

GARDENER'S GAZETTE

Summer 2011

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

www.purbrookhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

SUMMER SHOW

Sunday 21st August 2011

Crookhorn College of Technology,

Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville

Doors open to the public 2.00pm

All welcome – refreshments available

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

The Spring Show has come and gone – where does the time go?

The entries as usual were of a very high quality – and show the dedication and work put in by the exhibitors for months beforehand. There is never any guarantee that the weather will be helpful; indeed, the night before was very cold and apparently caught a few exhibitors unprepared. This must be irritating to say the least when all the work comes to nothing literally overnight! The show was a great success – the members and public supporting all the work that is put in over the previous year – not just by the growers but the show committee and all the helpers who every year turn up and give of their best. The catering was excellent, it was difficult to get a seat it was so popular. Raffle, flower selling, etc. all did well – so helping the Society to recoup some of the costs. Thank you for all your support and a special thank you to the helpers; front of house and those in the background. Well done to all.

Now for the Summer Show – the Schedules are printed and can be collected at a Thursday meeting or on a Saturday morning at the Store (9.30am-11.30am). It can be fun to enter and see how you get on – you never know with all the Classes available, including those for novices there is always the possibility of a prize.

Once again a plea for help on a Saturday morning at the Store – it is not necessary to turn up every week. If you can help out and are reasonably fit, please contact Brian the Store Manager or one of the Committee, you will be made most welcome!

Good growing

Richard

STORE NEWS

New Items in Stock

Easy Plant Wall Baskets – The 'easy plant' hanging baskets have proved so popular, particularly as we are selling them well below normal retail price, that I have obtained the wall basket version which we are also doing at a good discount.

Garden Clogs – We now stock a variety of sizes of slip on garden clogs.

Peat –free Compost - We are all being urged to use less peat because the peat bogs are a valuable irreplaceable resource. In fact it is likely that its use will be severely restricted in a few years and will become virtually unobtainable by home gardeners. This is a reminder that we stock 'New Horizon' Organic Peat Free compost. This came top in a test last year by 'Gardening Which'. I have used it and found it to be a good, general purpose, compost that is friable and easy to work with, although it is a bit too coarse for the smaller seeds. You can, of course, mix it with your normal compost if you want – every little helps to save the Planet!

SEED POTATO NET BAGS - If you have bought seed potatoes from us this year, we would appreciate it if you could return the orange net bags as they are quite expensive to replace. Thank you.

Brian

MEMBERSHIP AND GAZETTE DISTRIBUTION

Welcome to all our new members and my thanks to all of you who have renewed so promptly for 2011.

I hope that you are all aware of the Society website:

www.purbrookhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

and that it contains each issue of the Gazette. Largely, but not entirely, as a result of increased postal charges, the cost of production and distribution of the Gazette has almost doubled in the past few years. In order to keep our costs as low as possible it would be most helpful if more members were to access the Gazette on-line instead of receiving a printed copy. If you are prepared to do this please let me know by phone (023 9237 2713), via the membership desk at the Store or by informing any Committee member.

Graham Spooner

THE 2011 SPRING SHOW

Saturday 19th March dawned bright and clear following an overnight frost. Chats with a few of the show "regulars" suggested that it had not been a straightforward growing season and doubts were expressed regarding some of the classes being ready by Show day. I was thus pleasantly surprised on Friday night to find that I had processed entries from 26 entrants and printed entry cards for 125 exhibits. This was well up on the 98 and 86 entries in 2009 and 2010 respectively, though I expected a few "no shows" from those few entries submitted several days ahead of the show which would probably have included a few classes based on hope rather than expectation.

Armed with my list of the number of entries in each class two of the team of volunteers had all the class cards and class dividers in place on the tables by 9a.m. We had however forgotten about the overnight frost that had flattened some entries resulting in only about 100 entries turning up and some last minute "adjustment" to the allocated space for each class. In the view of the Judge the standard of the daffodil entries was very high given the vagaries of the weather and the date of the show. The Floral Art judge was similarly impressed by the number and standard of the entries. Thanks to Jenny Withers for "persuading" so many of you to enter.

As usual, the hall heating was only turned on after the judging so when the show opened at 2pm, the visitors were greeted by the very strong scent of the hyacinths and the "Sir Winston Churchill" narcissi. Following last year's trial, entry was again by donation and once

again these were generous. There seemed to be more visitors than last year and before long the admiring comments on the spring flower and the floral Art exhibits was replaced by the very loud buzz of friends chattering. By about 3-15pm nearly all of Betty's delectable cakes had been bought and consumed - a first for our show and confirmation of just how good they were.

The trophy winners were:

The Peter Harden Trophy for the best narcissi in pebbles and water – Brian Andrews.

The Stan Wood Cup for the best "Binkie" daffodils in a pot – Maureen Kemp.

The Eric Martin Cup for the best exhibit – Mark Ward.

The PHS Novice spring Cup – Mary Brown.

The Society Shield for the highest total points awarded – Mark Ward.

The PHS Spring Cup for the highest total points classes 1 to 6 – Mark Ward

The Trophy for the best Floral Art Exhibit – Maureen Simpson.

The Daffodil Society Bronze medal awarded to the best bloom in show – Peter Rogers.

The trophies were presented by the Society president – David Parker.

Charles Mobsby

SPRING SHOW CATERING

What a great day, good weather and everybody chatting and enjoying themselves. A big thank you to Janet, Maureen, Wendy and Zanthia for their contributions to the refreshments and sales table and also the helpers on the stalls.

We are delighted that so many of you came to support the PHS, but we do need a few more people to produce cakes etc. for the shows, as it falls quite heavily on the shoulders of the "far and few". I am sure some of you could give Mr Kipling a run for his money. So come on dust off those old cookery books or 'hook out' that favourite cake recipe and SURPRISE ME at the Summer Show!

Betty

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE SUMMER SHOW

Those of you who support the Summer Show well know what goes on during staging and at the show – but have you ever wondered what happens behind the scenes? Well here is a brief description:

1. On the Saturday morning, we start at about 8:00. If we haven't managed to take all the stuff from the store to the school on the Friday, effort is split between loading and unloading the transport and moving all surplus chairs into unused adjacent areas and if

necessary sweeping the floors. School tables are then moved and arranged in the dining and annex areas and society tables carried into the hall and the sales areas, erected and arranged. The tables in the show areas are covered in white plastic sheet with careful attention to the overhang and squared corners. Niches are installed in the Floral Art areas, class cards and class dividers spaced out on the tables. Staging tables, vases and bins of water placed strategically. The entry and variety cards printed on A4 sheets are separated into individual cards and placed in envelopes for each exhibitor. All this has to be completed by 4:30pm when staging starts.

2. The catering team also starts at 8:00. The serving area and the tables in the dining areas are cleaned and covered by the catering team who also prepare tea/coffee and a light lunch for the helpers. Lunch is at about 12:15 and after clearing up, this team disbands with many going home to bake for the next day while others help in the show hall.
3. Staging is between 4:30 and 8pm. During staging, the show secretary assisted by one or two volunteers hand out exhibitor entry cards, help and advise exhibitors, sort out any problems and produce replacement entry cards and variety cards.
4. This is repeated during staging on Sunday between 8:00 and 10:15am.
5. The catering team resumes duties early on Sunday, preparing light lunches for the stewards and judges followed by readying the show refreshments for a 2pm show opening. They then move on to either serving refreshments or collecting money
6. The stewards start work some time before staging ends when they fine tune the space allocated to each class and check that exhibits are in the correct class and according to schedule. When staging closes they tidy up their section, and collect their judge whom they assist during the judging. They report results and affix place stickers on the winning entry cards. After judging some of the stewards help manage the show area and ensure that the public do not touch the exhibits.
7. The stall holders and their helpers report during the morning and get their stalls ready by show opening time and then man their stalls – we try to get sufficient helpers to allow everyone time off to go round the Show.
8. The show secretary with a couple of helpers processes the results sheets sent in by the stewards and compute the winners of the “total points” trophies and each entrants winnings and prepare the results boards.
9. The most frenetic behind the scenes activity takes place after the show closes at 4:15 since we have to have cleared up and left the premises by 6pm. All unsold plants, bulbs etc are packed to be taken back to the store. The plastic covers are carefully removed from the tables, semi neatly folded and packed for use the next year. Our tables are packed in their boxes and stacked for collection. If there is any debris, floors are swept and then the schools tables and chairs returned to the rooms in which they were found. All the society property (vases, bins, urns, uncollected trophies, display boards, Floral Art niches, gazebos etc) is stacked at the entrance for transport back to the store. The available transport is packed and hopefully there are a few volunteers at the store to help unload the transport and move it under cover inside the store so that the volunteer drivers can get home. It will be “put away” by a few volunteers on a prearranged evening during the following week.

All the above activities rely on volunteers and we urgently need new volunteers since age is taking its toll. If you think you can help with any of the jobs, then please put your name down on the list for that job on the "Request for volunteers" lists you will find at the store. Please always specify the time period for which you will be available so that, if necessary we can "persuade" others to fill in the gaps.

Many thanks Charles Mobsby – Show Secretary

PUMPKIN EVENING 2011

Tickets available £1.00 each to include refreshments and light hearted quiz.

Pumpkin Classes for Competition

1. Heaviest Pumpkin – Prize £10
2. Culinary Pumpkin, small sugar variety – Prize £10
3. Culinary Pumpkin, any variety – Prize £10
4. Squash, any variety – Prize £10
5. Decorated Pumpkin – Prize £10

Plants will be available from the store from the beginning of May, weather permitting.

Phil

JARS

Thank you for all your help this year in bringing your empties to the store. I now have about 180 tucked away in the garage so do not need any more now until winter. Let's hope we get a good year with our produce.

Betty

JAM/MARMALADE

Last year we did a small survey on the price of cakes in various establishments. This year it is the turn of the jams and marmalades. We surveyed local garden centres and the prices ranged from £2.59-£3.59 and also National Trust houses and the prices ranged from £2.75-£3.50. These were all for 340gms/12oz jars.

In conclusion the jams/marmalade that we sell at the Store and our Shows are mostly in 1lb jars and offer the best buy at £1.60 per lb!

I would like to add that by purchasing your jam/marmalade from your Society, not only are you getting good value for money but all the money raised goes straight back into the Society. Also you are doing your bit for the carbon footprint because it is grown and produced in Purbrook, not flown in from France or been road freighted around the country.

So if you have bought a jar or two, thank you very much for your support and if you haven't tried a jar then I urge you to 'give it a go'.

Thank you again and happy gardening

Betty

IF I CAN.....

Just back from the Spring Show and brimming with ideas and enthusiasm. As a novice entrant, I clumsily "plonked" my single bloom in place and then looked at the marvellous display completed by the experienced exhibitors.. The precision of the flower head and sheer beauty made me consider scratching my "poor little specimen"! Then along came it's saviour I was advised by the more experienced how to make the most of my bloom and they certainly encouraged to the extent that my "poor little specimen" suddenly became a serious contender! It stood tall and proud, showing off like a model as I took its picture, and was contented with my effort. Time passed and a cup of Tea and slice of cake (ok, more than one slice!) later, I strolled over to my entry and joy, oh joy, a first! So now in my "Oscar Winner" speech, I would like to thank everyone who assisted and encouraged me and to tell them all, "I'll Be Back!"

Lynda Piddington

WEEDS BY RICHARD MABEY

I am not a really enthusiastic gardener and have always maintained that I can grow best anything that thrives on neglect.

At Christmas I was given the above book and it was with some foreboding that I read the chapter headings, each one appearing to be the name of a weed.

These headings are, however, merely a peg on which to hang each chapter and the heading in question seldom gets more than one sentence within a chapter of fifteen or more pages. In fact this book is an entertaining, fascinating cultural history of weeds, and other plants.

As the start of the blurb says:-“Ever since The first human settlements, 10,000 years ago, weeds have dogged our footsteps. They are as the punishment of ‘thorns and thistles’ in Genesis and, two millennia later, as symbols of sacrifice and regeneration in the poppies of Flanders Field. They are civilisations’ familiars, invading farmland and building site, war-zones and flower beds across the globe. Yet, living so intimately with us, they have been a blessing too. Weeds were the first crops, the first medicines. Burdock was the inspiration for Velcro. Cow parsley has become the fashionable adornment of spring weddings”.

This book has changed the way that I may think about weeds, but will not affect the way that I treat them, which is dependent upon weather, time and personal energy/inclination.

Graham Spooner

DREARY DAYS

Does anyone else have a love/hate relationship with Plant and Seed Catalogues? As I sit in my chair contemplating a wet garden, the sound of Seed Catalogues plopping onto the doormat, I am initially excited. What's new? What beautiful colours, all vibrant and shiny and new! Reading the contents and examining the glossy photographs, I realize that my garden is too small for the number of plants on my wish list. Here comes the dilemma, do I remove plants that did not fare well last year in order to make room for the new shiny ones listed or do I give the old ones another chance? Then I ponder the logistics of keeping the old for another year [ever the optimist] and purchasing new to start in containers until a firm decision on the old ones is made. I take another look at the garden and the quandary of accommodating the containers that were already being used for last year's indecision! Hanging Baskets spring to mind in a Eureka moment, but my Trees are already festooned as are the Shepherds Crooks, so now what? Peering over the Hedge at next door I consider the possibility of renting space or even taking more drastic action such as moving the hedge over in the middle of the night, when common sense prevails and carefully re-examine my wish list. After much deliberation I take the offending Catalogues and very very carefully place them in the re-cycling bin! Decision made and equilibrium reached a celebratory cup of coffee made when a sound has me quaking, what's that on the doormat? Oh NO not another! Here we go again.

Linda Piddington

SOCIETY NOTES

Towards the end of last year I was contacted by a Mr Gardener who lived in the Reading area regarding some of his father's effects. Apparently they had been put to one side on several occasions, Mr Gardener not wanted to get rid of the objects but not knowing what to do with them. He then checked our website and contacted me to ask if we would like to have the articles for our archives. I said we'd be delighted and took possession of amongst other things a 1940's Schedule and his father's membership card. These have now been put in the archives.

I sent back a current Gazette and by checking the website, which he was very impressed with, he telephoned to say he would try to come down for our Spring Show. He also sent a

cheque to sponsor the show in his father's memory. He introduced himself and duly met most of our Committee members who were present.

He was the treasurer of his Society in Reading which had over 900 members and was still growing. Some of the other societies in the area have struggled over the years and had merged or closed; some of the members joining his society. I would like to thank him for the artefacts and sponsorship; it was a pleasure to welcome him to our show and we hope his Society will go from strength to strength.

Richard

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Community spirit is normally associated with a bygone age but it is alive and well at the Purbrook Horticultural Society thanks to our friendly members and the wider gardening fraternity. Many small Societies are finding the recession hard as new membership slows and the existing members fall by the wayside, but we are "holding our own" due, in main, to enthusiasm, hard work and the cooperation of other groups.

As you sit and have a cup of Tea and chat at the Broadway Cafe in Purbrook satisfied that proceeds are going to the St John's Church restoration fund, were you aware that St John's print all copies of the Gazette and Show schedules? Other Community interaction from the Inter Schools Trophy Competition has resulted in not only our "Ambassadors" visiting Schools to offer advice and assistance, but following the Society being featured in the RHS Growing Communities magazine, also enquiries from other Horticultural Societies as to how to start and run similar schemes. The web site has also generated interest from past members who have moved away from the area and one on the other side of the world!, catching up with news from Purbrook and even another Horticultural Society member donating memorabilia from his parents who were past members, for our archive ~ most interesting!

Local publications and companies are an invaluable source of sponsorship of classes within the Shows and donating advertising space, but our greatest asset is YOU! Without you turning up at the Trading Store on Saturday mornings to assist, advise or purchase; attend Monthly Meetings; go on Outings; enter the Shows; contribute articles to the Gazette and Web site ; make Tea and Wash Up or just by extolling the virtues of our Society, it would not be the friendly, vibrant and successful society that it is.

Linda Piddington

TRIPS FOR 2011

I am organising the following trips for this year, the prices quoted will be approximate because of the fuel crisis they could be dearer or cheaper. Because of this I will need a £15 deposit; this covers the cost of a seat on the coach and will be non-refundable unless there is someone available to take a place. I have consulted my crystal ball and have chosen fine weather days again with luck.

Ann Richardson

SUNDAY 8TH MAY SHERBORNE CASTLE & LAKESIDE GARDENS £23 HHA Members £15

Built by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1594, Sherborne Castle has been the home of the Digby family since 1617. Prince William of Orange was entertained here & George III in 1789. Splendid state rooms and collections of Art, Furniture and Porcelain are on view in the Castle, also Raleigh's kitchen and fine family artefacts and 'find' from the Old Castle in the cellars. There is a Fossil & Archive display as an extension of Dorset's world famous Jurassic coast. Capability Brown created the lake in 1753 and gave Sherborne the very latest in landscape gardening.

The Lakeside tea room serves snacks and light lunches, and there is a gift shop and it is only a short walk to the town and Abbey.

Disabled access- ground floor only- gardens unrestricted.

SUNDAY 12TH JUNE OSTERLEY PARK & HOUSE £22 N.T.MEMBERS £15

Osterley Park and House is a spectacular 18th century mansion surrounded by gardens, park and farmland, is one of London's best kept secrets. Designed by Robert Adam the leading architect and interior designer of his day, the interiors of the House continue to dazzle and impress visitors today.

The National Trust have been restoring the gardens, the focal point of the formal garden is Mrs Childs flower garden and for the first time in many years displays of colourful plants and fruit trees have been returned to the Garden House. There is a licensed tea room in the stable block serving lunches & teas. N.T.shop & electric courtesy bus. Disabled use of a stairclimber and garden has level paths.

SUNDAY 17TH JULY CHENIES MANOR AND PLANT & GARDEN FAIR £24

This grade 1 listed building known formerly as Chenies Palace, was owned by the Cheyne family who were granted the Manorial rights in 1180. Both Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I visited the house on many occasions. It was bought by the Macleod Matthews family in 1950 who commenced a long process of restoration which continues to this day. Most recently the 16th century pavilion was restored and a basement storey was uncovered containing numerous interesting architectural features.

In the centre of the house is an unusual spiral staircase and in this area footsteps are still heard crossing the gallery, possibly those of Henry VIII towards his then Queen Catherine Howard's room. The Manor is surrounded by five acres of enchanting gardens.

The famous Plant & Garden Fair with 70 specialist nurseries is on the day of our visit, entry to the house will be at 2p.m.

SUNDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER WATERPERRY GARDENS £19

Waterperry gardens are steeped in history, with the famous purely herbaceous border dating back to the 1930s when Beatrix Havergal established her Ladies Horticultural School. Running the length of the old kitchen garden wall, the border provides interest from May to September. New designs have been incorporated into the 8 acre gardens over the years, knot garden, herb border, water lily canal and herbaceous nursery stock beds from which all plants are sold in the plant centre. Island beds designed by nurseryman Alan Bloom, alpine garden and riverside walk. As well as an art gallery, small rural life museum, teashop, restaurant and shop. Waterperry is an oasis of calm and beauty within easy reach of Oxford.

Disabled access good.

PURBROOK FLORAL ART CLUB

The Floral Art Club is affiliated to The Purbrook Horticultural Society (PHS) and welcomes both beginners and experienced flower arrangers. New members can join for an annual subscription of £20 per year plus a £5 PHS membership, which includes entry to most demonstrations and workshops. Guests are always welcome at a cost of £4.50 per evening.

All meetings are held at the Deverell Hall, Purbrook (unless otherwise stated) on the second Thursday of the month. Doors open at 7pm and the meeting commences at 7.30pm. If you need to bring anything with you for the workshops, you will be advised at the previous meeting.

Tea and coffee are available. There is a raffle, sales table and a themed 'Bring and Buy' to raise money for the club and keep the subscription fees as low as possible.

Jenny Withers - Chairman

PURBROOK FLORAL ART CLUB

PROGRAMME FOR 2011

12th May	Demonstration	'Saw this and Thought'
	Margaret Simpson	
9th June	Workshop	TBC
	Carole Edney-Gunter	
14th July	Social Evening	TBC
11th August	Demonstration	'Cheerful Things'

Graham King

8 th September	Demonstration	Autumn in England
	David Denyer (2011 Chelsea Gold Medallist)	Spring in Australia
13th October	Demonstration	'Autumn Lights'
	Marion Catt	
10th November	Demonstration	'Xmas Extravaganza'
	Pamela Welch	
8th December	Christmas Party	TBC

All enquiries please call one of the Committee Members:

Jenny Withers – Chairman – 023 9225 1721

Lorraine Plant – Secretary – 023 9264 3809

2ND JUNE MEETING 2011

It has become more expensive to book a coach for the evening meeting, also it is difficult to find a venue close enough to be visited and enjoyed in the time scale we have. So the Committee decided to have a social evening:-

Skittle Evening - At the Anson Rooms

Anson Road

Waterlooville

Time 7pm

Ticket cost £8

The tickets include a meal of your choice to be arranged at purchase of ticket from the following menu:-

Chicken, chips and peas

Plaice, chips and peas

Vegetarian lasagne

Cheddar Ploughman's

Drinks can be purchased at the bar

You do not have to play skittles, just come, join us and watch the experts!

Tickets are on sale and numbers will be limited.

Betty

ADVANCE NOTICE OF MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR 2011

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Thursday 5th May

Jan Mitchell – 'From garden to glass, home wine making with samples'

Thursday 2nd June

Skittles Evening – Anson Rooms, Waterlooville – Tickets £8.

Thursday 7th July

Mrs Jill Cross – A local lady talking about 'Pop's Allotment'

Thursday 4th August

Dr Alec Jones - Birds and Gardens - Perfect Partners

Thursday 1st September

Colin Crosbie – from Wisley (and on telly!) on British Trees

October

Pumpkin Quiz and Social – more details to follow.

Thursday 3rd November

Paul Bowers – A travel talk (title in next gazette)

Diary 2011

5th May	Jan Mitchell	'From garden to glass, home wine making with samples!'
2nd June	Skittles Evening	Anson Rooms, Anson Road, Waterlooville Tickets £8
7th July	Mrs Jill Cross	A local lady talking about 'Pop's Allotment'
4th August	TBA	
1st Sept	Colin Crosbie from Wisley	On British Trees
3rd Nov	Paul Bowers	A travel talk

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 & June. 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 of 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 2011 issue, distributed at the start of August should be with the Editor by the first Saturday in July.