

Bethersden Gardeners' Society



2023 June Newsletter

Welcome to our 30+ new members who have joined in 2023. We hope you'll enjoy the activities and events that the Society runs each year. There's lots of information on our website: bethersden-gardeners.org.uk or email us at: bethersden.gardeners@gmail.com.

Diary dates - make a note now:

- Sat 15th July: **Summer Show.**
- Sun 13th August: **RHS Wisley coach trip.**
- Sat 9th September: **Autumn Show.**
- Friday 6 October: **Supper evening and talk from Sir Plantalot 'Coping with Clay'**
- Friday 17 November: **AGM and talk from the Head Gardener at Sissinghurst.**

Jubilee Cups

Is your garden looking good at the moment? Why not enter some or all of it for either the Golden or Diamond Jubilee cup competition?

In 2022 the gardens were all very different in character. It was good to see how different plot sizes were presented to maximise their potential. The judges particularly noted that good use had been made of **natural features**, the use of **space**, **colourful planting**, **fruit and vegetables beds**, evidence of **propagation** in several gardens was impressive and some had **wildlife-friendly aspects**.



Annie Smith won the Golden Jubilee cup

Louise & Phil Stubbs had the best vegetable plot for the Diamond Jubilee cup

The judges would like to thank all the entrants. Being able to visit the entrants' gardens was a privilege and definitely made it worth entering the competition!

Contact Jeanette if you want to have a go j.l.jahnz@btinternet.com or 07729 418275.

Success at the Spring Show - and planning for the Summer show with our workshop

Over 60 people came to the **Spring Show**. The hall was buzzing and some new features added extra interest. We had three classes where members voted for their favourite exhibit, everyone joined in to judge their favourite! We also gave away plug plants for members to grow on and bring back to the September show where we can all vote for the best. Is yours blooming yet?



Some members have concerns about entering their produce in shows, so we held a workshop with an experienced judge who gave us lots of hints and tips, and we had fun judging ourselves. The judge liked our 'Tips for Showing' guide which was the best he'd seen. Did you know:
Fruit and veg should almost always have their stalks left on, including on beans, lettuce and even raspberries.

Daffodil blooms can be brought on or delayed by up to 6 days by keeping them in the heat or cool, and the vase can be packed with paper or moss so the blooms face forward. Key things to look for in fruit and flowers are clean and undamaged, the right size for the item (often not the largest) and matching appearance in a set.

Have a go on 15 July. Contact Helen, our Show Secretary (07502 942836) for advice.

Popular garden visits

Trips have been well attended this year. Even in the rain, the visit to **Bilting House** was excellent with 30 of us enjoying the excellent tour and teas after. The weather was better for **Old Bladbean Stud** on 20 June. Both were very inspiring gardens.



There will be a **full day coach trip to Wisley on 13 August**, including a guided tour. Contact Jeanette for details j.l.jahnz@btinternet.com or 07729 418275.

Finally, a big thank you to **Eleanor**, our Secretary who is moving away. Eleanor has been an excellent secretary; prompt, supportive, diligent and a pleasure to work with and will be greatly missed.