonmarie1406@btinternet.com or michelle@sutreyfit.co.uk before the end of the month previous to publication.