



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 June edition of our members' newsletter.

A smaller audience enjoyed the display and talk about vintage garden tools given by John and Carole Matthews of Vintage Garden Store of Redditch. The talk was most interesting and informative. Who knew the difference between a three pronged and a seven pronged fork for instance? We were told about how the tools would have been manufactured – by hand, by individual artisans – and how these were built to last for several lifetimes and would have been passed down through the generations. A lot of the tools were available to buy at the end of the talk and many of our members made purchases knowing they would be a sound investment. John was also kind enough to judge the entries for the monthly flower spike and pot competitions.



Each month we offer **plants for sale** 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. We have listed the show rules below:

SHOW RULES

- Entry to classes is for members only and there is no charge for entry.
- Entries must be received by the Show Secretary by Thursday 16th July 2026. LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- Exhibitors may NOT make more than one entry in each class.
- The Hall will be open to competitors on Saturday 18th from 8.30am – 11.00am for staging.
- All exhibits must be staged by 11.00am on the day of the show. They may not be removed earlier than 4.15pm but must be removed before 5.00pm.
- Exhibitors are not permitted to move other exhibits; they may only be moved by the Stewards.
- All exhibits must be presented in accordance with the Schedule.
- All horticultural exhibits must be the produce of the exhibitors' own garden or allotment unless otherwise stated in the Schedule.
- No leaf-shine or similar will be permitted on exhibits. 'Oasis' will only be accepted if contained within a vase.
- All exhibits must be stable and, with the exception of Classes D59 & D60, shall be staged on the show benches.
- Anyone employing artifice or unfair means to deceive the Judges or obtain awards will be barred from any future show activities.
- Judges have the right to withhold awards when, in their opinion, the competition is insufficient, or the quality of entries is deficient and to make extra awards at their discretion. The Judge's decision is final.
- Points will be awarded as: First – 3 pts, Second – 2 pts, Third – 1 pt. Highly Commended – ½ pt.
- Any protest must be in writing and delivered by 3.00pm to the Show Secretary for submission to the Committee for decision.
- Any contingency not covered by these rules shall be dealt with by members of the Committee, whose decision is final.
- The Show awards will be announced on the day of the show.
- BDHS will not accept responsibility for any loss or damage to exhibitors' property during the Show.

We look forward to seeing lots of entries. Don't forget to complete your entry form before submission of entries and good luck to all who wish to participate.

Could all winners from last year's annual show return any cups to the committee (Iain McKenzie) at the June Meeting please.

Sharon & Michelle

Co-Editors

Monthly Flower Spike and Pot Plant Competition

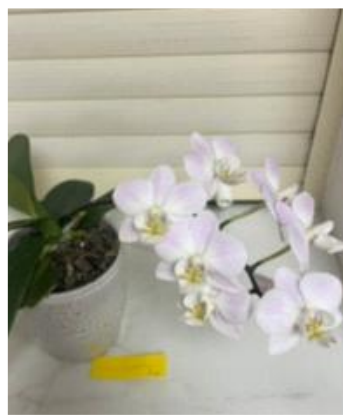
Points are awarded for first, second and third positions (First – 5 points, Second – 3 points and Third – 2 points). This monthly competition is designed to recognise the efforts of our members having grown their own plants for submission. Judging is by our guest speaker on the evening.

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



Hosta
Jeanette Pratt 1st



Orchid
Mary Cotterrell 2nd



Amaryllis
Mark Gregory 3rd

Flower Spikes



Pink Peony
Sue Edwards 1st



Clematis
Alison Watson 2nd



White Peony
Mark Gregory 3rd

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).

- **June 25th** Sweet Peas – Phillipa Cooper
- **July 30th** Summer Social Evening - start 6.30pm
To be hosted by Bridie McSorley in her garden at Brooklands Farm, Wootton Lane, Balsall Common CV7 7BS. Parking is limited so please share lifts where possible. It is approximately a 20 minutes walk from the George in the Tree car park. Bring your own chairs please.
- **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 12th July – Dave’s Amazing Collection (of car memorabilia) – Helen Jones’ farm – Manor Farm, Chadwick Lane, Knowle B93 0AS -2.00pm to 5.30pm – Entrance fee/donation £10 to include tea and cakes. Plants, cakes and original artwork will be on sale.

- Funds raised will be donated to the Matt Hampson Foundation. Matt, former under 21s England rugby player, suffered a life changing injury and is now a quadriplegic. The Foundation raises funds for his Get Busy Living centre, giving others with life changing injuries the opportunity to move forward with their lives.

Saturday 18th July - from 8.30am MEMBERS’ FLOWER SHOW - St Peter’s Church Hall, Balsall Common – Show Secretary Iain McKenzie

- Volunteers are required - to assist with setting up and clearing of the hall for the show.
 - Set up times are Friday 17th July from 5.00pm to 6.30pm
 - Clearing times are Saturday 18th July from 4.30pm to 6.00pm
- Cake donations must be accompanied by a full ingredients list – advice available from Pet Hawley, please ask at the next meeting if you require a form.
 - Bring to the hall at any time on Saturday, whenever you are attending.
- Help Guidance and Show Schedules can be located on the club website and will be available at the June meeting.
- Photo Categories are – F66 My Favourite Flower, F67 Garden Scene and F68 Over the Garden Fence - see the Show Schedule. Please note that the maximum image size for entries is 7” x 5” (18cm x 12.5cm).

Other Dates for your diary:

8th – 12th July

- RHS Badminton Flower Show

22nd – 26th July

- RHS Sandringham Flower Show

25th – 27th September

- Malvern Autumn Show

Jobs in the Garden for June

June 21st is the longest day of the year, and the extra light and warmth encourages the garden to put on an exuberant burst of growth. This brings some of the first harvests from the vegetable garden, including tasty new potatoes and salads.

- Plant up summer hanging baskets and containers
- Choose vibrant bedding plants for a summer show or herbs, shrubs and evergreens for a long-lasting display.
- Use water wisely to keep your plants thriving
 - Watering is key to growing plants well, If you haven't already got a water butt, installing one is a great way to help the environment.
- Pinch out sideshoots on tomatoes
 - Removing the sideshoots is simple – every time you water, check the plant for any shoots in the joint between the leaf and the stem.
- Harvest lettuce, radish, other salads and early potatoes
- Hoe borders regularly to keep down weeds
- Mow lawns once a week if needed – but consider leaving some areas uncut for wildlife
- Plant out summer bedding
- Stake tall or floppy plants
- Prune many spring-flowering shrubs
- Shade greenhouses to keep them cool and prevent scorch

For more details and information follow the RHS link below:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/in-month/june>



Monthly Gardening Quiz

We received just 2 entries for the May quiz and the first correct entry received was from Ann Dodd – a copy of the RHS Garden magazine will be delivered to Ann – Well done.

The answers to last month's Quiz were:

1. *Percy Thrower*
2. *Ikebana*
3. *Sunflower*
4. *Monty Don*
5. *Watercress*
6. *Orchid*
7. *Tomatoes*
8. *Yew*
9. *Ericaceous*
10. *Loganberry*

Unfortunately, due to the very low number of quiz answer submissions received over the last several months it has been decided that the competition will no longer take place. If members have suggestions for any other competitions they may enjoy please send ideas to Sharon or Michelle. Emails below.

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.