Broomfield Cottage Gardeners' Society

Winter Newsletter 2025

Dear Members

Welcome to our Christmas newsletter. We hope this finds you well and looking forward to a joyful and relaxing festive season.

Autumn Show

Yet again we were overwhelmed by the number of entries at the autumn show. Having decided that 2024 was a difficult growing season the weather in 2025 was even more challenging. We had over 350 entries which was truly amazing considering the season, so very well done to some very competent gardeners for the standard of entries! We have some excellent photos of the event including the prize-winners which were taken by David Ford. You can see them on our website here https://www.broomfieldcottagegardenerssociety.co.uk/page47.html.



Prize-winners at the 2025 autumn show

As always we are still on the lookout for people to help us stage our annual shows. We really do appreciate the help that members offer on the day but it would be really good if we could identify a group of committed volunteers who we know will be available on show days to assist with setting up and running the plant stall, refreshments and raffle/tombola. We would also still like to identify a standby vehicle with a tow bar for our trailer. The show dates for next year are July 12th and September 27th.

Committee News

Our AGM will take place on January 28th next year as some key members of the Committee (Nick and Chris) are heading to New Zealand in February. As usual we will be electing officers to the various positions within the committee. We still need a chairman and would also liketo recruit some additional members to the committee to help lighten the load for the rest of us. You don't need to commit to a specific role but if you do have some spare time and would be happy to contribute then please speak to one of the committee members. You are also welcome to join one of our committee meetings (held at The Angel) to find out more about what we do.

Entry to the AGM will be free but there will be a small charge for refreshments to help us cover the cost of hiring the hall.

Barn News

The Barn is now closed until the end of January 2026 when seed potatoes, shallots and onion sets will be available. We will email members once we have a firm date for re-opening but it is likely to be 25th January. It will also re-open on Fridays from 6th February.

For those of you who are new members, the Barn (which is on the allotment site between 149 and 151 Main Road) stocks a wide range of almost anything you could need for gardening. From compost, seeds and seed trays to a number of different fertilisers, fleece, netting, gardening gloves and more. It is definitely worth a look as prices are very competitive compared to the garden centres.

Evening talks

Our evening talks take place at Broomfield Village Hall, 7.15 for 7.30 start. Entrance is £3.50 (£4.50 for non-members) which includes refreshments. Email reminders will be sent round nearer the time but please make a note of the dates for the talks in 2026.

Wednesday 28th January 2026	**AGM** followed by a presentation from Essex Search and Rescue (our chosen charity for 24/25)
Wednesday 25th February 2026	Steven Green from Sarah Green Organics The benefits of organic farming on the environment
Wednesday 26th March 2026	TBA

Garden Visit – Easton Lodge Gardens

Following the talk in November about the Gardens of Easton Lodge we have decided to organise a group visit to the gardens sometime in the spring. We are just enquiring about their

availability and will email round once we have a date. We know a few members were interested so we're hoping that we can get at least 12 people which is the number required for a group tour plus afternoon tea. We're not intending to hire a coach but will try and co-ordinate car sharing.

Open Gardens

We had another excellent programme of open gardens in 2025 – they are definitely becoming very sociable events thanks to the kind generosity of our hosts. They also enabled us to raise additional funds for our chosen charity, Essex Search and Rescue. Many thanks to all our hosts and to our members who came along and supported us.

We're hoping for another successful year in 2026 so if you would be prepared to open your garden please do get in touch with Donna on 07729 239613 for more details.

Fruit Tree Pruning Opportunity

Chignals & Mashbury Community Orchard will be holding a pruning session on 15th January, meeting at Chignal Smealy Village Hall at 10.00 a.m. There will be a demonstration to start with and then participants can have a go! You will need clean, sharp secateurs and gloves. There will be refreshments available afterwards at the Village Hall.

Membership for 2025/26

Our membership runs until the end of September so renewals are now due for 2025/26. The cards are pink this year if you are wondering whether you have already renewed! The price is £5 per person (£4 if over 60 and free for under 16s)) which entitles you to:

- use of the Barn shop to purchase discounted seeds, compost and garden sundries
- access to our programme of open gardens in the summer
- vote at the AGM in February
- discounted entry to other events such as evening talks and visits

You can renew your membership either at the Barn or at any of our events. Please remember that you must be a member to make purchases at the Barn and to vote at our AGM.

Website and Facebook

Don't forget our website at www.broomfieldcottagegardenerssociety.co.uk where you can find lots of information about the society as well as a gallery of photos from the summer and autumn shows. You can also find us on Facebook, just search for Broomfield Cottage Gardeners' Society.

If you no longer wish to be on our mailing list please let us know by e-mailing bcgsshowsecretary@gmail.com.

Thank you to all our members for your support throughout the year – we definitely couldn't keep the Society running without you. We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy, peaceful and healthy 2026. We look forward to seeing you at our events next year!

Broomfield Cottage Gardeners' Society Committee