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GARDENER'S GAZETTE

Spring 2010

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

SPRING SHOW

Saturday 20th March 2010

Deverell Hall, Purbrook

Doors open 2.00pm

All welcome – refreshments available

£

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

First of all, may I thank those who turned out for the AGM. The proceedings didn't go on too long and then it was on to the delicious spread and a welcome cup of tea/coffee. Thank you to all who prepared, served and cleared away afterwards, it was much appreciated.

I will have to come clean, and admit I am the guilty party to this issue being delayed. Everything seemed to conspire to hold up my input; it was so late that the snow had nearly cleared! So apologies to Patricia; because of my slovenliness she had to rush to claw back some time.

The season is hopefully just about to start so the helpers at the Store are gearing up for the expected rush. Most of the composts are available but the potatoes have been held back by the weather. Rather that they get to us in good condition than frosted! I expect Brian will have a bit to say in his missive.

As usual, I hope it's a good year for us gardeners – but regardless I know adversity of any kind tends to make the average horticulturist even more stubborn. So here's to good weather, good seeds and plenty of produce at the end of it all. (Maybe some for the Annual Show?)

Good gardening

Richard

MEMBERSHIP 2010

All memberships should have been renewed by January 1st 2010, or at your first meeting or visit to the store thereafter. Renewals can be made from now on at Thursday meetings, including the AGM and also at the Store on Saturday mornings.

Renewals may also be done by post to the Membership Secretary. Cards will be sent by return of post if an SAE is enclosed or will be sent out with the next Gazette.

Graham

TREASURER'S 2009 REPORT

A brief summary of the accounts for the year is on the following page.

Considering the current economic situation I think this has been a relatively good year for the Society. A very welcome increase in turnover at the Store compensating for increased costs in other areas such as producing and distributing the Gazette, helped also by both the Floral Art and Trips finishing the year with a surplus. So the comparison with the previous year indicates an overall surplus of some £430, subject, of course, to the usual caveat on the inaccuracies of the stocktaking figures. Let's hope we can build on this in the coming year.

Brian

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR YUEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2009

GENERAL A/C

	<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>GAIN/LOSS</u>
	£		£	£
Shows	1,705.27		3,157.60	-1,452.33
Plants & Tool Sales	1,212.00		70.95	1,141.05
Sale of Preserves	91.50			91.50
Gazette			2,031.55	2,031.55
Meetings	277.64		1,053.01	-775.37
Pumpkin Social & Fed. Quiz	29.40		83.61	-54.21
Evening Trip	340.00		330.00	10.00
Subscriptions	2,617.00			2,617.00
Bank Interest	30.32			30.32
Insurance			620.00	-620.00
Affiliation Fees			157.50	-157.50
Copier Income/Maintenance	5.75		54.88	-49.13
Beneficial Foundation Sub.	40.00		80.00	-40.00
Table/Gazebo Hire	41.00			41.00
Website Set-up Cost		120.00	-120.00	
Admin			36.74	-36.74
Miscellaneous	25.25		199.81	-174.56
	<u>6,415.13</u>		<u>7,995.65</u>	<u>-1580.52</u>

TRADING ACCOUNT

Sales Income		16,581.53	
Opening Stock	9,042.07		
Add: Purchases	<u>13,547.06</u>		
	22,589.13		
Less: Closing Stock	<u>8,055.55</u>		
		<u>14,533.58</u>	
		2,047.95	
Less: Operating Costs:			
Rent to Havant B.C.		250.00	
Other		<u>288.82</u>	
Excess Income Over Expenditure			<u>1,509.13</u>

NET CURRENT ASSETS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2009

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>GAIN/LOSS</u>
Current Assets:			
GIRO Deposit Account	9982.15	9651.83	
GIRO Current Account	421.31	416.19	
Total Cash in Hand	576.31	410.95	
Trips Account	736.32	669.61	
Floral Art Account	1,108.73	786.79	
Stock	75.00	19.01	
Store Stock (Cost VAT incl)	8,055.55	9,042.07	
Copier	20.00	35.00	
Lidl Table (depreciated)	<u>672.00</u>	<u>747.00</u>	
	21,647.37	21,778.45	
Current Liabilities:			
Stock not paid for at 31 st Oct	258.53	748.62	
Deverell Hall for October	51.50	51.50	
St John Ambulance (Show)	0.00	70.50	
	310.03	<u>870.62</u>	
Net Current Assets	21,337.34	20,907.83	<u>429.51</u>

TRADING MANAGER'S REPORT FOR 2009

Following 3 years of almost static turnover figures it was most encouraging to see an increase this year of about £1,130, or more than 7%. Surprisingly our sales of composts were a little down, but this is a very competitive area and we can never hope to compete with the bulk buying power of superstores. However, not many of them stock the quality of composts that we do, and generally you get what you pay for! Also, all our stock is now kept under cover to keep it in better condition. Some composts have gone down in price this year, helped by the lower rate of VAT (provided we pay for it before 1st Jan), others like Levington have gone up. Our Growbags will be dearer this year at £1.75, but you will be hard pressed to find similar quality ones for less than £2.00 anywhere else. It doesn't seem that long ago that the target price was 99p!!

After 2 years of meteoric rises, there are signs that prices of some fertilisers may be coming down. Growmore, for instance, which used to be about £6 a bag shot up to £18 and has now come back down to about £15.

Last years seed potatoes sold so well that I have ordered the same varieties, i.e. Accent, Foremost, Kestrel, Charlotte, Desiree, Romano and Valor. Several members said how successful Valor had been and will no doubt be pleased to see that the price has come down this year. Delivery is expected in January and so should be in the Store by the time you read this.

Thanks are again due to all the regular helpers at the Store and to those I have been able to call on for occasional help.

Hope to see you in the Store in the New Year

Brian

PS **Lawnmowers** – We have acquired three mains electric cylinder mowers at the Store which are in very good condition. No reasonable offer refused.

CHRISTMAS POTATOES

These are seed potatoes held back in cold store until July so that they produce new potatoes in time for Christmas, or earlier, hence the name. We have tried various varieties and this year I ordered Charlotte, which is classed as a salad potato. I grew them outside in large pots and started harvesting them in mid November. I was impressed with the yield of roughly egg-sized tubers, certainly more than other varieties in the past. If you grew them, let me know how you got on so that I can order as appropriate.

Brian

VINE WEEVIL – SOMETHING TO TRY

Often described as the pest of the decade, I, like many others have had big problems in the past the vine weevil. One year I lost more than half my fuchsias and they have regularly attacked my hostas and begonia tubers. I used to try and keep them at bay with products like Gamma BHC, all of which now seem to be off the market. However, a few years ago I noticed that some pots were less badly affected than others, and the common factor seemed to be that I had used broken-up polystyrene in the bottom of the pots for drainage. So I have been doing this more generally and, so far this year, have not found any of the grubs. Is there a possible connection, or am I kidding myself? Perhaps this year they have all drowned in the monsoon weather! Perhaps some of you would like to try my theory out and let me know the result. Could this be a green solution, or will it turn out to be wishful thinking?

Brian

THE SPIDER LEAVES THE LAIR

The Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies now has a website. If you want to view this the easiest way to find it is via the Links page of our own website. All the Organisations to which we are affiliated are now accessible from this page and all are well worth a visit.

The next major event in our calendar is the Spring Show and the Schedule, which incorporates the programme, rules and all details, is available as a download from our website to view and print out. The Daffodil Society have

kindly agreed to publicise the event on their page devoted to relevant Shows. At the time of writing this heads the list as it is in date order and of those published we are alone in holding it in March.

Since my last note a further slideshow showing the last trip for 2009 has been added to the site. This was to Kingston Maurward and Abbotsbury Gardens, the latter in the evening, and the photographs supplied by 2 of our members expertly capture the unusual nature of this experience.

It is now almost one year since the completely revised website was launched. At the beginning I put myself forward to plan the structure and content after taking advice from key members of the committee. Understandably the Web Designer I had selected expressed a wish to deal with a single member of the committee. At this point I suggested a one year time limit to give the opportunity for someone else to inject fresh ideas or a new approach at the end of the period. I am happy to say that I leave with the knowledge that the website is now in the more than capable safe hands of the Editor of this publication.

It only remains for me to thank all those who have contributed in any way to the website, the Chairman, the other members of the committee and the 15,000 plus recorded visitors to the site in the first eleven months.

David Collinson

GARDEN PARTY IN AID OF MACMILLAN CANCER CARE

I am having a Garden Party in my garden on Sunday 2nd May 2010. It may seem a long way away, but time soon goes. The aim is to make £1000 for Macmillan Cancer Care. We intend to have all the usual raffles and tombola, and also a Plant Stall. I would be very grateful if members could bring any good plants to my house on Saturday 1st May so that the plants can be priced and arranged. We are particularly looking for bedding plants. I think that these could sell quite well. If you can't come the day before, come on the Sunday and I am sure it won't be too disorganised. If we have far too many plants, then I would take care of them and have a Plant Sale in aid of Macmillan a little later or sell them at the gate for the same cause the following week. Either way, they would certainly not be wasted.

Date: Sunday 2nd May 2010

Address: 70 Downend Road, Fareham PO16 8TS (next to Fitness First entrance)

Time: 11am – 4pm

Tel: 01329 286238

Thank you in advance

Terry Phillips

RHUBARB AND STRAWBERRY JAM

This is a very cheap jam to make and always successful. The recipe was given to me by a teacher who taught special needs children. She said that they made it every year and it always worked. The quantities are in ounces because this was how it was given to me. I have tried making jam with out of season, imported fruit and it does not seem to work. Perhaps because the fruit has not been allowed to ripen before it has been picked and shipped half way across the world. An old jam-making friend of mine always swore that it was better to use cane sugar in jam making rather than sugar processed from sugar beet. Chemically, I believe that they are both the same, but she said that sugar beet sugar just did not seem to keep so well. Anyway, it may be worth seeking out cane sugar if you expect to keep your jam for any length of time.

8 ounces rhubarb, washed and chopped into slices about quarter inch long (you will understand why in a minute)

8 ounces strawberries, roughly sliced

16 ounces (1lb) sugar

Method – put all the ingredients into your saucepan, and leave it for at least 4 hours until the sugar has dissolved. (Trust me)

Just heat up the mixture and cook as for jam, until setting point is reached (use the wrinkle method). Put into hot sterilized jars and cover tightly. Delicious. Tastes of strawberries and not rhubarb.

Terry Phillips

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 2009/10

- 11th February **AGM**
- 11th March **Demonstration 'That Spring Feeling'**
Ann-Marie Dicker
- 8th April **Demonstration 'Natures Treasures'**
Jenny Withers
- 13th May **Demonstration 'Brighton to Barbados'**
Stephen McDonnell

All enquiries please call one of the Committee Members:

Jenny Withers – Chairman – 023 9225 1721

Lorraine Plant – Secretary – 023 9264 3809

FORTHCOMING TRIPS 2010

SUNDAY 23RD MAY – DEPARTS 9AM

Hever Castle

Adults £23, SC £22, Child £19

WEDNESDAY 7TH JULY – DEPARTS 8AM

Hampton Court Flower Show

Tickets £25 & Coach £13

SUNDAY 25TH JULY – DEPARTS 9AM

Ham House and Gardens N.T.

Adults £22, NT £14

SUNDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER – DEPARTS 9AM

Bennetts Water Garden and Athelhampton House

Adults £23

Please Note: When booking a trip we will require a £10 non-returnable deposit. I have tried to keep trip prices to the minimum, but with fuel prices rising it is getting difficult. The cost of the coach hire and ticket prices are going up every year, hopefully the above prices won't have to go up.
Happy New Year to All

Ann

SUNDAY 23RD MAY
HEVER CASTLE
DEPARTS 9AM

Hever Castle is a romantic double-moated castle, famous for being the childhood home of Anne Boleyn. It has one of the best collections of Tudor portraits. William Waldorf Astor created the Edwardian gardens including the magnificent Italian garden, a 38 acre lake, cascades, grottoes and fountains. Disabled access: Castle ground floor only, Garden accessible.

WEDNESDAY 7TH JULY
HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW
DEPARTS 8AM

The people who have put their names down for this trip, please can you pay me the £25 for the ticket by the end of February, so that I can purchase the tickets. The balance to be paid before we go. You are welcome to send me a cheque made payable to "PHS TRIPS" to 16 Fir Copse Road, Waterlooville, Hants PO7 5JA. If you are not able to come please let me know asap on 023 9225 4986.

SUNDAY 25TH JULY
HAM HOUSE AND GARDENS
(NATIONAL TRUST)
DEPARTS 9AM

Ham house is perhaps the most remarkable Stuart house in the country. A former home of the Duke and Duchess of Lauderdale; the house was the

forefront of fashion and retains much of its interior decoration, textiles, furniture and paintings are shown in 26 rooms.

The garden is a survival of English formal gardening being restored to its former glory.

Disabled access: partial

SUNDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER
BENNETTS WATER GARDEN AND ATHELHAMPTON
HOUSE
DEPARTS 9AM

Bennetts Water Garden holds a National and International collection of water lilies creating one of the most outstanding displays of water lilies in Britain with a Monet style Japanese bridge, tropical house containing exotic plants and cacti. A Museum containing local history of Chickerell village and Chesil Beach.

Athelhampton House and Gardens a Tudor Manor House restored in 1890. Acquired by the Cooke family in 1957 and is still a family home. The gardens are in Elizabethan style with spectacular Topiary, a Labyrinth of rooms each with their own theme, fountains and pools.

Disabled access: partial

ADVANCE NOTICE OF
MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR 2010

Thursday 4th February

Derek Brown, 'Fun in retirement'. This talk has been recommended by another group as being extremely entertaining.

Thursday 4th March

Mrs Lucy Frost 'Organic gardening'. More details to follow.

Thursday 1st April

David Coates 'Exotic Plants'.

Thursday 6th May

Gerry Fry 'The Life of the Honey Bee'.

June excursion to be announced later

Thursday 1st July

Mrs Jennifer Harmer 'Primula Auriculas – history and culture'. If you have never grown these plants they are well worth it, very pretty and with a gorgeous scent.

Thursday 5th August

Dennis Bright 'Valley of the Barn Owls'.

Thursday 2nd September

Alan Martin 'Anecdotes from working and studying plants in Jerusalem'. Alan worked in Israel for his internship from Sparsholt College.

Thursday 7th October

Hopefully our regular Pumpkin & Quiz evening.

Thursday 4th November

Mrs Carol Watson 'South Africa in Bloom'.

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 2010

4 th Feb	Derek Brown	'Fun in retirement'
4 th Mar	Mrs Lucy Frost	'Organic Gardening'
1 st Apr	David Coates	'Exotic Plants'
6 th May	Gerry Fry	'The Life of the Honey Bee'
June	Evening Trip	Details to follow
1 st July	Mrs J Harmer	'Primula Auriculas'
5 th Aug	Dennis Bright	'Valley of the Barn Owls'
2 nd Sept	Alan Martin	'Anecdotes from Jerusalem'
7 th Oct	Pumpkin Night	
4 th Nov	Mrs Carol Watson	'South Africa in Bloom'

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 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 Summer 2010 issue, distributed at the start of May should be with the Editor by the first Saturday in April.