

THORPE BAY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

(Affiliated to Royal Horticultural Society)

CHAIRMAN

Mr. R. Stride

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SHOW MANAGER

Mrs. P. Bushell

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HON. SECRETARY

Mrs. L. Green

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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2026

Dear Members

Our horticultural year starts with the very sad news that our Vice Chairman and Show Secretary, Brian Bushell sadly passed away on the 9th December 2025. Brian was a long standing member of the Society and joined the committee in 1998 and was Treasurer from 2000 to 2005 and also Show Secretary and Vice Chairman from 2006 to 2024. He won the Owen Wallis trophy on many occasions. He also won the Princess Diana Cup and more recently and regularly the President's Salver. His support and encouragement to members will be sadly missed.

Due to the very dry and hot weather the number of exhibits at last year's Autumn show were less than usual but the show was still very successful and we were delighted with the amount of people who came in the afternoon on a lovely sunny day. Refreshments sold 13 cakes and our thanks go to the cake makers whose help is much appreciated. Lovely dahlias, geraniums and floral art exhibits were very colourful and the quality of the fruit and vegetables appealed to our RHS judge who was very complimentary about the show. As usual the homecraft table was full of interesting items plus delicious cakes and our Homecraft judge was very impressed. Thanks also go to our helpers who work tirelessly to set up and dismantle the show. All help is greatly appreciated by the Committee.

At our recent AGM elections took place and all officers were re-elected and we welcomed Sarah Wigmore onto the committee.

Our Autumn show is sponsored by Richard Hair of Land Investments (Rayleigh) Ltd and our thanks go to Richard for his continued support and to Hunt Roche for printing these newsletters.

Also I am pleased to report that two more local companies namely Kirby & Lewis, Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers in Shoeburyness and Taylor Haldane Barlex Solicitors also in Shoeburyness have kindly offered to sponsor us which is excellent news as obviously our costs increase yearly.

Our Christmas lunch at Thorpe Hal Golf Club was well supported and our thanks go to Bob as usual for arranging this event and to his daughter who regularly makes the Christmas table gifts.

In the Autumn newsletter 2025 I mentioned that we had been advised that exhibitors are no longer able to use oasis. We have since been informed that this only applies if you are exhibiting at an actual RHS show i.e. Hyde Hall, Wisley etc., not a local Society like ourselves.

Can I please draw people's attention to Clause 6, page 8 of the handbook. **Exhibitors should not move items on display**. If you wish to exhibit an item and there is insufficient space please speak to either Pam or Nicola and they will adjust the displays on your behalf.

We would really appreciate more clean saleable bric a brac to be donated so if anyone is having a clear out of their cupboards etc., please keep us in mind.

COACH OUTINGS FOR 2026

WISLEY RHS GARDEN – SUNDAY 26TH APRIL – TRIP PRICE £19 pp

Chosen this time to see the Spring colours. Our affiliated membership allows us to a free visit.

WINCHELSEA OPEN GARDENS EAST SUSSEX – SATURDAY 18TH JULY – TRIP PRICE £20 PP Please note this is a **SATURDAY** event

A day to saunter around the picturesque and historic cinque port of Winchelsea. There will be 13 gardens open by owners of cottage style gardens. Winchelsea beach is also within walking distance.

Booking and full payment will be taken at the Events Table at the Spring Show or afterwards with Bob Stride, subject to availability.

SPRING SHOW 28TH MARCH 2026

CLASS 69 – FLORAL ART This show's subject is **OVER THE RAINBOW** and must be predominantly plant material.

CLASS 98 – A PHOTOGRAPH These are the subjects for each show this year so you have plenty of time to take photos:

SPRING SHOW – SPRING COLOUR

SUMMER SHOW – A VIEW THROUGH

AUTUMN SHOW – AUTUMN FRUITS

Please remember that the photo must be taken by the exhibitor, be no larger than 7" x 5" and be unframed, unmounted.

CLASS 100 – HOMECRAFT This item is a **SIMNEL CAKE** and exhibitors must use the following recipe:

225g/8oz butter, softened	225g/8oz caster sugar
4 large eggs	175g/6oz self raising flour
75g/3oz plain flour	150g/5oz currants
225g/8oz sultanas	125g/4oz glace cherries, quartered
2 level teaspoons mixed spice	2 tablespoons milk
Zest of 1 lemon and 1 orange, finely grated	

500g golden marzipan
2 tablespoons apricot jam

Line a 20cm/8in cake tin. Preheat oven to 150c/130cfan/gas 2. Beat the butter and sugar until light and creamy. Beat in the eggs one at a time. Sift the flours and stir in with the spice and milk followed by the dried fruit, glace cherries and zest. Put half the mixture in the cake tin levelling the top. Roll out a third of the marzipan into a circle the same size as the cake and lay on top. Cover with the rest of the mix and level the top. Bake for 2 ½ hours or until a skewer inserted in the middle comes out clean. Remove from the tin and leave to cool.

Roll out half the remaining marzipan into a circle as before. Heat the jam until melted and brush over the top of the cake and cover with the marzipan. Mark the top into a criss-cross pattern with a knife. Put eleven marzipan balls round the edge, sticking them on with jam. Lightly brown the marzipan under the grill or with a blowtorch.

AUTUMN 2025 TROPHY WINNERS:

Dahlia Trophy – Derek Everett
Princess Diana Memorial Trophy – Nicola Calder
Diamond Trophy – Cherie Bason

END OF YEAR TROPHIES:

Banksian Medal – Joanne Philip
Golden Jubilee Cup – Nicola Calder
Floral Art – Janet Stables
Burley Trophy – Mandy Sylvester
Bottone shield – Jill Hannaby
Killens Salver – Nicola Calder

Well done to all of them.

I look forward to seeing you on the 28th March at the Spring Show.

Best wishes
Linda

PHOTOS FROM THE AUTUMN SHOW 2025 – see more on the web site



**THE SOCIETY CAN BE CONTACTED VIA OUR WEBSITE WHICH IS
WWW.THORPEBAYHORTICULTURALSOCIETY.CO.UK**