

Newsletter

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Dear Members,

Welcome to the July edition of our members' newsletter.

On a very warm evening it was impressive and very welcome to see so many of you at this month's meeting on 25th June. Our speaker was Phillipa Cooper a passionate and extremely knowledgeable lady who has been awarded by the National Sweet Pea Society for her contributions to the promotion of these delicate and beautifully scented flowers that are sweet peas.

She told us about the history of sweet peas and gave everyone a packet of seeds to grow.

The Wem Sweet Pea Show is on Saturday 18th July and Sunday 19th July at Wem Town Hall for anyone who is interested in going.



Phillipa was also kind enough to judge the entries for the June monthly flower spike and pot competitions.

Each month at our meetings 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/speakers.

Our 77th Annual Show will take place this Saturday, 18th July 2026 . The Show Schedule/Guidance (including entry form) is available on our website: <https://www.bdhs.club/competitions-awards>

We very much look forward to viewing your entries for the competition judging and to seeing you at St Peters Hall, Balsall Common on Saturday.

Sharon & Michelle

Co-Editors

Our trips to Shropshire 14th June (continued)

Built by Colonel Harry Clive in 1940 to provide his ailing wife with a series of interesting walks as she battled Parkinson disease, the Dorothy Clive Garden set in 15 acres of the woodland quarter of Staffordshire both delighted and surprised us. From edible gardens to ponds and waterfalls a charming tearoom and beautiful views of the surrounding countryside. We were also very lucky with the weather as you can see from the photos and our guide spent far more time with us than we had expected pointing out notable collections of rhododendrons, azaleas, sarcococca and hydrangeas as well as national and regional Champions trees



On to Hodnet Hall, another little gem over 60 acres of colourful flowers, magnificent forest trees, sweeping lawns and a chain of ornamental pools along the cultivated garden valley. It has been the home of the Heber Percy family for hundreds of years and dates back to the Norman conquest though the gardens as we see them today were created in 1922.



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.

June Competition winners were:

Pot Plants

		
1 st Alison Watson	2 nd Mary Warr	3 rd Wendy Taylor

Flower Spikes

		
1 st Alison Watson Jasmine Devon Cream	2 nd Alison Watson Rosa Mundi	3 rd Dahlia Salmon Runner

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).

- **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:

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

- Cake donations must be accompanied by a full ingredients list – advice available from Pet Hawley.
 - 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

Other Dates for your diary:

18th July - 19th July

- The Wem Sweet Pea Show is on at Wem Town Hall

22nd – 26th July

- RHS Sandringham Flower Show

25th – 27th September

- Malvern Autumn Show

Jobs in the Garden for July

Enjoy the bounty of high summer

This is often one of the hottest months of the year and a great time to sit out and enjoy your garden. Keep plants looking good by regularly deadheading, and you'll enjoy a longer display of blooms. Make sure you keep new plants watered, using collected rainwater or grey water where possible. With the current heatwave and continuing dry spell you will need to be watering frequently, as long as there is no hosepipe ban in place.

Top gardening jobs this month

- Deadhead bedding plants and repeat-flowering perennials to ensure continuous flowering
- Care for houseplants while on holiday
- Water tubs and new plants if dry, but be water-wise
- Check clematis for signs of clematis wilt
- Pick courgettes before they become marrows
- Pick tomatoes as they ripen, continuing to remove sideshoots and feed and water the plants
- Clear algae and blanket weeds from ponds, and top up with stored rainwater
- Deadhead, feed and water for a long-lasting show. Put a saucer under containers to reduce watering
- Don't worry if your lawn goes brown, as it will bounce back when we have rain
- Harvest apricots, peaches and nectarines

For more details and information follow the RHS link below:

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



Article from Member – Chris Bennett, Hatton Garden Care



By Chris Bennett, Collections Coordinator for Warwickshire

Plant Heritage is the UK charity which combines the passion of amateur gardeners with the expertise of horticultural professionals and organisations. As the awarding body for National Collections we are unique in our mission to conserve, grow, propagate, document and make available the amazing resource of cultivated plants that exists in the UK. Our 730 registered National Collections are safeguarding nearly 100,000 different plants as a living national library.

I am a volunteer; the Collections Coordinator for Warwickshire and my role is to support the National Collection holders in our county and promote our work locally.

Anyone can start a National Collection and it often surprises people that there are many plant groups which are not currently represented. This was the message behind the Missing Collector Garden, our first show garden which you may have seen at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

If you have a particular plant passion, why not visit a National Collection? Many hold open days and it's a great way to learn more and get further inspired. There are some very interesting National Collections in Warwickshire, many of which are accessible to the public:

- Sanguisorba & Anemone nemorosa - at Avondale Nurseries in Baginton
- Symphytum (comfrey) & the amazing Heritage Seed Library - at Garden Organic in Ryton
- Hardy chrysanthemums - at Hill Close Gardens in Warwick
- Asters (Symphyotrichum) - at Upton House, near Banbury (and if you've never seen their fabulous autumn border in late September/October I'd say that's worth a visit!)
- And just awarded National Collection status, is a new collection of hardy Agastache at Kenilworth Castle.

But you don't have to be a National Collection holder to get involved in plant conservation. You could become a Plant Guardian, someone doing the vital work of looking after just one, or a small number of plants which are now designated as rare in cultivation.

Together our Plant Guardians are protecting nearly 3,000 plants from house plants to shrubs and there are always people with rare plants who need help to ensure they aren't lost to horticulture.

Do you think that you have a rare plant, one that you know is no longer available commercially? You could register your plant in the scheme, and it's quite possible that someone may be looking for exactly that plant!

Finally, we need new members, please join us! You can find out more about what we do and how to get involved at www.plantheritage.org.uk

Without the support of plant enthusiasts like you, we can't do the important work to protect our plants and safeguard our horticultural heritage for future generations.