



Abingdon Horticultural Society

2024 Autumn Newsletter

Number 125

Welcome to the Autumn newsletter.

Chair Report - David Bingley

We staged a superb Autumn Show on the 7th of September. I was proud to be involved with such an event and this newsletter enables me to thank everyone who helped plan, setup and seamlessly manage all the elements of 'show day'. My thanks to the committee, show day helpers and all our members who exhibited the results of their hard work. It was good to see many members and visitors enjoying the show. I'm sure we are looking forward to doing it all again next year! Thank you.

Show News

The Autumn Show has only just taken place but already it is time to start thinking about growing for showing in 2025.

Dobies have sent through their new seed catalogue. When ordering from Dobies, members of the AHS receive 50% discount on seeds and 20% (previously 15%) on other products (includes potatoes, garlic, shallots, onions, plants, bulbs and fruit).

The code to use 2024/2025 may be obtained from the Show Secretary.

If you have previously ordered from Dobies, you may be sent a catalogue or you may collect one at the October talk (15th). Or you may order online.

The Committee discussed show organisation and decided to trial the following change.

In 2025, there will be no fee for entering classes at the shows. This was 25p per class (or £1 for exceptional classes). At the same time, we will not be awarding prize money for 1st, 2nd & 3rd places (£1/60p/40p) (or for exceptional classes £3/£2/£1).

Although the sums involved are small, the administrative time involved is significant. We acknowledge, however, that many exhibitors will miss the fun of receiving an envelope with winnings enclosed.

Points, prize cards and cups and trophies will be awarded as usual, so the show will look the same. We will review this change after the Autumn 2025 Show.

The committee is in the process of producing a guide to help exhibitors and would-be exhibitors make their entries as successful as possible.

Autumn Show report - Barbara Bingley

This year's Autumn show, held in the Northcourt Centre on 7th September, was a very successful event with 38 exhibitors making 363 entries which filled the rooms with colour.

After 2 pm, exhibitors, members and other visitors came to see the displays of flowers, pot plants, vegetables, fruits, preserves, baking and beverages, photographs, and under 16s exhibits.

This year's most popular classes were perennials, a single rose, cucumber, 'other' vegetables, mini tomatoes, jams, and four of the photography classes.

The raffle, the plant, and produce and cake sales tables were very well supported and many of the visitors enjoyed refreshments.

The success of the show was made possible by everyone who helped and supported the show in any and every way. Thank you.

Councillor (and new member) Jim Halliday presented the prizes to the following:

Victoria Middleton – Macklow Centenary Trophy (flowers and pot plants).

David Hastings – Dahlia Cup

Shirley Trafford – Ledger Rose Bowl.

John Elflett – Spokes Cup (fruit and vegetables).

Ian Middleton – Watt Shield (allotment holders) and the National Vegetable Society Medal for most meritorious exhibit (Bunch of (5) carrots)

David Bingley – Banksian medal (most points, flowers, fruit and vegetables)

Muriel Halliday – Molly Fisher, Salver (floral arrangements)

Harriet Mahood – Presidents Cup (home craft) and Frank Haynes Cup (beverages)

Barbara Bingley – Muriel Welch Memorial Cup (vegetable cake)

Barry Wiggins – Harry and May Nye Cup (photography)

Robyn Matthews – Celia Smith challenge Cup (children's)

Angela Hughes – Summer Garden Cup (baskets and containers)

Congratulations to all of the above.

Treasurer's report - Autumn Show - Karen Fisher

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Door	56.00	Hall Hire	271.74
Cakes	56.00	Children's prizes	2.50
Plants	110.05	Photos	1.80
Raffle	111.50	Refreshments	7.29
Teas	49.40	Stationery	7.80
New members 4	24.00	Flowers Mayor	5.99
Float	50.00	Prize Money	149.80
Cash ret	30.20		

Entries	97.75		
Total Income	584.90	Total Expenditure	446.92

Profit £137.98

Trips - Robin Carter

Our Kew trip was not as well attended as I first thought it would be. In the end, we did get enough members and guests to make it worthwhile (38). I had two cancellations just days before the event. Also had problems with the wind! Kew rang at 5.15 pm the day before to say they may not open because of gales. I decided to wait and see. The next morning after many unanswered calls to Kew I decided to go ahead anyway and fortunately they did ring when we were on our way to say they were open! Kew is huge and there were many tired legs at the end of the day. The glasshouses were a sight for sore gardener's eyes and you could spend a day in each of them. The weather was windy and overcast but it remained dry. I understand that everybody had a good day.

Many thanks to everyone for turning up and being on time.



Photos by Suzanne Hamblin

Holiday to North Devon gardens, National Trust properties & RHS Rosemoor staying in Ilfracombe in September 2025 - Suzanne Hamblin

Next year's Society holiday details have been sent out to members and to date 25 people have registered an interest in the holiday, we do need 30 people for the holiday to go ahead. If you have not seen the details and are interested please contact Suzanne telephone 01235 527804 or 07490 581673, email suzanneis@hotmail.co.uk, and the holiday details are attached to the newsletter.

Christmas Lunch - Linda Berry

Once again, we will be going to Coseners House for the annual Christmas lunch. The date for this festive event is Thursday 12th December, 12:30 for 1pm lunch. Linda will be sending out choices shortly. The price for 2 courses is £24.95 and 3 courses is £29.95

Dates for the diary

Tuesday	15 th October	Talk	Bach Flower Remedies
Tuesday	19 th November	Talk – Dr Chris Gibson	A guide to Wild Flowers
Thursday	12th December	Christmas lunch	Coseners House
Tuesday	21 st January 2025	AGM	

News from Members

Blue Sky Eco Café

Susan Hammersley, an AHS committee member, is one of the volunteers who open the Blue Sky Eco Café on the first Tuesday of every month, except January and August, from 12 – 2pm at Long Furlong Community Centre, Abingdon, OX14 1XP. The next dates are October 1st, November 5th and December 3rd.

They serve organic, seasonal and locally sourced foods which include wholefoods, plant based, vegan and gluten free options. All food is freshly prepared. They are always delighted to receive any surplus garden vegetables to cook with. Contact susanrmd@outlook.com or 07732 561436.

Menus are available on the website: <https://blueskyecocafe.org.uk>.

ABA Association of Botanical Artists

A couple of the members of the club belong to ABA Association of Botanical Artists. Members contribute art to a themed online Gallery. <https://www.assocbotanicalartists.com/post/the-aba-gallery-4>.

There are many lovely plants painted by 90 members from around the world. When you click on an image you will be able to magnify the artwork to see some of the finer detail and read about why the artist thought the plant dramatic.

Insulating greenhouses the easy way By Peter Girling

Members with glass greenhouses might like to consider using double-sided bubble-wrap to reduce the cost of maintaining frost-free conditions during the winter. I have used the same sheets of bubble-wrap for 4 winters with very satisfactory results. (Double-sided wrap has smooth finish on both sides.)

Previously I was deterred from using bubble-wrap insulation by the fiddly methods of supporting the sheets shown on various TV gardening programmes. Then I saw a North American gardener on-line using bubble-wrap attached directly to the inside of each glass panel using sprayed water – so easy and inexpensive.

Initial installation is the only time-consuming procedure. The double-sided bubble-wrap needs to be cut to fit each pane of glass. However, you only need to do this once as the cut sheets can be re-used many times.

Removing the bubble-wrap in the spring is simple – just pull it off. Sometimes it is already dry from the spring sun and ready for storage but if not, simply peg the sheets on the washing line for a couple of hours to dry them completely. I stack all the sheets flat and then roll them up, secure with string and slip the bundle into a large plastic bag for storage in the garage.

How much does it cost? I estimate that double-sided bubble-wrap will cost £40-50, depending on the size of the domestic greenhouse. Charlton Park Garden Centre who sponsor our AHS shows and talks currently supply large bubble, double-sided wrap off a large roll 1.5m wide at £2.40 per metre. The bubble-wrap which I purchased from them fairly recently was very robust and better than my original material.

Using a thermostatically controlled electric fan heater is the cleanest method if you have a power source in the greenhouse.

There are 2 modestly priced models, the UK made Simplicity or Lighthouse and the quieter German made Bio Green Tropic. I use both models.

Obituaries

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of friends and society members who regularly enjoyed and supported the shows, society trips and the holidays. Bryan Cozens (aged 89), Colin Walters, Joan Watt (aged 103), and Doreen Webb. Joan's family presented the society with the Watt shield which is awarded to the winner of the allotment holder's class. Doreen was a committee member who also helped organise the raffle at our meetings and shows for many years.

Requests

If any members have any useful garden tips, tasty menus they wish to share or any other items of interest they would like to have considered for the next newsletter then please forward these to the secretary, Linda Berry.

Donations for the raffle would be greatly appreciated. Barry and Diana Wiggins, who organise the raffles, would like to thank all those who have already donated this year.

Anyone who has unwanted packets of seeds please bring them along to a show or talk for us to pass on to members who would like them.

Sponsor

Charlton Park Garden Centre sponsors our Society by supplying us with plants for raffles. Their garden centre has an extensive range of quality plants and garden requisites. They also bring a wide range of seasonal plants and bulbs to the Abingdon Market on a Monday. We hope you will continue to support them.

Contacts

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