

In the early hours of last Tuesday Linda Berry's husband Graham suffered a heart attack and is in hospital. Graham is being well looked after and his consultants are planning the next stage of his treatment. As a result Linda has, very wisely, made the decision to stand down as our secretary, a job she has been doing brilliantly. We wish Graham a speedy return to full health and send our best wishes to them both. Linda is continuing to be a committee member and hopes to join us at the meetings when she is able.

For now I am taking on the secretarial duties. David B

## Spring Show

This year's Spring show was held on the 29th of March at our usual venue of the Northcourt Centre. The weather was kind to exhibitors bringing in their special flowers, plants, photographs, bakes and handicrafts - dry, no high winds and a bit of sunshine.

28 members made 167 entries. This produced a colourful show.

Members and visitors also enjoyed taking part in the raffle, having a chat, a drink, as well as buying plants and cakes.

It was good to see first time exhibitors winning classes and a new junior participant.

The miniature narcissi, single tulip, hellebores, petite Spring flower arrangement, orange sponge cake, photographs and the hand knitted/crocheted garment were the most popular classes. All but one class had entries!

Thank you to everyone who was able to support the show, the committee, stewards, helpers and our show judges. Thank you also to members who provided raffle prizes, plants and cakes for sale.

Congratulations to the following members who were given their cups by the mayor, Cllr. Gabby Barody:

Shirley Trafford - the J&M Barber Cup for most points in the Flowers and Plants section.

Barbara Bingley - the Scott Challenge Cup (Preserves & Baking)

Harriet Mahood - the Challenor Cup (Handicrafts)

Barbara Bingley (Show Secretary)

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## Show Income.

Visitors (43)	£86.00
Plant sales	£53.10
Raffle	£71.0
Cake Sales	£62.80
Refreshments	£47.00

Thank you to all who contributed

Most of our subscriptions have been collected. We currently have 117 members - 72 single members and 45 family members. There have been 13 resignations this year and 6 new members.

Karen Fisher (Treasurer and Membership Secretary)

## Dates for your Diary

15<sup>th</sup> April 7-30pm Illustrated talk on Fuchsias by John Nicholas (plants for sale)

8<sup>th</sup> May Exbury Gardens visit

10<sup>th</sup> May Annual Plant Sale 10-00am – please bring donated plants from 9-15am

20<sup>th</sup> May 7-30pm Illustrated Talk - Soil – more than just dirt! Russell Attwood

24<sup>th</sup> July Bledlow Manor Gardens visit

6<sup>th</sup> September Autumn Show

21<sup>st</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> September North Devon Holiday RHS Rosemoor etc.

## Outings

8th May Exbury Gardens

Places are still available for members, friends and family.

Please be on time or earlier as the coach may be early and will be unable to wait past the stated time!

Exbury Gardens only accepts payment by card for all purchases.

24<sup>th</sup> July - Bledlow Manor Gardens

Further details and an application form will be on the AHS website once Robin has finalised details with the administrators.

Robin Carter

## Obituary

We have recently heard that Maureen Cook has passed away. Maureen was a member for many years, entering the shows' Floral Art and Domestic Classes. She also encouraged her grandchildren to enter the shows. Maureen regularly provided the bouquet for the Mayor. We send our condolences to Maureen's family.

## Garden Tips

Barbara noticed the first Lily Beetle today (6<sup>th</sup> April) on the Snakes Head Fritillary. The crimson adults can be quite sneaky – trying to hide under the leaves. The grubs have an interesting way of protecting themselves against predators! The adults tend to arrive in the early afternoon.

I re-potted the Hydrangea cuttings I struck last July into larger pots, they look quite healthy – so far! I also topped up the pots of the established ones as roots were exposed. I think they will benefit from their 'mulch'.

The two Oleander shrubs in the front of the house are looking quite unwell and so I am going to feed them with the Rose Fertilizer I bought from Ray Martin when he gave his very informative Rose talk.

## Help Wanted

If you are interested in joining the committee please come forward, it does not take up a much time and would help support the society.

## Blue Sky Eco Cafe

Susan Hammersley, an AHS committee member, is one of the volunteers who open the Blue Sky Eco Cafe on the first Tuesday of every month (except January and August) from 12 – 2-0pm at Long Furlong Community Centre OX14 1XP

Menus and more details are available at <https://blueskyecocafe.org.uk>

We mentioned the ABA, The Association of Botanical Artists in the 2024 Winter Newsletter. The 'Gallery' of art work changes regularly and the latest one of Plants and Pollinators is fantastic and well worth a look.

## Sponsor

Charlton Park Garden Centre – Wantage sponsor our Society and provide plants for our raffles. The Garden Centre in Wantage has an extensive range of quality plants, garden requisites and cut flowers. 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.

Society details can be found on the website at [www.abingdon-hort-soc.org.uk](http://www.abingdon-hort-soc.org.uk)  
You can see the 2025 photo gallery on the website, where David Hastings has posted some pictures of the Spring Show.