

# Hartley & District Horticultural Society Winter Newsletter 2024

Happy Christmas and  
New Year

Please consider receiving newsletters, news and updates by email - send your email to **our new email address:**  
[committee@hartleyhortsoc.org.uk](mailto:committee@hartleyhortsoc.org.uk)

See website for photos & news: [www.hartleyhortsoc.org.uk](http://www.hartleyhortsoc.org.uk)  
Items for the Spring 2024 Newsletter to **our new email address:**  
[committee@hartleyhortsoc.org.uk](mailto:committee@hartleyhortsoc.org.uk)



## Message from Jenny R and the Committee

We hope all our members and friends have a Happy Christmas and New Years holiday ready for anything that 2025 might throw at us. We produced a very varied programme of events for our Diamond Jubilee year which judging by the number of attendees was enjoyed by many. 2025 includes our usual mixture of talks, shows, a trip out to visit Beth Chatto's and the odd meeting with a difference.

2024 was a very difficult year for growing anything with a cold spring, lots of rain and very little sunshine. Another mild, wet winter is forecast but gardeners are always optimistic and will plan in belief that 2025 will be a lot better than last year.

We look forward to seeing all our members, both old and new at our meetings next year. Even in the worst of the weather you can expect a warm welcome, to learn something interesting and a nice warm environment for an evening's entertainment.

## Preview 2025 Programme - See our new Schedule and Programme for further details

- 8th January - Caroline Halfpenny - 'Sensational Gardens'
- 12th February – Members Talks
- 12th March - Kevin Tooher - 'Pruning'
- 9th April - Stephen Harmer - 'The Arts and Crafts Movement and its Gardens'
- 14th May - Coach trip to Beth Chatto's Garden
- 11th June - Summer Show
- 9th July - John Hughes - 'Preparing for the Show'
- 13th August - Gardeners Question Time and Name this Plant.
- 10th September- Autumn Show
- 8th October - Melanie Gibson Barton - 'Parks and Gardens of Flanders'
- 12th November – AGM

## Special Society classes for 2025 – further details will be in the programme

### Summer Show

- Grow – Frances will provide 8 marigold seeds per member to give out in spring (60 sets)
- Photo competition – single red flower to have been taken within 12 months of the show

### Autumn Show

- Grow – heaviest potato to be weighed at the show
- Photo competition – Autumn leaves

**Sad News:** Sadly, Bernard Richards passed away in November. Bernard was our show secretary for many years and also produced and printed the annual programme. He along with Keith Scott and Bob Fisher were the regulars vying for awards at our all shows at that time – growing fantastic spring bulbs, sweet peas and dahlias among others. A lovely man who will be sadly missed.

## Autumn Show – September 2024

Congratulations and thanks to the team for organising our very successful Autumn Show. Thanks to exhibitors, The Flower Club and our members who came along to support this event.

We were delighted to see so many members attending. The hall looked very colourful with entries of flowers, fruit and vegetables. These were judged by John Hughes, who explained his choices afterwards, and gave some useful hints on presentation, and the things he looks out for - both good and bad. The flower club provided some beautiful arrangements.

In memory of Peter Griffiths his grandson Jake and Maria his carer entered fruits, vegetables and flowers from Peter's garden.

**Congratulations to all of the prize winners:**

- Humphrey Memorial Trophy – Sue Zoghob
- George Graves Cup – Susan Conroy and Margaret Entecott
- Charles Turner Trophy – Chris Cook
- E H Lane Trophy – Jenny Roberts
- Span Trophy - Sue Zoghob
- J P Tate Trophy – Best Exhibit by the Flower Club – Jean Hoar
- Eva Edwards Memorial – Enid Scott



Cosmos 'Purity' flowers grown from 5 seeds issued by the Society – won by Frances Moore



Enid – Eva Edwards Memorial



Susan Conroy and Margaret Entecott – George Graves Cup



Sue Z - Humphrey Memorial Trophy



Photograph of one or more butterfly/ies or moth/s won by Chris Cook

### AGM and Cheese and Wine



It was lovely to see so many members who were able to attend our AGM in November to celebrate 60 years with cake made by Jenny R and prosecco. Thank you to Sylvia, Jill and Brenda for arranging our cheese and wine. A copy of our AGM minutes and Accounts will be on the Notice Board at meetings.

### Yearly medal and trophy winners:

**Banksian Medal** (A yearly medal engraved with 'Hartley & District Horticultural Society', given by RHS and normally awarded for most show points during the year for horticultural classes) (N.B. winners in previous two years are excluded):

**1st Frances Moore with 42 points - Winner**

2<sup>nd</sup> Jenny Roberts with 35 points

3<sup>rd</sup> Bob Fisher with 22 points

**Jubilee Trophy** (awarded for most show points during the year in other plant classes):

**1st Frances Moore with 24 points - Winner**

2<sup>nd</sup> Jenny Roberts with 14 points

3<sup>rd</sup> Susan Conroy with 13 points

**Harry Lucas Cup – Flower Club** Harry Lucas was a prominent member of the society many years ago.

**1st Jean Hoar with 10 points - Winner**

2<sup>nd</sup> Angela Aylett with 5 points

Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> Margorie Smith with 4 points

Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> Pauline Tester with 4 points

**RHS Special Awards** given to Jenny Gibb and Sue Cox in recognition and thanks for all their hard work on behalf of the society.

**Lifetime Membership Award:** The Committee were delighted to award a Lifetime Membership to Shirley Wilson at the AGM. Shirley has served on the committee and has been an active member for many years. She is an expert alpine grower, grown many plants for the church fete and helps many people.

**Hartley Library Garden Project:** Generous people have donated plants. A water butt has been promised. Waiting to hear about the decrepit fences. Planning colour coordinated planting schemes. Will put together a rota for watering in the summer. One of the library Reading Groups intend to use the garden for meetings when weather permits. Chris Cook has renovated the seat. For the future we would like ideas on the ways to generate money to make the garden self-sufficient, and not to continually ask members for donations. Current ideas include plant sale, including sales of herbs and cuttings, house plants and dried material. We are looking at the creation of a bug house and bee hotel. People are noticing the garden and are being really nice about it. Elaine, Brenda and Chris.



**Congratulations** to Frances and Martin who both celebrated a special birthday last month. There is a small clue in the picture.

Thank you to everyone who has sent photos and articles. If you have any gardening information and/or photographs to share with our members in our Spring newsletter and on our website - please email [committee@hartleyhortsoc.org.uk](mailto:committee@hartleyhortsoc.org.uk)  
A copy of this newsletter is also on [www.hartleyhortsoc.org.uk](http://www.hartleyhortsoc.org.uk)  
We look forward to seeing you in 2025

**Stay Safe and Happy Gardening - Sue Z**