

Bream Gardening Society: Programme 2025

BGS Membership — only £12 per person per year

We always welcome new members — no gardening experience necessary!

Regular meetings are held on the **second Tuesday of the month** at **7.30pm** at **Bream Sports Club**.
Carpark entrance: Oakwood Road, Bream, GL15 6JF. [///plums.launcher.vague](http://plums.launcher.vague)

Regular meetings are **free for members** to attend, including refreshments. **Non-members, £3**.

Additional admission charges may apply for garden visits and other events.

Further details will be shared via our newsletter, website, and Facebook page each month.

www.breamgardeners.net

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Bream Gardening Society

Programme Secretary, Diana Standing — 07419 373254

When & Where	Talk, Visit or Event
Saturday 15th February Old Cirencester Road, Cheltenham. GL53 9NP ///replied.tortoises.staining	Snowdrops at Colesbourne Gardens Explore more than 10 acres of private gardens and woodland walks with snowdrops, hellebores, cyclamen, and early flowering shrubs. Over 300 varieties of snowdrops in one of England's greatest snowdrop gardens.
Sunday 16th February 2.00pm onwards The Old Place, Bream. GL15 6EQ ///craftsman.faces.rating	Hedgelaying BGS members are working together to lay a native hedge at the Maypole in the centre of Bream. An excellent opportunity to learn a traditional countryside skill. An ongoing project, new members always welcome. Further sessions on: Sunday 23rd February from 9.30am and Saturday 1st March from 10.00am.
Saturday 22nd February 12.30 – 3.30pm Yorkley Community Centre, 2 Bailey Hill, Yorkley. GL15 4RS ///today.ogre.walkway	Forest of Dean Seed Swap & Shop Swap herb, flower and vegetable seeds. Nothing to swap? No problem, just leave a small donation instead. Charity plant stall, seasonal produce stall, advice from gardening professionals, tool sharpening service, and a short presentation by Dean Meadows Group. Organised by the Forest Food Network. BGS will have a stall at this event.
Saturday 8th March 2.00pm onwards The Butts, Clearwell. GL16 8PW	Fruit Tree Pruning Help to prune a mixture of fruit trees in a small orchard. No experience necessary — guidance will be provided. Flat ground and the trees are not too tall. Some trees will need a hard prune to rejuvenate. Later in the year we will return to the orchard to harvest the fruit for pressing. Many thanks to Julia Brindley for donating her fruit to the Society.
Tuesday 11th March 7.00 for 7.30pm The Bay, Whitecroft. GL15 4PE ///trail.resemble.joints	Annual Meal: The Miners Arms Our annual social get-together over food in a local family-run free house pub. Freshly cooked food, served in a clean and welcoming environment with roaring log fires. Guests welcome. Big car park and easy to find this year! Booking by 27 th February is essential.

When & Where	Talk, Visit or Event
Tuesday 8th April 7.30 – 9.30pm Bream Sports Club	Bugs: The Good the Bad & the Ugly — Roger Umpleby A lavishly illustrated and humorous talk about 'bugs' found in and around our gardens. The talk covers a wide range of pests, but this is balanced by an almost equally wide range of beneficials. By the end of the talk, listeners will certainly see many 'bugs' in a different light and appreciate just how varied and complex the interaction between them can be.
Tuesday 13th May 7.30 – 9.30pm Bream Sports Club	Innovation & Automation: how your plants are produced in the 21st century — Ian Sadler In the past, producing house and garden plants was labour intensive. Today, automation has drastically reduced some or even most parts of production. A fascinating insight into how commercial nurseries work today. Including a look at some new introductions.
Saturday 17th May 2.00 – 5.00pm Sun Green Road, Bream. GL15 6HX Oakwood Road, Bream. GL15 6HS	Members' Open Gardens Geoff Davis has invited members to see his large unruly garden — he would love some advice and suggestions! Interesting artefacts are hidden throughout. Then we will drop in to visit Ruth and Peter Bean's long, narrow plot. A beautiful secret garden hidden from view. Finally, across the road for tea and cakes in Sally and Malcolm Davies' larger hidden gem. Set between the road and the oak woods, you will be amazed by the variety of plants that they can grow in windswept Bream!
Sunday 25th May 10.00am – 4.00pm The Speech House Hotel, Speech House Road, Coleford. GL16 7EL ///lines.peanut.hexes	New! Spring Food Festival The first spring edition of the Forest Showcase Food Festival highlighting fresh spring produce from over 100 local producers and chefs. Gardening tips and workshops, children's garden area, floral displays, and activities to celebrate the renewal of spring. BGS have been offered a prominent stall at this event and have been asked to give a demonstration!
Sunday 8th June Stanton, near Broadway. WR12 7NE	Stanton Village Open Gardens Our second visit to this picturesque Cotswold village. Many houses border the high street with long gardens hidden behind. Colourful herbaceous borders, mature trees and shrubs, vegetable gardens, and tiny cottage gardens. Several natural water features fed by the stream which runs through the village.
Tuesday 10th June 7.30 – 9.30pm Bream Sports Club	Medicinal Herbs in the Garden — Caroline Sheldrick BA (Hons) BSc (Hons) Caroline is a medically qualified herbalist and gardener. She will talk about which common garden plants are used in herbal medicine: how to grow and use them, and which ones to avoid. Some of the traditional uses of your favourite garden flowers may surprise you.
Tuesday 8th July 7.30 – 9.30pm Bream Sports Club	Bream Gardeners' Question Time An informal question and answer session. Bring along your ailing plants and trickiest gardening questions to put to our panel of knowledgeable local experts. Volunteer sign-up for the Summer Show.

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Saturday 12th July Llanarthne, Carmarthen. SA32 8HN	Annual coach trip: National Botanic Gardens of Wales Voted the number one garden to visit by BBC Gardeners World. With over 500 acres to explore, there is plenty to see and do: Great Glasshouse, Hay Meadow, Arboretum, Bog Garden, Growing the Future Garden, to name but a few. Dedicated to the advancement of science and conservation. Recognised as the most influential landscape scheme in Wales.
Tuesday 12th August 7.30 – 9.30pm Bream Sports Club	Unearthed: The History of Bream Flower Show 1865 – 2025 In 1877, the Bream Flower Show was described by the Dean Forest Guardian as a “hopeless undertaking” and yet it is still thriving in its 161 st year. Learn about the founding of the show, some of the bizarre prizes and competitions that have been run over the years, the characters who have been key to the Show’s survival, and the ‘mystery’ of the missing show. Volunteer briefing for the Summer Show.
Saturday 16th August 2.00pm – 5.00pm Bream Sports Club	160th Bream Summer Show Please support our traditional village show as a volunteer, exhibitor or visitor. Competitions for vegetables, flowers, flower arranging, art, crafts, photography, baking, preserving, and beekeeping. Separate children’s competitions. Tea tent with homemade cakes, raffle, games, craft and local produce stalls, live music, and barbecue. Special 160 th anniversary celebrations.
Sunday 17th August 11.00am – 3.00pm Bream Sports Club	Bream Book Fair After the Show, our marquees become home to the Bream Book Fair. This event raises funds for Packed with Love who support children in emergency care. Thousands of second-hand books of all genres for sale. Local authors and independent sellers. Tea, cakes, and barbecue. BGS will be running a gardening book and plant stall at this event.
Saturday 6th September Cadora Woods, St. Briavels. GL15 6QG ///tidying.lyrics.bath The Old Station Tintern, Tintern. NP16 7NX ///jetliner.yesterday.vets	Bean garden & ‘One Planet’ plot Following her talk on bean growing last year, we are going to visit Susan Young’s organic ‘wild’ garden near Bigsweir bridge. Walk up from Cadora Woods to see Susan’s vegetable garden with at least 8 varieties of beans, wildflower meadow with views of the Wye Valley, borders, grasses, and small wood. Then drive over the bridge to the Old Station Tintern for refreshments before walking up to Matt and Freyja’s ‘One Planet’ plot. This interesting initiative aims for near self-sufficiency and includes no-dig annual vegetables, fruit trellises, and an orchard. Learn about the perennial food forest that they planted last year.
Tuesday 9th September 7.30 – 9.30pm Bream Sports Club	History & Restoration of Painswick Rococo Garden — Dominic Hamilton Dominic has been Director at the Rococo Garden since 2015 and, with his expert team, has started a new chapter in the garden’s history. As the country’s only complete surviving example of the rococo period, the garden provides a unique insight into the life of the upper middle classes in the 1740s. Dominic’s talk explores the garden’s origins, its rococo heyday, its subsequent evolution, and its rescue from ruin since the 1980s.

When & Where	Talk, Visit or Event
Saturday 27th September 1.30 – 5.00pm Blistors Farm, Bream. GL15 6EW ///scarcely.scuba.cornfield	Apple Pressing Louise and Frank McGuinness have kindly agreed to host this event once more. Just turn up and join in the fun. Use apples harvested by BGS from Julia Brindley's orchard or bring along your own fruit to press. Don't forget to bring some empty containers so that you can take home juice to drink or ferment!
Sunday 5th October 10.00am – 4.00pm The Speech House Hotel, Speech House Road, Coleford. GL16 7EL ///lines.peanut.hexes	The Forest Showcase Food Festival Food festival celebrating the quality and diversity of local independent food and drink producers and suppliers. Free talks and demonstrations, hands-on workshops, children's activities, and much more. As usual, BGS will have a stall— always a popular event at which to volunteer.
Tuesday 14th October 7.30 – 9.30pm Bream Sports Club	Plants and Fungi: Traditional uses and new opportunities — Professor Monique Simmonds OBE Monique is a Deputy Director of Science at RBG Kew. She researches the traditional and economic uses of plants and fungi — their potential as cosmetic, drug, novel food and agrochemical leads, and as a source of sustainably-harvested products. Monique also runs Kew's service to provide authentication of plant products and to assist enforcement authorities in identifying plants. She is the author of hundreds of scientific papers and books including 'The Gardener's Companion to Medicinal Plants'.
Saturday 1st November 2pm – 5pm West Dean Centre, High Street, Bream. GL15 6JW ///garlic.drape.another	Bream Autumn Show Please support our traditional Autumn Show as a volunteer, exhibitor or visitor. Competitions for vegetables, flowers, flower arranging, art, crafts, photography, baking, preserving, and beekeeping. Separate children's competitions. Plant stall, craft stall, raffle, games, and tearoom with homemade cakes.
Tuesday 11th November 7.30 – 9.30pm Bream Sports Club	Ashwood Nursery and John Massey MBE VMH — Howard Drury An insight into John Massey's private but very exciting garden at the legendary Ashwood Nurseries. Howard will transport us through a year of colour and plants in what must be one of the top private gardens in Britain.
Tuesday 9th December 7.30 – 10.00pm St. James' Church Centre, Coleford Road, Bream. GL15 6ES ///strong.placed.stylists	Christmas Bring and Share Supper! Plant-based festive fun — quiz, food, music, raffle, and more. Prizes for the most festive outfits. If you can, please bring along some food or drink to share.

Coming up in 2026

Tuesday 13th January 2026 — No meeting

Tuesday 10th February 2026 — AGM: Your opportunity to have a say in how your Society is run. Pick up your free gifts to enable you to enter the members-only classes at the 2026 shows.

Follow up trips to **Painswick Rococo Garden** and **John Massey's private garden at Ashwood Nursery**.