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GARDENER'S GAZETTE

Autumn 2009

Founded 1940

Affiliated to:

The Royal Horticultural Society

Royal National Rose Society

National Dahlia Society

National Chrysanthemum Society

National Vegetable Society

The Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies

The Daffodil Society

SUMMER SHOW

Sunday 23rd August 2009

**Crookhorn College of Technology,
Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville**

Doors Open To The Public at 1.45pm

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2009

President: Cliff Jones

Life Vice-President: Peter Brooks JP: Maureen Kemp

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Outing Organiser: Ann Richardson, Phil Stock 023 9225 4986

Gazette Distribution: Graham Spooner (as above)

General Committee: Richard Knight, Wendy Hill, Brian Andrews, Betty Clark, Cliff Jones, Maureen Kemp, Jan Baxter, Charles Mobsby, Frances Leppard, Nick Carter, Lynda Piddington, Dave Cullen, Dave Collinson, Patricia Larcombe

Show Committee: Richard Knight, Lynda Piddington, Brian Andrews, Betty Clark, Cliff Jones, Maureen Kemp, Charles Mobsby, Nick Carter

Catering Committee: Betty Clark, Ann Richardson, Xanthia Sang

Allotment Representative: Nick Carter
50 Privett Rd, Purbrook PO7 5JW 023 9225 6209

Auditor: Mrs H Piper

CHAIRMAN'S MEANDERINGS

Everybody seems busy on their allotments/gardens at this time year. The weather has been brilliant. Most of us would like a bit more overnight rain to save on the watering – I do believe that gardeners are never fully happy with the weather!

As you probably know, the Summer Show approaches. If you have anything you have grown or made please look in the Schedule (available at the Store or at the monthly Meetings). Remember, the Show is there to show off your expertise so don't be shy. There are places for the Novices where you can get experience and it's always exciting to enter the Show Hall after judging to see your entry awarded a Prize.

Also regarding the Show – we are as usual begging for help, especially at the end of the Show where it is usually left to three or four stalwarts to load the cars/vans and transport the paraphernalia back to the Store. This would be a lot easier with a few more strong backs – it normally takes about 2 hours, from approximately 4pm (show end) to clear up. If you are available please contact me or one of the Show Committee – your help for just those two hours would be great.

Good gardening

Richard

EDITORS REPORT

The article regarding gardening for bees had a good response. I myself have planted with bees in mind and have seen quite a few bees in my own garden and even have solitary bees that have made their homes in my pots of house leeks!

I have a request which goes out to those members who go on the coach trips organised by Anne (and very well organised may I say). If you would like to share your experience and could write a few lines, I would be very grateful to put your article in the Gazette. This also applies to any members gardening articles, it could be about what is happening in your own garden at the moment or perhaps you have visited a garden show recently or even exhibited (photos also welcome which can be put on our website). We would love to hear from you. Also our members like to hear about local history that you may wish to share. Don't worry if you don't have a typewriter or email I am quite good at deciphering handwriting and if you include your telephone number, I will call if I get stuck! Please pop your article into an envelope marked for my attention and either send it to my home address or hand it in at the store and a committee member will pass it on to me.

Thank you and hope to see you at the Summer Show.

Patricia

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL STILL £5

The annual membership fee for 2010 is being held at £5 per household. Membership expires on 31st December each year and must be renewed by then or as soon as possible after this date. Renewals can be done at the monthly meetings, your next visit to the Trading Store or by post to the Membership Secretary enclosing a cheque for £5 made out to 'PHS'.

Commencing in 2010, the Spring Gazette, the first of the year, will be the last gazette sent out to those who have not renewed their annual membership by mid May.

A membership representative will be at the Summer Show so why not take the opportunity to renew your membership for 2010.

Thank you

Graham

ROLL OF HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

1974 Mr P Brooks
1978 Mrs P A Warburton
Mrs P E Goodhew
1981 Mrs M Avery
1982 Mr D J Arnott
1983 Mr G Selvester
1984 Mrs B Martin
1985 Mrs M D Grinter
Mr J W Mason
1987 Mr A E Kitchen
1988 Mr C E Payne
1990 Mrs M Kemp
Mr V R Mould

1992 Mrs S A Lewington
Mrs D Mew
1993 Mr D L Parker
1995 Mr P H Robinson
1996 Mr B W Andrews
2000 Mrs B A Hopkins
Mr C J Jones
2003 Mr E Harfield
2004 Mr A C C Jenkins
2005 Mrs B CLark
2006 Mr P White

Mr E Threadingham

STORE NEWS

CHRISTMAS POTATOES – These are seed potatoes held back in cold store so that they will produce a crop of ‘new potatoes’ in time for Christmas, or before. The variety this year will be the popular salad potato **Charlotte**. Delivery should be in July and they should be planted immediately (no chitting needed). They can be planted in pots or in the ground but need to be protected from any early frosts; they also need to be kept moist. Growth is very rapid and they should be ready for harvesting from November.

SODIUM CHLORATE – This is about to be taken off the market. We only have a few tubs left.

SHAMROCK GROWBAGS – We have sold out of these and they are now difficult to obtain, but we have plenty of the ‘Gromoor’ ones in stock.

Brian

HELPERS FOR SUMMER SHOW

Many thanks to all of you who responded to my request for helpers at the Show. We could still do with a few more helpers at all stages of the Show but are especially short of Stewards and volunteers to help at the end of the Show.

Stewards are on duty from about 9:30am on Sunday until judging is complete and they escort the Judge to the Lunch area and get their own lunch (free). They are then free to go round the Show with their family, though we like as many stewards as possible to maintain a presence and a watchful eye in the show area.

If you are new to stewarding, Cliff Jones, our chief Steward will instruct you and you will be allocated to work with a more experienced Steward.

At the end of the show we have to:

1. Dismantle, pack and move all our stuff to the entrance area
2. Clean and return rooms to their original state,
3. Load our stuff onto transport,
4. Transport it back to the store

5. Unload it and stack it in the store.

This job lasts from just after 4pm when the show closes to (ideally) about 6:15 since we have to clear everything out of the school by 6pm. If you were planning to come to the Show, we would appreciate it if you could volunteer to stay on and help. Even if you need to take family/friends home at the end of the show but can come back at about 5pm, then we could use the extra help after this as we need people both at the school to stack and load the transport and at the Store to unload and carry and stack items in the Store.

If you are able to help, either as a Steward, or at the end of the show or in some other way, please contact Betty either at the store or on 02392 253 889 and she will note your details and allocate you to your agreed task and time slot.

CHANGE OF RULES FOR FLORAL ART: NOVICES CLASS

To encourage Novice Floral Art exhibitors, it has been agreed that entries for the Floral Art Novice Class can be assembled at home and the completed (or nearly completed) exhibit brought to the Show.

SUMMER SHOW TROPHIES – REMINDER

Just a line to remind last years winners that polished trophies should be returned to the Store not later than Saturday 1st August.

Charles Mobsby – Show Secretary

SPRING SHOW 2010

Next years Spring Show will be held on Saturday March 20th at its usual venue – the Deverell Hall.

The daffodil variety selected for Class 12 (pot of 6 daffodil bulbs in a pot not exceeding 9”) is Red Devon and the narcissus variety for Class 13 (bowl of 12 bulbs in pebbles and water) is Geranium. Both may be available at the Summer Show or later at the store at very reasonable prices since we purchase these in bulk.

At this point I usually extol the virtues of some of the classes in an attempt to persuade more of you to enter the show. Please take that bit as read as I will now tell you about some of the changes we have made in an attempt to attract more entrants.

Firstly, we have joined the Daffodil Society as an Affiliated Society. In addition to bringing our show to a wider audience in the Daffodil Societies Show Calendar, this enables us to offer an additional Award – the Daffodil Society Bronze Medal for the best daffodil bloom in Show.

Secondly, the single entry in the Novice class last year and the relatively few entrants overall, prompted us to see if the provision of additional classes for which it is much easier to raise an entry would attract more entrants. To this end we have introduced additional daffodil classes that mirror the existing classes but only require one bloom or stem instead of three. This is in fact less demanding than last years Novice daffodil classes so we have also removed the Novice spring flower classes.

Competitors can enter both the single and three stem classes of the corresponding daffodil divisions. I hope however that the additional new entrants generated will, in future years, allow us to enforce the retention of these new classes – namely that they cater for those who cannot raise the three stems for the corresponding daffodil division.

We will willingly consider the reintroduction of the Novice spring flower classes for future years if sufficient members demand it, but only on the basis that each of these members guarantee at least one Novice class entry in the following Spring Show.

The third change is to the Novice Floral Art Class. Entries for this class can now be assembled at home and brought to the Show. It is hoped that this will encourage novices to have a go in the privacy of their own homes rather than under the watchful gaze of the “experts”.

While I would welcome more entries in the Open Classes as a result of us joining the Daffodil Society, it would please me much more if accommodating all the additional entries attracted by the other two changes did present me with a problem.

Charles Mobsby – Show Secretary

PUMPKIN EVENING – 1ST OCTOBER

If you have an entry, then just bring it along before 7:30 and you will be given an exhibit card and have it weighed or judged along with the other entries.

Charles Mobsby – Show Secretary

FROM THE SPIDER’S LAIR

Your Society has recently become affiliated to the Daffodil Society and as they have a website I have added their address to the page of useful links on our own site. There is a benefit to us in this as it is then possible to ask for a reciprocal arrangement whereby they place a link to us on their website. All the Societies to which we are affiliated, listed on the front cover of the Gazette and who have a website, have agreed to this arrangement. Thus somebody searching the RHS site links page for a Horticultural Society in our area will be aware of our existence and a single click will lead them to our details and the attractions on offer. At present the Hampshire Federation do not have a website but one is planned for later this year. Among other links on the page are three to other local Horticultural Societies and the bumblebee conservation trust

mentioned by your Gazette Editor in the last issue. All of these are worth a visit and have something of interest.

The recent enjoyable visit to Penshurst Place is recalled on the website by the addition of a short selection of photographs taken on the day by Frances and myself. The garden is arranged in 'rooms', in the manner of Hidcote with high hedges as dividers and a map was essential. Luckily I had followed my own tip in the last Gazette to print one out from their website as the only one available in the shop was the one in the fairly unwieldy guidebook. Visitors to the house itself were better catered for with a laminated printed sheet in every room listing points of interest. The Toy Museum appeared to have a collection of my old toys and even some discarded by my children! The weather was kind and there was plenty of interest to occupy all the time available

The above and also the Spring Show pictures can now be accessed from a new main page – 'Photos'

www.purbrookhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

David Collinson

SLUGS – CONTRASTING VIEWS

The item by Charles in the last Gazette reminded me of a radio discussion on this topic sometime ago. One theory raised was that it was better to allow a natural course of events as large slugs acted as predators and eat the smaller ones. I have a feeling that the larger slugs lie in wait on the boundary of my garden and allow the smaller slugs access into to my garden. Later when the smaller slugs have devastated all my tender shoots and leaves and thus make a more substantial meal, then they are ambushed and consumed by the larger ones.

There was also a lady listener who appeared to be a member of some kind of slug preservation society who deplored the cruelty and suffering inflicted on slugs. I seem to recall Brian Kidd was in the studio at the time and he gave a reassurance that there was no time for suffering bearing in mind the speed with which he was able to lower his substantial garden boot!

David Collinson

TONY'S INTER SCHOOLS ANNUAL TROPHY 2009 **(SPONSORED BY TRANSIT MAN)**

THE AIM - Our Aim is to encourage children to the world of Gardening, how our vegetables and flowers grow, being aware of change of seasons, the seasonality of foods and the patience to grow flowers and vegetables.

THE COMPETITION - Is open to the following categories/ages in the locality

1. Pre Schools
2. Infant Schools
3. Junior Schools
4. Senior Schools

(Special Needs Schools may choose a category they feel most suitable and will be judged within that chosen category on an equal basis)

CLASSES

1. Best School Garden (By Photos of garden with School name included 1. Start of school year/ 1Mid Year/1End of School Year)
2. Craft a Flower or Vegetable Picture (Draw, Paint, Sculpt, Collage)
3. Make a Mini Scarecrow (Maximum height 30cm)
4. Make a full Sized Scarecrow for use in School Garden (entry by photograph including School Name DO NOT SEND SCARECROW)
5. Use School Grown Produce to make a meal. (Send photograph of meal with the recipe)

ENTRIES - Choose your best overall 5 per school (may be in differing classes), label carefully and transport to Mrs Piddington, 40 Westbrook Grove , Waterlooville PO7 5HX

Tel 023 92261149 by 20th June 2009 for judging at the PHS meeting by members. Collection may be possible.

TROPHY

There will be a trophy awarded to the winning school in each category. Members decision will be final.

GARDENING FOR BEES

As honey bees are so reliant on gardens for nectar and pollen, as Patricia wrote in the last Gazette, we need to go just a bit further to ensure the health of our bee population, whether honey bees or bumble bees.

Make sure when you spray your crops and flowers against aphids and other flying pests you do it when the bees are not flying. This is quite easy to work out! The bees go to bed when it is dusk. So, if you must spray, do it in the late evening. For, although you have no intention of killing bees that is what you will do if you spray during the day time. There are no ifs and buts. Just take it from someone who lost a whole colony of bees when a market gardener in Titchfield sprayed a field of raspberries when they were in bloom. It was very sad to see the poisoned bees and quite unnecessary.

They say that two out of every three mouthfuls of food that we eat are because crops have been pollinated, whether by honey bees or any other insect – enough said!

Terry Phillips

FROM A LIFE MEMBER

‘Just a quick note to say that I have just found the website of PHS. I am a life member dating back to the 1980’s when I was show secretary for a number of years. Moved to New Zealand in 1988 but have been back to UK on a number of occasions and visited the Summer Show. Good to be able to read the gazette on line and hear that PHS is still thriving’

John Mason

LIVING SALADS

Somewhere, in one of the glossy magazines, I read about a chap who was making his living by selling ‘Living Salads’. They probably haven’t come down this way yet, as I haven’t seen them in the local supermarkets. But, it got me thinking. By ‘Living Salads’ he must have meant that he was selling salad in its own growing medium, and you just cut off what you needed and then threw it all away. In this way you could have a lovely fresh salad which had not been subjected to any chemicals to preserve it in a polythene bag.

Well, if he could do it then so could I. This is what I did and it works perfectly. The only cost was the packet of seeds; but this could be pence.

Take the sort of plastic tray that pre-packaged meat comes in, and wash it. If the tray is translucent line it with newspaper as roots don’t like the light. Sprinkle a good layer of chopped comfrey over the bottom and top up completely with the sort of seed compost that the Garden Shop sells in a bag. This is guaranteed not to have any weed seeds or bug eggs in it. Sprinkle a very small amount of seeds over the top and cover with compost. Water and put it all in a plastic bag in the warm to germinate. When the seedlings are about half an inch tall, take off the bag and put your tray on a sunny windowsill and water as necessary. You can cut and come again at least four times before the comfrey fertilizer is exhausted.

The choice of seed is important. Choose a non-hearting variety of lettuce like Salad bowl which is very good at sending up new shoots after you have cut it. Mizuna, Pak Choi, Lambs lettuce and Dandelion are all very good, as is Spinach.

I have found that one tray is not enough, and we now have four on the go. You will have to experiment yourself to see just how long into the autumn you can keep the project going. When the tray is completely spent, put the rubbish in your compost bin and start again

Terry Phillips

RECIPE

The following recipe should carry a health warning as it's only ingredients are cream and chocolate, but it is a luscious dessert and just one small slice served with a garnish of summer berries will impress any guest.

Chocolate Truffle Cake

568ml carton of double cream at **room temperature** (it **must** be at room temperature to obtain a smooth texture to the finished dish)

225g dark chocolate containing at least 70 per cent cocoa solids

Cocoa powder to finish

Break the chocolate into small pieces and place in a basin over a pan of just simmering water. Make sure the basin does not actually touch the water. Leave until the chocolate is completely melted, stirring once or twice. Remove from the heat and leave to cool slightly.

Meanwhile use a wad of kitchen paper dipped in a little vegetable oil to grease a loose-bottomed, 20cm diameter cake tin, which must be at least 5cm deep. Line the oiled tine with clingfilm.

Whip the cream, which must be at room temperature, until it holds soft peaks. Stir a large spoonful of the whipped cream into the warm, melted chocolate. Mix it in completely, ensuring there are no white streaks remaining. Then carefully but thoroughly fold this chocolate and cream mixture into the remaining whipped cream. Pour the mixture into the prepared cake tin and smooth the top so it is completely level. Chill for least 2 hours.

To serve, turn the tin upside down on to a plate, let the cake slip out then remove the cling film. Dust the cake with cocoa powder and use a sharp warm knife to cut into slices

PURBROOK FLORAL ART CLUB

All our meetings are held on the second Thursday in the month. We meet at Deverell Hall, Purbrook, 7pm for 7.30pm. There are refreshments, raffle and sales table. Visitors are very welcome at a small charge of £4 per person.

PROGRAMME FOR 2009

13 th August	Demonstration Gretchen White	The Murmuring of the Bees
10 th September	Demonstration David Denyer	Falling Leaves
8 th October	Workshop Pamela Welch	Christmas Theme <i>TBA</i>
12 th November	Demonstration Carole Norman	Christmas
10 th December	Christmas Party	Deverell Hall

All enquiries please call one of the Committee Members:

Jenny Withers – Chairperson – 023 9225 1721
Lorraine Plant – Secretary – 023 9264 3809

FORTHCOMING TRIPS 2009

SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER – DEPARTS 9AM

Batemans – Rudyard Kipling’s House and Garden (National Trust) £19 adult, £12.50 NT.

SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER – DEPARTS 10.30AM

Kingston Maurward Gardens and Abbotsbury Sub Tropical Floodlit Garden £21 or £13 RHS

Please note: When booking a trip we will require a £10 non-returnable deposit. This is because the cost of hiring a coach has increased so much.

SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER
BATEMANS (RUDYARD KIPLINGS HOUSE) AND
SOUTH DOWNS HERITAGE CENTRE
(DEPART 9AM)

Bateman's embedded in the wooded landscape of the Sussex Weald, owned and loved by Rudyard Kipling it was his idea of a home, a sanctuary, private away from the noise of the village. Built in 1634 the Kiplings made every effort to find furniture in keeping with the period of the house. There are many oriental rugs and artefacts reflecting the authors strong associations with the East. Most of the rooms are much as Kipling left them, including his book lined study.

There is a 10 acre garden with the River Dudwell flowing through it; this powers the watermill producing flour for sale in the shop. Kiplings 1928 Rolls Royce, gift shop and a licensed self service tearoom serving lunches and light refreshments.

We will be stopping on the way for a break at the South Downs Heritage centre as Hassock. This is a garden centre and nursery it is a traditional family business and operated by the Tate family and have traded in Sussex for over 300 years and were renowned as wheelwrights. The Heritage Centre displays a wide range of exhibits including reconstructed workplaces of the time, vintage ploughs and other rural antiquities give an insight into days gone by.

Admission to the Heritage Centre is free, with donations invited to local charities.

SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER
KINGSTON MAURWARD GARDENS & ANIMAL PARK, ABBOTSBURY SUB-TROPICAL FLOODLIT GARDEN
(DEPART 10.30AM)

Kingston Maurward House was built in 1720 for George Pitt and the gardens were laid out in the 'Jardin Anglais' style popularised by Capability Brown. Rolling turf, carefully place groups of trees, a lake and a temple. The formal gardens were created in the Arts and Crafts style of the Edwardian period with a series of garden rooms designed by Sir Cecil and Lady Hanbury, a well known horticultural family who

also owned the gardens at La Mortola in Italy and who had endowed Wisley Gardens to the RHS. In 1947 Dorset County Council bought the Estate for £24,000 and created the Dorset Farm Institute, Kingston Maurward College now runs many different courses with the grounds and farm being principal teaching areas.

The visitor Centre has an extensive range of goods, Café and Plant Sales.

Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens established in 1765 by the first Countess of Ilchester as a kitchen garden for her nearby castle, developed since then into a magnificent 20 acre garden filled with rare and exotic plants from all over the world. Many of these plants were first introductions to this country and discovered by the plant hunting descendants of the Countess. The gardens are floodlit at this time of the year so we will be leaving a bit later than usual. There is a Tea House, Gift Shop and Plant Nursery. 50% of the gardens are accessible to disabled visitors.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR 2009

Thursday 6th August

Bryan Madders with a talk and slides on unusual perennials. We are always looking out for something different and this hopefully will not disappoint.

Thursday 3rd September

Bill Chase, a local expert on Cacti, a prickly subject!

Thursday 1st October

Our usual Pumpkin Competition, quiz, refreshments and general get-together. Try to source your pumpkin seed now for the largest types ready for sowing early 2010. Many shops and garden centres sell off seed before the autumn. There will also be plants available in the store.

Thursday 5th November

John Comes, photographer, showing lots of slides of flowers and wildlife. Maybe we can pick his brains about how to take better pictures.

Magazine, Cards and Equipment Loans

There is a selection of Society Magazines, Privilege Cards and garden equipment available for loan to Members, against a signature at the Membership Desk in the Store.

Magazine

The Garden – Journal of the RHS
National Dahlia Society Bulletin
The Rose
Chrysanthemum Society
National Vegetable Society
Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies – Monthly Bulletin

Cards

RHS Reduced Garden Entry (+1 guest) – not Wisley on Sundays
National Vegetable Society
Royal National Rose Society
National Chrysanthemum Society
National Dahlia Society

Equipment

Lawn Spreaders (2) £1 charge towards replacement costs
Leaf Vac/Blower (2)
Lawn Rakes and leads (4) £2 deposit, refundable on return

Anyone borrowing an item is required to return it within two weeks, so that other Members may have the opportunity to use it.

Folding Tables may also be borrowed (£1 per table)

Diary 2009

6 th Aug	Bryan Madders	Talk and slides on unusual perennials
3 rd Sept	Bill Chase	A Talk on Cacti

1 st Oct	Pumpkin Evening	Competition & Quiz
5 th Nov	John Combes	Photography – Flowers and wildlife
3 rd Dec	AGM	

FOR OUR NEW MEMBERS

For those of you reading this magazine for the first time, you may be interested to know what takes place at our Monthly Meetings.

We meet at the Deverell Hall on the first Thursday of every month, excluding January. Doors open at 7pm and the meeting commences at 7.30pm. Illustrated talks are presented by well-known local personalities; these programmes are mainly of a horticultural nature, although at times other topics of interest are presented.

An interval is usually taken at about 8.30pm when coffee or tea and biscuits are served (at no charge). This is then followed by the drawing of the Raffle. The speaker then concludes the evening talk and the meeting closes at about 9.45pm.

Do come and join us, you will be made most welcome. In addition to enjoying the talk you can view the Show Table, buy plants from the Plant Stall, book a seat on one our outings, pay your Membership Fees and meet the other members and officers of the Society.

TRADING STORE OPENING HOURS

Every Saturday 9.30am to 11.30am

The Trading Store is situated on the London Road, Widley,
adjacent to 'The Old Vicarage'

Items for inclusion in the Autumn 2009 issue, distributed at the start of November should be with the Editor by the first Saturday in October.