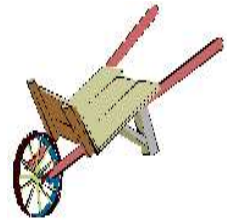
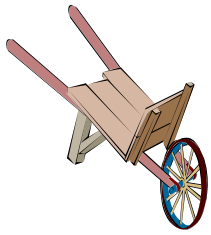

Name	Membership Number
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Benhill-Crescent Horticultural Society



Benhill Road, Sutton, SM1 3SA

www.benhillcrescent.co.uk

Trading Hut Open Every Sunday 10:00am – 12:30pm

NEW MEMBERS HANDBOOK

Welcome! This booklet aims to give you all the information that you need to get the most out of your membership with *Benhill-Crescent Horticultural Society* and have a great year in your allotment or garden.

Membership

Membership runs from January to December and can be renewed at the Trading Hut. Adult membership costs only £2 per person. Membership for under 16's is free. (There is no family membership.) Your membership card must be shown when purchasing items at the Trading Hut.

Diary of Events for the Year

Sunday mid May	Plant Swap and Open Day 10:00am-12:00noon
Saturday in June or July	Coach outing with Surrey Organic Gardening Group Watch the notice board for details
Saturday mid July	Quiz Night and Fish 'n chips Starts at 7:00pm
Sunday mid July	Benhill Allotment Holders Summer Show 'Spud in a Tub' Competition Spuds in by 11.00, Refreshments at 12:00 noon
Saturday early September	Autumn Show at Benhill Allotment Site 9:00am staging, 2:00pm open to public
Last Sunday in November	AGM in Meeting Room on Allotment Site Starts 12:00pm
Christmas Sunday December	Festive Celebrations Starts at 11:00am
Late December New Year Sunday	Trading Hut closed Re-new membership first Sunday in January

Social Events for Members

Events are arranged throughout the year. Most are FREE and all members are invited to come along. The more the merrier, so please support your society and join in!

'Spud-in-a-Tub' – Purchase in January



All members of the Society are invited to take part in grow potatoes in a poly pot, from one single potato. Trading Hut from **January onwards**

You cannot win 'The Gordon Bennett Cup' if you don't

You'll be provided with a seed potato from a specially selected variety and a black plastic grow bag.

Then it's up to you to grow where and how you choose. The weigh-in takes place at Allotment Site on Sunday mid July during the Allotment Show.



Plant Swap and Open Day - May

Held at the Benhill Allotment Site on a Sunday morning during trading hours, the Plant Swap is a great way to exchange seedlings, cuttings and plants.



You can make your usual purchases at the Trading Hut, and can also meet with other members for coffee and participate in the Swap.

Society members are invited to bring any plants, seedlings, cuttings, cacti, house plants, shrubs etc and exchange them via a token system for plants brought by other members

Quiz Night & Fish 'n Chips, Saturday, early July



This is a very popular event, held on the 'lawns' of the allotment site in the evening during June.

Fish and Chips are included in the price of the ticket, just bring your own drink and nibbles. Start recruiting your team!

Teams will also be made up on the night, so if you're keen and don't have a team, don't worry, come along and join in.

Summer Coach Outing - Saturday June/July

Each year an outing is organised for Society members. See 'Diary of Events' on the first page for details. A coach party of members visits a garden or show or other place of interest for the day. These coach outings are always well attended so you need to book your seat early! You will be asked to pay when booking.

The Society members have been to Borde Hill, Upton House & Gardens, The Bath and West Show, Spalding Flower Festival, Geoff Hamilton's garden, R.H.S. Wisley, Leonardslee Gardens and the Malvern Autumn Show, as well as many other places of horticultural interest. If you know of an enjoyable and interesting place to visit, please recommend it to the Committee.



Allotment Show & 'Spud-in-a-Tub' – Sunday morning, late July.

This show is especially for allotment holders to display what they have grown on the site, but also includes the 'Spud-in-a-Tub' competition which is for all

members.

The Show Schedule is available from January at the Trading Hut and gives all the information you need to take part in this fun event.

There's also a 'Best Allotment Competition', a raffle for our charity of the year, and refreshments to round off the day.

Autumn Show Saturday, mid September.

There are a hundred different classes which any member can enter.

These include domestic and horticultural classes, as well as photography, art, handicrafts and also a children's section, which is free to enter.

The Shows are open to the public at 1.30pm and are free to all.

Refreshments are available to purchase and all proceeds from the raffle, plant sales and refreshments are donated to the Society's chosen charity for the year.

Whether you come along to enter, to see who has won, or just to have a cup of tea come and support your society



Christmas Celebration

Sunday, late December



A Festive Celebration is held on the Sunday before wine and mince pies.

*Who says BBQs are for summer?
A little bit of snow won't stop us!*

Benhill-Crescent Horticultural Society HISTORY



The Crescent Horticultural and Allotment Society was originally formed in 1957 at Wrythe Lane, Carshalton. In 1985 the Crescent Society was moved to the Benhill Allotment Site and amalgamated with the Benhill allotment holders. Benhill-Crescent Horticultural Society has almost 300 members, who appreciate the facilities on site and the Trading Hut and participate in the many activities offered by the volunteer members who run the Society.

Can you spare a few hours on a Sunday?

If you would like to help on some Sunday mornings as a volunteer, doing a variety of tasks, including weighing up, stocking the Trading Hut or serving either behind the counter or in the Barn, please speak to one of the Committee members on duty.

We always welcome new faces!

Affiliation

The Society is affiliated to national and local organisations including;

- The National Vegetable Society
- The Surrey Horticultural Federation
- The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners.

We also have links with Sutton Organic Gardeners, The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies, Carshalton Camera Club, The Royal Horticultural Society as well as numerous local organisations and allotment societies.

Most national societies hold shows and we are able to obtain advice from experts, as well as having plants, pests and diseases identified.

Loan of Tools

There is a selection of tools available for Benhill Allotment-holders to borrow for use on their plots, including rotavators, strimmers, back-saver spades and mowers. Tools are stored at the site and are available for allotment holders to use on a Sunday morning or at other times by arrangement. Please ask at the Trading Hut.

Please note that tools are loaned at members' own risk. A demonstration of use is given and safety equipment is provided for members to use but the Society can accept no liability for injury.

The Society is indebted to Brian Martin for his work in maintaining the tools.

A financial contribution towards petrol and running costs is invited when you borrow the equipment. It is expected that tools are returned clean and ready for use by another member by 12:15pm. Please report any damage or malfunctioning of equipment on return.

Looking to take on an Allotment Plot?

If you are looking to take on an allotment plot on the Benhill site or any other site in the Sutton Borough, contact: SLWPallotments@idverde.co.uk ,
Address: Allotments, idverde, Cheam Park Depot, Tudor Close, Cheam, SM3 8QS. Tel: 020 3876 8806.

Annual rental commences each October for the year.
There may be a waiting list of those seeking a plot.



Members of all ages - everyone

Officers and Committee

Chairman	Mr Graham Cockram
Secretary	Mr Colin Alexander
Assistant Secretary	Mr Shaun Snelling
Trading Secretary	Mr John White
Assistant Trading Secretary	Mr Shaun Snelling
Treasurer	Mr Peter Thornton
Assistant Treasurer	Mr Shaun Snelling
Show Secretary	Mr Graham Cockram
Assistant Show Secretary	Mrs Brenda Richards

General Committee Members

Mr Sylvia Hodge	Mr Brian Martin	Mrs Maureen Martin
Mr Shaun Perrin	Miss Katie Budgen	Ms Helen Newman
Mr Trevor Smith	Mrs Berni Ebbs	

Show Committee Members

Secretary: Mr Graham Cockram – gc_139@hotmail.com

Mr Colin Alexander	Mrs Berni Ebbs
Mrs Ros Alexander	Mr Peter Thornton
Mr Shaun Perrin	Mr Trevor Smith

Allotment Committee Members

Secretary: Mr Colin Alexander – 020 8330 2137

Mr Shaun Snelling (Asst.)	Mrs Brenda Richards
Mrs Sylvia Hodge	Mr Graham Cockram
Mr Trevor Smith	Ms Helen Newman



Graham

Colin

Brenda

Whether you are serious about showing, growing or having fun, the society has something for everyone

Showing

There are two Shows each year, the first, held in July includes Spud in a Tub.



Benhill Allotment Holders Show mid July and 'Spud-in-a-Tub' Competition

If you are interested in 'showing' your produce ask for a copy of the Schedule in the Trading Hut. These are available at the end of January. The Schedule includes fruit, vegetables and flowers. There are classes for children, too, which are free to enter.

(‘Spud in a Tub is open to all members)

The “Gordon Bennett” Trophy is awarded to the grower of the greatest total weight of potatoes grown from a single seed potato.

The smallest entry will win the 'Tryarda Trophy'.

'Spud' Rules



- A different variety of potato is selected by the show committee each year.
- Members can purchase as many entries as they wish from the Trading Hut from January.
- Entries are provided as a seed potato and a black plastic grow bag.
- All potatoes must be grown from the seed potato provided. (Potatoes grown from other varieties will be disqualified)
- All potatoes must be grown in the plastic poly bag provided.
- Growers can choose the growing medium and method
- All entries must be brought to the weigh-in still in the poly bag as grown. (Tops can be removed.)

The Autumn Show at Benhill Allotment Site

The second show in the year is in September and is held at the Benhill Allotment Site. This show is open to all our members.

If you are interested in 'showing' please ask for a copy of the Schedule in the Trading Hut.

The Schedule includes a variety of classes for showing; photography, baking, flower arranging, handicrafts as well as fruit, vegetables and flowers. There are classes for children, too, which are free to enter.

Best Allotment Competition

Judging for these awards takes place in the summer and trophies are presented at the September Show

Trophies are awarded for the following:

- a) best lady allotment holder
- b) best novice plot
- c) best 125 m2 allotment
- d) best 250 m2 allotment

The Allotment Shop

The shop is run by volunteer members for the benefit of all members. Any profit is used to improve the services provided.

An extensive range of items is stocked for every aspect of horticulture, both usual and specialist. These are on sale at competitive prices. Cheques and credit / debit cards are accepted in the shop.

Many items are purchased in bulk by the society and re-packaged in smaller sizes so that members can benefit from low prices.

If you don't see what you are looking for, please ask. There are many items that are not on display.

The shop sells:

- Canes – of varying lengths
 - Fertilisers
- Compost / John Innes / Growbags / Manure / Bark Chippings
 - Hand Tools / General Gardening Equipment
 - Hanging Baskets

- Pesticides
- Plant Food
- Bird Food – available in bulk
 - Bird Feeders
 - Chicken Pellets / Mash
- Plants – both flowers and vegetable depending on season
 - Fish Food
- Plant Pots – of varying sizes and type

