Broomfield Cottage Gardeners' Society

Dear Members

We are well into the summer now so this newsletter is a bit late. – we've even had the summer show! Blame it on the heat! Anyway here is the latest update from the Committee

Charity Plant Sale

Our annual charity plant sale was in aid of SVP Springfield Furniture Bank this year. Including the sale of some plants at the Church Fayre and refreshments at our plant sale we raised a massive total of £645.71p Many thanks to those of you who assisted and to those who donated or purchased plants. We hope you got some bargains!

Open Gardens

We have had some very pleasant evenings (and one afternoon) enjoying the open gardens. The events have been well supported and our thanks to all those who have so generously agreed to host – it's very much appreciated.



Members enjoying Christina Whitby's garden

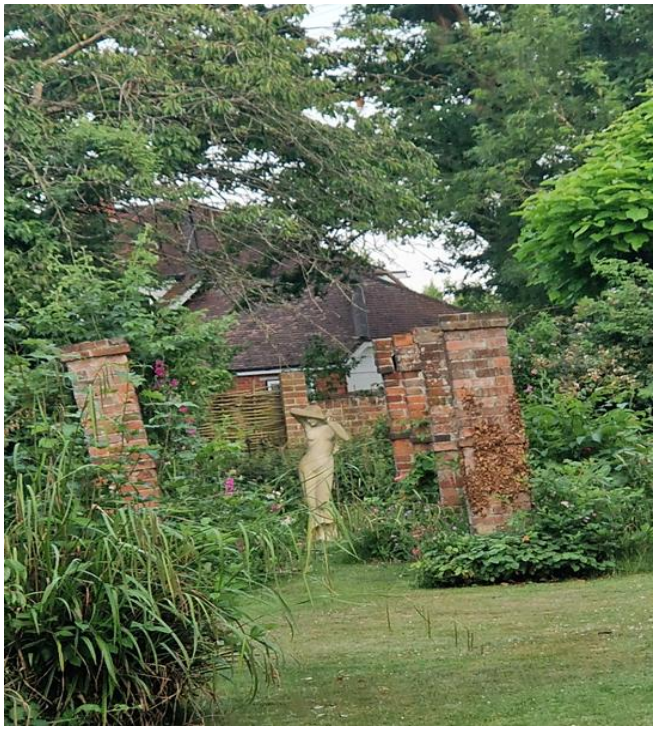
We have just two more gardens left for this year. On the 22nd July (this coming Wednesday) we will be visiting Sue and Mike Hubble's garden. Please note that parking is extremely limited but you can leave cars at the Allotment Site which is a short walk away. The address is 4 Shalford Lodge, Broomfield CM1 7EE (off Erick Avenue) and it starts at 7pm

On the 2nd August we will be holding a Pudding and Pimms afternoon at the allotment site between 2 and 4 pm. Please bring along a pudding to share (we will provide the Pimms) plus a bowl and spoon! For those of you who are new to the Society the allotment site is between 149 &151 Main Road, Broomfield CM1 7DJ

Visit to Easton Lodge

Around 30 BCGS members visited Easton Lodge on 21st May for a guided tour followed by tea and cake. Those of you who attended the talk last year will be aware of the huge amount of history associated with the estate and It was a very interesting visit a mixture of parkland, formal gardens and a walled garden.





St Mary's Flower Festival

St Mary's Church held their flower festival on the weekend of 20th/21st June with a number of local organisations staging arrangements. The theme was "In praise of Music". Les Steed kindly agreed to do an arrangement for our Society and as always did an excellent job – thank you Les!!



Summer Show Sunday 12th July

Our first show for 2026 took place last Sunday. Despite the very difficult growing season (is it ever an easy one!) we had over 300 entries so thank you to all our members who managed to rustle up some exhibits. The show was staged as part of the Village Fayre so it was open from midday this year. That did present some challenges for the Committee and exhibitors as we had to get judging completed by midday but we think the benefits outweigh the disadvantages.



Summer Show Prize-winners 2026

From left to right – Malcolm Deacon, Les Steed, Paul Coxon, Christine Welch, Lynne Blackburn, Christina Whitby, Pam Moore, Sheila Schofield, Angie Wild, Sue Hubble, Sharon Boreham.

Barn News

As the main planting season is over we will not be opening the Barn on Fridays anymore until demand picks up again in the autumn. It will remain open on Sundays from 10 – 12 midday throughout the summer period. We stock a wide range of composts including multipurpose, ericaceous and John Innes plus of course our usual range of seeds, netting, fleece, chemicals, fertilisers and other gardening sundries so if you haven't yet used the Barn it is well worth a visit.

RHS Card

Don’t forget that we have an RHS membership card at the Barn which members can book out for ad-hoc visits. It provides 50% discount off entry for 2 adults to any RHS garden (expires 31/01/27) but is not accepted during Flower Shows or Glow illuminations events.

Membership

Hopefully most of you have now renewed your membership for the 2025/26 year. If in doubt you should have a pink membership card – the grey ones are from last year!

For our next financial year we will be increasing membership to £5 per person with no reduction for over 60’s. It still represents very good value and entitles you to:

- use of the Trading Hut to purchase discounted seeds, compost and other garden sundries
- free entry to exhibit in our shows
- access to our open gardens (see above)
- vote at our AGM
- discounted entry to any other events such as evening talks and visits
- use of our RHS discount card to visit any RHS garden

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

Website and Facebook

Please visit our website, which provides information on the Society's activities at **www broomfieldcottagegardenerssociety.co.uk** We have a second website for users of mobile devices (smartphone or tablet). We also post regular updates on our Facebook site. You can search in Facebook under "Broomfield Cottage Gardeners Society" or type the following link into your browser **https://www.facebook.com/ groups/355859514864259/**