



**GOLDEN JUBILEE CUP
WINNER:**

Lin Hillyard



Merry
Christmas
and a Happy
New Year
to Bethersden
Gardeners

We send our good wishes to Gordon and Lesley Rye who are moving to be with their family after over 50 years of being active in the Gardeners' Society. They will be greatly missed in the village.

Keith Mitchell has become President of the Gardeners' Society and Paul Savage has taken on the chair, with Sarah Dacre as vice-chairman.



**DIAMOND JUBILEE CUP
WINNER:**

David Jahnz



All the entrants for both cups showed a love for their gardens and the judges liked different features:

"A natural style", "propagating", "best use of space", "range of plants", "a beautiful place to sit".

In 1886, the prize for the best garden was an ox-tongue, now we have engraved cups.

Entrants needed for next year please!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024 & LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

What an achievement!

Ann Pusey won the class for floral art in a basket with this beautiful display. Ann explained how she had to create the display by feel, choosing the flowers from her garden by remembering the colours, as her sight has deteriorated. Ann has been in the Society for over 50 years, and along with her late husband and son had been on the committee for many years.



We're planning a workshop to help our floral artists get to grips with the RHS rules around using foam. Hope you can join us.

Plan your growing for the shows!

Spring Show Saturday - 5 April

Plant Exchange - 10 May

Summer Show Saturday - 12 July

Autumn Show Saturday - 13 September

Looking ahead to 2025

We need chrysanthemums in our Autumn show! The chrysanthemum cup (along with the sweet pea cup) was given to the Society by Mr P Adams, anecdotally because his gardener was so good at growing flowers, he wanted him to win a cup! We think the cup was originally won outright by J. T. Adams from the Mid Kent Chrysanthemum Society in the early 1900's when they had joint shows with our society. Mr G Buckman was one of the 'cottagers' at the time and the Buckman family are still very active in the Society.



We also challenge you to grow a cauliflower! We have had no entries for several years, yet our history reminds us of some amazing caulif's, like the one entered by Gordon & Lesley Rye (Lesley is shown on the right) during the 1976 drought. Surely someone can produce one in 2025?



Events in 2024

We enjoyed three trips: to Copton Ash, Mount Ephraim (below) and Kew Gardens. Plus three interesting speakers and some excellent food at our social events.



Join our trips in 2025:

Leonardslee Gardens coach trip - 7 May
Goddards Green car share 17 June
Plus another to be decided.

Join up for 2025, collect your schedule at the Ploughman's lunch on 8 February and hear about 'Parks and Gardens of Flanders'. Tickets (£6) from Bethersden Village Store in the New Year.