

Bovingdon Gardeners



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2025

Having endured several violent storms and heavy rain this Autumn I am sure that you are probably viewing the approaching Winter with some trepidation. Will the battering cease and will there be snow and ice? Let's hope the weather will be kind and allow us to get back to those gardening tasks that have been put on hold.

Our Autumn show on September 14th was a great success. Despite the topsy turvy summer weather our tenacious flower and vegetable growers produced superb entries and over the whole show 223 exhibits were produced by 27 exhibitors. Of these only two were previous winners of cups showing how fierce the competition has become. We were pleased to welcome two very young exhibitors, aged 4 and 6 who between them entered 14 exhibits. As there is no children's section in this show they chose to take their chances against the adults. Their determination paid off, each of them winning several places in the vegetable classes. Watch out you adults! We have now rectified the lack of a children's section in the autumn show for 2025, but somehow, I think that these boys will still be taking on the adults!

The final meeting of the year involved competition of a different kind, a quiz night and social evening for our members. It is always good to see so many people having fun together in a relaxed atmosphere. Food and drink were brought and shared helping to fuel our brains. Some of the questions might have been tricky but members prevailed and the winning team were justly rewarded with bottles of "fizz". Overall, the evening raised over £400 to help invest in this year's activities and also a donation will be made to a good cause. Thank you to all those who attended for your support.

The new yearbook that you have just received has numerous changes to the show classes. If you are exhibiting this year, please read the rules carefully so that you are not penalised. One major change is that **late entries can no longer be accepted** as this makes administration very difficult. This means that all entries must be in by the Thursday noon before the show. The entry fee is unchanged, but instead of prize money a small prize certificate will be awarded. In the floral art section **oasis is not allowed** to anchor flower exhibits in vases, but alternatives are suggested in the yearbook. There is a new trophy for the Spring Show for pot grown plants in Section III. Also, in the Spring Show a new class for people who bought the Falconet daffodils to try

their hand at showing. Class 226A requires 1 Falconet specimen stem. Changes to the handicrafts section in classes 251 and 252 mean more scope for wood and metalwork and repurposed/up cycled materials. This year there will be a children's section in the Autumn Show in addition to the Spring and Summer shows. These are the most significant changes, but there are many other "tweaks". We hope that these changes will be embraced by our members and hopefully give us scope for more entries.

As we shelter from the never ending rain we can at least begin to plan for the coming year in the garden. Some of you may already have sown sweet peas and broad beans. This time of year, is also good for planting trees and shrubs if the soil is not waterlogged. I have recently had to replant some gaps in my hedge and found Buckingham Nurseries online. They supplied me with good quality bare root plants within days from my online order. You can also visit to collect your order and at the same time browse in their extensive garden centre. Situated just outside Buckingham, about 30 miles away, it is worth a visit a friend tells me. This is a well run family business with a large selection of hedging www.hedging.co.uk and knowledgeable people who can offer good advice. Also view www.buckinghamgardencentre.co.uk

If you are looking for seeds don't forget that our society has a discount scheme with Thompson & Morgan, You can make as many orders as you wish online and using the TM_GT187M code will ensure that you get a discount of 50% on seeds and 15% on other live products.

Sadly we are no longer able to offer a bulk order of compost etc for members. We found that a change of supplier involved an increase in our total order and this was not viable for us.

We have a full programme of events this year starting with our first talk of 2025 on 19th March. If your garden needs a bit more pizzazz come along and listen to Katharine Woods who will be encouraging us to "Get the Exotic Look". She will be recommending plants, both hardy and semi hardy, for a tropical garden vibe. Doors will open at 7.15 for 7.30 in the Baptist Hall. Katharine has an excellent website www.teabreakgardener.co.uk where she writes a blog about her own gardening activities and gives tips on growing different types of plants.

Sadly, the talk by herbalist Lucy Blundell was cancelled in October but she is now able to give her talk with tastings on April 23rd. She will have herbal teas for sale. More information will be sent in emails closer to the events.

May 2025 will see the return of our plant sale. This will be held in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 10th. Anyone can sell plants so start planning and pot up any surplus perennials or cuttings.

The committee would like to wish all members a happy new year and look forward to seeing you at one of the events.

Happy Gardening! Doreen Woods