

Updated!

Bream Gardening Society: Programme 2026

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** from **7.30pm** at **Bream Sports Club**.
Carpark accessed from 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 and booking forms will be shared via our newsletter, website, and Facebook page.

www.breamgardeners.net

breamgardeningociety@gmail.com



[Bream Gardening Society](#)

Programme Secretary, Diana Standing: bgsprogsec@gmail.com

When & Where	Talk, Visit or Event
Saturday 14th February Painswick. GL6 6TH ///pass.names.mice	Visit: Painswick Rococo Gardens - Snowdrops Explore the UK's only complete surviving rococo garden. Around 5 million snowdrops, cyclamen coum and an array of hellebores should be at their best, carpeting the steep banks and woodland glades. www.rococogarden.org.uk Car share from West Dean Centre, Bream. (Other locations by request.)
Saturday 21st February 12.30 – 3.00pm Yorkley Community Centre 2 Bailey Hill, Yorkley. GL15 4RS ///today.ogre.walkway	Forest of Dean Seed Swap & Shop BGS is helping to organise this event as part of the  Forest Food Network . Swap flower, vegetable and herb seeds – either left-over bought seed or seed collected from your own garden. If you have no seeds to swap, don't worry, simply leave a small donation instead. Plants and seed potatoes for sale, tool sharpening and homemade cakes.
Saturday 28th February & Sunday 1st March 10.00am The Old Place, Bream. GL15 6EQ ///craftsman.faces.rating	Practical session: Hedgelaying BGS members will work together to lay a native hedge at the Maypole in the centre of Bream. Excellent opportunity to learn a traditional countryside skill. This is an ongoing project, and new members are always welcome.
Saturday 14th March & Sunday 15th March The Butts, Clearwell. GL16 8PW ///lollipop.simple.broom	Practical session: 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.
Tuesday 10th March 7.00 for 7.30pm High Street, Bream. GL15 6JF ///buckets.decks.shortcuts	March meeting: Annual Meal - The Rising Sun, Bream Our annual social get-together over food in a local family-run free house. risingsunbream.uk Guests welcome. Booking by 28 th February is essential.

When & Where	Talk, Visit or Event
<p>Saturday 21st March 2.00pm Ferndene, Strawberry Hill, Newent. GL18 1LH ///topped.cuddled.shout</p>	<p>Visit: Kitchen Garden Plant Centre An opportunity to visit a Chelsea gold medal winning nursery which is right on our doorstep but not normally open to the public. Family growers of herbs and edible plants who have a passion for the natural environment and are committed to sustainable practices. www.kitchengardenplantcentre.co.uk Car share from West Dean Centre, Bream. (Other locations by request.)</p>
<p>Thursday 9th April 6.30 – 9.30pm The George Newnham. GL14 1BS ///smothered.renovated.cricket</p>	<p>Film screening: ‘Seed; The Untold Story’ BGS is helping to organise this event as part of the  Forest Food Network. An evening featuring the award-winning film ‘Seed’, followed by a panel discussion and Q&A. Tasty vegetarian meal included.</p>
<p>Tuesday 14th April 7.30 – 9.30pm St. James’ Church Centre Coleford Road, Bream. GL15 6ES ///strong.placed.stylists</p>	<p>April meeting: For the Love of Blue Poppies: What have the Himalayas ever done for us? – Marion Stainton This talk is based around the historical introduction of many familiar plants. Marion will discuss the influence these plants, and those who collected and introduced them, had on garden styles at the time; why many plants from the Himalayas have been so popular; and why plant hunters were prepared to endure the difficulties that they encountered in the Himalayas.</p>
<p>Saturday 2nd May Morton Hall Lane, Redditch. B96 6SJ ///brief.zooms.interests</p>	<p>Visit: Moreton Hall Gardens - Tulip Festival Come with us to the annual Tulip Festival held in the beautiful gardens of Moreton Hall. Over 100 tulip varieties can be admired in borders, pots and as cut flowers. Swathes of naturalised bulbs may also be enjoyed in the glorious spring meadows and woodland gardens. mortonhallgardens.co.uk Car share from West Dean Centre, Bream. (Other locations by request.)</p>
<p>Tuesday 12th May 7.30 – 9.30pm Bream Sports Club</p>	<p>May meeting: Designing an Organic Garden - Nicola Hope Nicola is a consultant organic horticulturalist who has previously worked in such inspirational gardens as Highgrove, Lake House, The Abbey House and Cole Park. She is a planting focussed garden designer, writer and speaker. Nicola will provide us with lots of garden design tips and tricks for an organic garden which is both productive and pleasing on the eye.</p>
<p>Sunday 24th May 10.00am – 4.00pm Speech House Road, Coleford. GL16 7EL ///lines.peanut.hexes</p>	<p>Forest Showcase Spring Food Festival The spring edition of the Forest Showcase highlights fresh produce from over 100 local producers and chefs. Gardening tips and workshops, children’s garden area, floral displays, and activities. As usual, BGS will have a stall - always a popular event at which to volunteer.</p>
<p>Saturday 30th May 2.00 – 5.00pm Bream & Milkwall Addresses available to BGS members only</p>	<p>Visit: Members’ Open Gardens Join us in visiting the gardens of two of our most prolific show winners: Sue Hill and Cheryl Hutchinson-Holford. Both are keen fruit, vegetable and flower growers, but with quite different garden styles and problems to overcome. We will start by exploring Sue’s garden and field in Bream before driving on to Cheryl’s hidden garden in Milkwall in time for tea and homemade cakes.</p>

<p>Tuesday 9th June 7.30 – 9.30pm Bream Sports Club</p>	<p>June meeting: Adapting to Climate Change for Gardeners - Sally Oates</p> <p>Sally will explain how she uses the knowledge she has gained from her many decades of practical organic gardening experience to adapt to climate change. Concentrating on the essentials of soil, water, light, temperatures, and planting times.</p>
<p>Saturday 27th June Holt Farm, Bath Road, Bristol. BS40 7SQ ///devours.petal.tasteful</p>	<p>Annual coach trip: Yeo Valley Organic Garden</p> <p>Sarah Mead has spent over 30 years transforming the garden at this famous organic dairy farm, emphasising bold planting and whimsical elements. Come with us to see the stunning results. www.yeovalley.co.uk/the-organic-garden</p> <p>6.5-acres of Soil Association-certified ornamental and edible plants in a seasonal patchwork. Cosy garden cafe and organic garden shop.</p> <p>Coach pickups in Bream, Lydney and Chepstow.</p>
<p>Wednesday 8th July – Sunday 12th July Badminton. GL9 1DD ///crown.barrel.forever</p>	<p>RHS Badminton Flower Show</p> <p>Set within the beautiful South Gloucestershire countryside, an exciting new RHS Show on our doorstep. www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-badminton-flower-show</p> <p>BGS Young Gardeners will be exhibiting their wheelbarrow garden at this event!</p>
<p>Tuesday 14th July 7.30 – 9.30pm Bream Sports Club</p>	<p>July meeting: Tasting the science and craft in your coffee - Peter James</p> <p>Peter is going to introduce us to a selection of coffees grown in different parts of the world. He will discuss why the different varieties are grown, the effects of terroir, and how climate change is altering the course of the perfect brew. He will also talk about coffee processing and the history of coffee.</p> <p>Sampling will form an important part of the evening - like a wine tasting!</p>
<p>Saturday 18th July Fforest Coal Pit, Abergavenny. Please don't use the postcode to navigate! ///library.skies.model</p>	<p>Visit: Nant-y-Bedd - Garden in the Forest</p> <p>A private group tour around this 10-acre organic garden, hidden in conifer woodland high in the Black Mountains. A wonderful mixture of organic fruit and vegetables, imaginative planting, mature trees, winding paths, bridges, pond, stream and 'designer' dry-stone walls. Previous winner of the RHS's Partner Garden of the Year. https://nantybedd.com/</p> <p>Car share from West Dean Centre, Bream. (Other locations by request.)</p>
<p>Tuesday 11th August 7.30 – 9.30pm Bream Sports Club</p>	<p>August meeting: Making a sustainable garden from scratch - Prof. Clive Stainton</p> <p>When Clive and his wife developed their hectare of garden, they wanted to make it as environmentally sustainable as possible. Clive will take you through the work - the successes, trials and failures. He will talk about water storage on a grand scale, being self-sufficient in electricity production, least CO₂ emitting machinery, minimising the use of chemicals, tree planting and more. A story of aspiration and disappointment, cooperation and struggle alone.</p>
<p>Saturday 15th August 2.00pm – 5.00pm Bream Sports Club</p>	<p>161st Bream Summer Show</p> <p>Competitions for vegetables, flowers, flower arranging, art, crafts, photography, baking, preserving, and beekeeping. Separate competitions for children and young people.</p> <p>Tea tent with homemade cakes, raffle, plant stalls, games, craft stalls, local food producers, Bream Silver Band, and hot food.</p> <p>Please support our traditional village show as a volunteer, exhibitor or visitor.</p>

When & Where	Talk, Visit or Event
<p>Saturday 5th or 12th September</p> <p>Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford. DY6 OAE</p> <p>///reapply.comforted.putter</p>	<p>Visit: John's Garden at Ashwood Nurseries</p> <p>An 8-acre private garden created by nursery owner and Chelsea gold medallist John Massey VMH. Informal borders, island beds, woodland dells and a wildlife garden. Magnificent collections of trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, conifers and bulbs. An abundance of rare plants as well as familiar favourites.</p> <p>www.ashwoodnurseries.com/visit-us/johns-garden</p> <p>Car share from West Dean Centre, Bream. (Other locations by request.)</p>
<p>Tuesday 8th September 7.30 – 9.30pm</p> <p>Bream Sports Club</p>	<p>September meeting: The work of an Agronomist - Edward Sandeman</p> <p>Healthy soil is the foundation of every successful garden. Come along to find out how an agronomist tests your soil to determine its properties and helps you to understand what your soil needs for your plants to thrive. Optimising the nutrients you add in this way is more sustainable too.</p>
<p>Sunday 4th October 10.00am – 4.00pm</p> <p>Speech House Road, Coleford. GL16 7EL</p> <p>///lines.peanut.hexes</p>	<p>The Forest Showcase Food Festival</p> <p>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.</p> <p>As usual, BGS will have a stall - always a popular event at which to volunteer.</p>
<p>Tuesday 13th October 7.30 – 9.30pm</p> <p>Bream Sports Club</p>	<p>October meeting: Composting - Glenys Walker</p> <p>Different composting methods will be discussed and advice given by our very own Compost Queen, Glenys. A Master Composter who is passionate about composting, Glenys has a special interest in Daleks – a type of compost bin which suits all sizes of garden and requires very little effort. She may also introduce us to her new repurposed mini composters.</p>
<p>Saturday 31st October 2pm – 5pm</p> <p>West Dean Centre, High Street, Bream. GL15 6JW</p> <p>///garlic.drape.another</p>	<p>Bream Autumn Show and DFBK Honey Show</p> <p>Competitions for vegetables, flowers, flower arranging, art, crafts, photography, baking, and preserving. Separate competitions for children and young people.</p> <p>Dean Forest Beekeepers will be holding their annual Honey Show at this event.</p> <p>BGS plant and textile craft stalls, raffle, games, and tearoom with homemade cakes.</p> <p>Please support our traditional Autumn Show as a volunteer, exhibitor or visitor.</p>
<p>Tuesday 10th November 7.30 – 9.30pm</p> <p>Bream Sports Club</p>	<p>November meeting: Biodynamic Principles for Gardeners - Mark Moodie</p> <p>An introduction to the world of biodynamics by Biodynamic Association management team member Mark. Learn about how biodynamics places an emphasis on balanced soil fertility, plant health, nature's diversity, and animal welfare as part of a combined whole. Mark will talk about the secrets of planting based on the phases of the moon and the benefits that he believes this brings.</p>
<p>Tuesday 8th December 7.30 – 10.00pm</p> <p>St. James' Church Centre, Coleford Road, Bream. GL15 6ES</p> <p>///strong.placed.stylists</p>	<p>December meeting: Christmas Quiz with Bring & Share Supper</p> <p>Plant-based festive fun - quiz, food, music, raffle, and more. Prizes for the most festive outfits.</p> <p>If you can, please bring along some food or drink to share.</p>