



Report for the 2026 Annual Parish Meeting from Barham and District Horticultural Society

Barham Horticultural Society can report another successful year. We have maintained our membership numbers, with new people joining us as they move into the village. There has been an interesting and varied programme of events and trips which were well supported. Speakers have been. entertaining and informative and it is very encouraging to see the number of people coming along. Members were pleased to hear from two local expert horticulturalists; Steve Edney from the No Name Nursery and Paul Bagshaw from Goodnestone. There were also talks from an Auricula expert, the owner of the Wonky Parsnip farm which produces unusual and quirky vegetables popular with local restaurants, and Alfie Gay who is the ranger for our wonderful local nature reserve at Jumping Downs.

Trips included an aromatherapy workshop at Anna's Country Flowers, a visit to the aforementioned Wonky Parsnip and a glorious day at RHS Wisley, thankfully accessible again after the interminable roadworks at Junction 10 of the M25.

We held our plant sale in April which is always a very popular event with eager gardeners queuing at the door. This event helps to maintain our finances, which remain reasonably healthy. The Autumn Show was another success. The weather may have provided a challenge (again) but the quality of the produce and the standard of floral art, cookery and photography garnered praise from the judges. It was especially pleasing to see an increase in the number of entries in the children's classes and we hope that this continues. Equally pleasing was the collaboration with the Nailbourne Cubs and Scouts who prepared and served delicious teas. This was repeated at last month's Plant Sale and the Society is delighted with this mutually beneficial initiative instigated by the leaders and young people of the group.

We continue to manage the Barham Flower Planters and the recent donation made by the Parish Council is very welcome. We provide as many plants as possible from our own resources but are always keen to find other avenues of funding.

At the AGM in January the current committee agreed to continue and we have been joined by three new committee members who are proving to be great members of the team. We look forward to another successful year for this sociable, interesting and worthwhile village society.