Balsall & District Horticultural Society

November 2026

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 this November issue of your newsletter.

As the clocks go back and the daylight hours dwindle, we enjoy the last of the autumn colours, plant bulbs and prepare the garden for the winter. There are still plenty of jobs to be busy with on these mild sunny days and it just good to be outside while we can.



At our last meeting we welcomed Dr Alison Foster who talked about the toxicity of plants in our garden (who knew there were so many!) and the importance of wearing gloves for protection. A very interesting talk by a lady whose background in chemistry and love of gardening took her down a very different path where she discovered a fascinating link between the two.



One of our members (and long standing committee member), Alison Watson, was lucky enough to spot this colourful visitor to her garden in Stoneton Crescent earlier this month. Have you spotted any unusual visitors in your gardens? Please do send in pictures if so as we love to hear your gardening stories.

There are a few tickets left for the after the AGM buffet £7.50 each. Let Helen know if you would like one

A plea from our President and standing Chair and Treasurer of the Committee:

Could you help secure our Horticultural Society's future?

To continue providing the talks, event, and activities you as members enjoy, WE URGENTLY need more people to join the committee.

You don't need any previous committee experience or expert gardening knowledge. Just enthusiasm, a willingness to help and some fresh ideas.

Please don't assume someone else will volunteer, if every member leaves it to others the society's future could be at risk!

By stepping forward you will be helping to ensure the society continues to thrive for years to come.

If you can help, even in a small way please get in touch.

Helen Jones 07870327524 or Wendy Jenkinson 07753283612



Happy Gardening

Sharon Nelson/Michelle Sutcliffe

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.

October Competition winners were:

Pot Plants



1st Alison Watson, 2nd Helen Goodwin, 3rd Felicity Hill

Flower Spikes



1st Helen Goodwin, 2nd Amanda Ghent, 3rd Sue Edwards

Photos and names of the winning entries will also be 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).

November 26th - **Annual General Meeting** including buffet supper – 7.30pm start.
There are a few tickets left for the after the AGM buffet £7.50 each. Let Helen know if you would like one

Other Dates for your diary 2026:

Friday 20th November 2026 to Sunday 29th November - Annual Christmas Tree Festival

St Mary's Collegiate Church, Market Place, Warwick, CV34 4SA - Cost: Adults £2; Children go FREE

https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/events/event/553/christmas_tree_festival

Saturday 21st November 10.00-14.00 – Christmas Fayre in aid of Save the Children

Catholic Church Hall, Meeting House Lane, Balsall Common CV7 7FX



Saturday 28th November – Kenilworth Scouts Christmas Fayre – Free Entry 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Kenilworth Scout Centre, Fishponds Road, Kenilworth

https://visit.kenilworthweb.co.uk/events/abbey-scout-group-christmas-fayre/

Saturday 28 November 2025 – Saturday 2 January 2027 - Entry times from 4:30 pm to 8 pm

Luminate Live - Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Westbourne Rd, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3TR -

https://luminate.live/birmingham-botanical-gardens#plan-your-visit

Saturday 5th December 2026 - Wren Hall Christmas Fair Free Entry from 10.00 – 16.00

School Ln, Warwick CV35 7NF

https://www.wrenhall.org/upcoming-events#xmasfair

Jobs in the Garden for November

Enjoy the last burst of autumn colour

As the final golden leaves fall from the trees, the ground more frequently becomes a glittering carpet of frost. Tender plants will need protecting from the cold and winter weather. Move plants into the greenhouse, or into a sheltered spot, but if you can't, it is worth wrapping plants or pots. Remember winter can be a tough time for birds, so keep water and food well topped up.

- Clear fallen leaves from ponds and lawns; leaves in beds can be left
- Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging
- Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year
- Don't burn your woody waste – compost it or recycle into dead hedges or log piles
- Start winter rose pruning early to prevent wind-rock
- Sow some sweet peas indoors, putting them in a cold frost-free place as soon as they germinate
- Cover brassicas with re-used netting if pigeons are a problem
- Insulate outdoor containers from frost – hessian sacking or re-used bubblewrap work well
- Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden
- Add winter bedding plants such as heathers and pansies to brighten up pots and containers
- Renovate old lawns or create new grass areas by laying turf

For more in depth details on how to carry out the above tasks and further information follow the RHS link below:

Gardening in November - jobs to do this month / RHS

