



Purbrook
Horticultural
Society

GARDENER'S GAZETTE Winter 2011

Affiliated to:

**The Royal Horticultural Society
Royal National Rose Society
National Dahlia Society
National Chrysanthemum Society
National Vegetable Society
The Daffodil Society
The Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies**

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 1st December 2011

7.30pm

**Deverell Hall,
London Road, Purbrook, Hants**

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2011

President:	David Parker	
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Outing Organiser:	Ann Richardson	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, Lynda Piddington, Patricia Larcombe, Helen Twitchen, Jenny Withers.

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

Catering Committee: Betty Clark, Santhia Sang.

Auditor: Helen Stock.

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

First of all I would like to thank all those whose efforts before, during and after the Summer Show made it one of the best so far.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend due to my wife having an operation, but the 'word on the street' was well done – keep it up!!

It is not only gratifying to those who do all the work but also to those who exhibit and have the pleasure of their efforts being admired.

The Show Committee are already planning for the next Show which will be the Spring Show on **Sunday 25th March** at the Deverell hall. Schedules are already printed and if you want a copy please call in at the Store or send an A5 sae to the Show Secretary, Mr Charles Mobsby. You will find his address on the inside cover of this Gazette.

The weather seemed to be closing in quickly this year – and then we have a mini-heatwave at the end of September. Global warming or just the natural cycle of weather over the millennia?? I think the latter.

I am aware that the Council is being a lot quicker letting plots to those on the waiting list - apparently demand has never been so good. I'm hoping that the rumoured new site on the building development plan will help to keep the list at a reasonable level – it appears at the moment Havant allotment waiting times are about 18 months. Good luck to all those who are waiting I hope you are successful in due course. I have also been told that the Council are sending letters to untidy/unkempt plot holders to ensure that those that rent them use them!! This is something I hear all the time: 'Why am I waiting when there are seemingly unused plots?' Maybe they have got the message.

I hope the winter season is good to you all and the garden rests while you try to figure out what was (or wasn't) successful last year determined to do better next season. May I wish you all a happy Christmas and a fruitful New Year.

Please keep in mind the AGM – a very important date for the diary. This year it falls on 1st December at the Deverell Hall at 7.30pm. Come along and have your say, and elect the members you want on your Committee. Hopefully there will be time afterwards for 'nibbles' and a light-hearted quiz. See you there!

Good gardening.

Richardl

MEMBERSHIP BUCKS THE TREND!

Once again we are flying in the face of perceived wisdom by maintaining zero inflation for our Membership fee for 2012. The annual subscription remains at £5 per household and membership can be renewed at the monthly meeting or at the Trading Store on Saturday mornings or by post to the Membership Secretary (address on inside front cover).

If renewing by post please make the cheque payable to PHS. If a sae is enclosed the new card will be sent out within about ten days; if there is no sae the new card will be sent out with the next Gazette.

Graham Spooner

ROD, POLE OR PERCH?

Many allotment holders and allotment societies, still refer to the size of their plots in RODS. This can be confusing as most councils rent their plots by the square metre and have done so for a number of years. The ROD is one of a number of little used measurements that now have specific uses such as:

League: generally taken to be about three miles but Roman, French, Spanish and nautical leagues are all different.

Furlong: - 40 poles = one eighth of a mile.

Chain: = 100 links = 66feet = 22 yards = 1 cricket wicket (but an engineers chain is 100 feet).

Rod = Pole = Perch = 5½ yards = 16½ feet as a measurement of length but now used to define an area ie 30¼square yards (or 25.3 square metres). This is based on the current metre defined by British Act of Parliament in 1963 (ie 1 yard = 0.9144 metre).

The original metre was introduced in France at he time of Napoleon and was based on an incorrectly assumed distance. Before this introduction of the metric system each country had its own measurements, based on feet and inches, but the length of these differed between countries so there was no standard measurement of length.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

Last year a team of mainly PHS Members collected a record £2640 at Lidl's in Cowplain. If you would be interested in helping with the collecting, and can spare some time in the two weeks prior to Remembrance Sunday, please contact me for further information.

Brian Andrews – tel: 023 9226 3731

STORE NEWS

Seed Potatoes for 2012

Subject to availability, the following seed potatoes should be in the Store early in the New Year.

1st Early

Casablanca – good quality and yields a long uniform white, partly mottled red tubers with shallow eyes. Good quality skin finish and good taste. Resistant to blight.

Lady Christl – long oval tubers, yellow skin and light yellow flesh. High yields but susceptible to blight. Good resistance to scab.

Arran Pilot – Recommended, with Lady Christl, as an Accent replacement. High yields with oval tubers, cream skin and flesh. Similar properties to Lady Christl.

2nd Early

Kestrel – Oval, part coloured, blue eyed tubers. Flesh pale yellow. Drought resistant. Good flavour.

Charlotte – Long tubers with shallow eyes, yellow flesh and skin, fair/good yield, excellent cooking quality and good salad variety.

Maincrop

Desiree – an early maincrop with medium to large oval tubers and smooth red/purple skin. Flesh pale yellow, shallow/medium eyes. Suitable for boiling, frying, chipping. Susceptible to scab, moderate resistance to blight.

Valour – High yields of short oval tubers with uniform white skin. Good overall disease resistance. Good for late season bakers but poor fry colour.

Christmas Closure

Not surprisingly the store will be closed on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve which fall on Saturdays this year; but please join us on Saturday 17th December when there will be seasonal refreshments available. Store will reopen on 7th January 2012.

A big thank you to all those who have supported the Store over the last year and so helped keep the Society flourishing.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Brian Andrews

TRIP TO WATERPERRY GARDENS

The day dawned a bit murky, but were we downhearted – no – we are made of stronger stuff. We are gardeners and don't expect good weather til it arrives. As it happens, after a couple of light showers, it turned out quite nice!

Waterperry covers quite a large area and is a good day's worth of exploring. The herbaceous borders were stunning, especially for this time of year; they were packed full with no bare earth. There were rudbeckias, heleniums and some gorgeous shades of asters, the whole being in huge wadges (a gardener's technical term) of yellows, oranges, blues and purples.

The small formal garden with a delightful statue was a photographer's dream as were several other pockets of the garden. The naked ladies were out in force including an unusual double type.

The difference between this and other gardens were two things; one, a row of pear and apple trees which were quite amazing. I have never seen pears so large and on such small trees. It was tempting to pick them but we was brung up not to steal. The other unusual feature was the statues dotted around the grounds. They were so tactile and simple but impressive. Some of the stone looked like the green serpentine from Cornwall. The collection is from Zimbabwe on loan till next year. Goodness knows how they transport them.

The church is very old, some parts dating back to the 12^C and must have been for people with very good hearing as you couldn't see the altar from the pews which had very high sides.

The museum is also not to be missed; it is jam packed with curiosities including small bird traps (was it worth it by the time you boned them?!). Also hedge cutters and secateurs with multiple blades. The curator said you won't see them in shops now because they didn't work.

I haven't mentioned everything but it would be worth a visit at any time of the year to see the other plants. There was a children's garden, tended by a local school, which was very good with pumpkins, runner beans and tomatoes – all looked pretty healthy. The café was good and the toilets were clean (most important).

Another enjoyable trip organised by Ann, with a pleasant driver who made excellent time both ways.

Frances

SUMMER SHOW 2011.

Those of you who did not manage to make it to our Summer Show, missed a very good show. Despite the variable summer, exhibits were at their usual high standard though we could have done with a few more exhibitors and exhibits. The Show was very well attended and there was a very loud buzz of conversation both in the Show hall and in the refreshment areas – always a good sign in my opinion.

One feature of interest to the Show Committee was the enthusiasm with which the trophy winners were applauded. From past experience we had come to the conclusion that the winning of some of the trophies was relatively unimportant to some of our major exhibitors and, as an economy measure, were considering withdrawing some of the cups. In the light of the crowd response observed we have shelved that idea.

From those of you who supported the show we would welcome any specific feed back not only on how we could improve the show but also on any aspects you particularly liked. We would also appreciate suggestions for any additional classes, class titles in the photographic classes and tried and tested recipes for the cookery classes - by end Dec 2011 as we put the Schedule together in Jan 2012.

I would like to thank the Show Committee and all those who volunteered to help stage and run the Show. I was delighted to see a few new faces and I hope they found the experience sufficiently interesting or enjoyable that they are now hooked for life. A final thank-you to all the exhibitors without whom we would not have a Show!

For the record the trophy winners were:

Charles Rose Memorial Cup (Best Vegetable Collection)	Mrs R Moore
Borrow Cup (Best Potato exhibit)	D Hall
Cornelius Cup (Best vegetable exhibit excl collections)	D Hall
Ted Miles Trophy (Most points for vegetables)	Mrs R Moore
Juniper Cup (Most points for novice)	Carol Copland
Rowena Cup (Most points for fruit)	Carol Copland
Dring Cup (Most points for roses)	Mike Potts
Healey Cup (Most points for flowers)	Mrs R Moore
George Broom Memorial Bowl (Most points for pot plants)	Audrey Brown
Dring Chrysanthemum Cup (Most points for chrysanthus)	Jack Primmer
Norman Cup (Most points for Dahlias)	Allan Chivers
Rosemary Trophy (Most points for floral art)	Jenny Withers

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Ava Trophy (Most points for jams and preserves)	Kate Legg
Charlwood Cup (Most points in all classes, ladies)	Mrs R Moore
Napier Cup (Most points in all classes, gentleman)	D Hall
Enid Gauntlett Cup (Most points for handicrafts)	Mrs R Moore
Mary Gauntlett Cup (Best Fuchsia exhibit)	Audrey Brown
Society Shield (Most points monthly show table)	Jerry Clark
Janet Bendell Cup (Best pot plant)	Audrey Brown
Chairmans Cup (Best floral art exhibit)	Jenny Withers
Greta Carter trophy (Best novice floral art exhibit)	Edna Dore
Jim Mew Cup (Best Onion exhibit)	Mrs R Moore
G A Day Cup (Rose Class 48 – four blooms)	Mike Potts
West Cup (3 vases Chrysanthemums)	Jim Osman
Gauntlett Cup (Local Dahlia Championship)	Allan Chivers
Smith Cup (Most points child up to 7 yrs)	Tyler Smith
Eileen Jones Cup (Handwriting child up to 7 yrs)	Not Awarded
Borrow Young People's Cup (Most points 7 – 11 yrs)	Not Awarded
Mary Grinter Cup (Most points 11 – 16 yrs)	Not Awarded
Havant Borough Council Cup (Most points cookery classes)	Mavis Davis
The National Chrysanthemum Society Silver Medal	Jim Osman
The National Chrysanthemum Society Bronze Medal	D Hall
The National Chrysanthemum Society Certificate	Jack Primmer
The National Dahlia Society Silver Medal	Allan Chivers
The National Dahlia Society Bronze Medal	Roy Harding
The National Rose Society Bronze Medal	Mike Potts
The National Vegetable Society Silver Medal	D Hall
The Banksian Medal (Highest prize money)	Mrs R Moore

SPRING SHOW 2012.

Just a reminder that the Spring Show will be held on **Sunday** 25th March.

Schedules are available at the store, as are bulbs of the varieties 'Rainbow' and 'Geranium' specified for classes 13 and 14.

- Give it a go – get a Schedule and plant the bulbs – even if they do not make the Show date – they will give you a wonderful display (and in the case of 'Geranium' a very fragrant display).

SEPTEMBER MEETING

We were lucky to nab TV personality Colin Crosbie who is the Chief Curator at RHS Wisley. Despite not being able to use slides, he gave a brilliantly entertaining talk that covered a wide range of topics including some advice on the planting of trees.

The most important aspect as far as I was concerned was that it largely overturned my preconceptions on the subject – ie dig a deep hole, incorporate large amounts of organic matter, if pot grown gently untangle any spiralling roots, plant at about or slightly deeper than soil line or depth in pot and stake to support the stem.

If I got it right he advised:

- Do not plant deep – in nature tree roots stay relatively near the surface.
- Spread the roots out nearly horizontally - If pot grown you can be quite rough untying the roots so they cover as wide an area as possible.
- Most importantly make sure that the existing soil line is at the surface of the soil – planting even an inch or two deeper strangles the flow of sap and will eventually kill the tree. Do not incorporate organic matter into the subsoil below the roots. As it decays it will probably reduce in volume and a tree planted at the correct depth will later drop and be strangled. Almost better to plant too shallow than too deep.
- Bare rooted plants provide a better guide to planting depth than pot grown since it may already be at the wrong depth in the pot. If pot grown do not use the existing planting depth as a guide - plant so that the root-stem junction is only just below soil level.
- Better to plant a young (even bare rooted) tree than one that has grown for some time in a pot.
- The stake is to prevent the roots being disturbed when the stem sways, not to support the stem which is strengthened as it waves in the wind. Firmly stake relatively low so that the stem can wave above the stake without disturbing the roots.



JARS

Thank you for your support with jam jars this year; I now have a stock for next year, so please recycle your jars for the next few months.

Betty

SCHOOLS UPDATE

Once again the schools in the area have embraced the Society in all that we offer. The entries in the Inter Schools Trophy Competition are now popping through my letterbox (closing date for your School entry form being 01/01/2012, so I am now looking forward to seeing how they interpret the classes.

The Trophy Competition is also helping to forge many happy links between the Schools and our Society. Recently it resulted in a visit by Dave Parker to St Alban's School and requests from other Schools for our services.

We are in the process of organising a trip for local schoolchildren to various allotments as part of their 'eating your greens' initiative. This allows the children access to see how food is grown and how they end up on the dinner plate.

Another school has requested the services of an Ambassador to give them new ideas and inspiration to enliven the School plot and how to make the best use of the various areas with planting, etc.

Thank you all to the willing volunteers who gave up their time in encouraging the Schools but I do believe it is a two way thing; the children are enthused, encouraged and charming and the volunteers get to feel they have done something lasting and worthwhile as well as often being re-enthused themselves by the sheer delight on the faces of the children when both meeting new people and being introduced to a topic we all love. Anyone wishing to join our band of Ambassadors (we work on an as needs basis, ie when a School requests a visit or assistance we find a volunteer willing to help and then arrange everything for them). If you know of any School wishing to join the scheme they may contact me.

Lynda Piddington

Contact details on the website or messages may be left at the Trading Store.

STOP PRESS – SCHOOLS

Just as I put this issue to 'bed' I have been told the allotments had a very interesting and successful visit from two schools. Our thanks go to Peter Brooks and several other busy ploholders who were willing to give up their time to show the children where their food comes from and how it's grown. A more in depth article will no doubt appear in the next Gazette!! (ed)

CELEBRITIES

What a month for celebrity visits –we have been blessed and inspired by visit from two celebrity speakers this month; Colin Crosbie from RHS Wisley and often an advisor on ‘Gardeners World’ who spoke, without the aid of notes or slides (partly due to a technical hitch regarding the projector) on the subject of trees.

The subject, I thought initially, not the most entertaining in the calendar of speakers of which we have had some truly superb visitors, but I was pleasantly surprised and informed as well! A really good night out and as an aside, how lovely to have a young man in the audience was well behaved, polite and interested in the subject – so ... come on Mums, Dads and Grandparents, treat your youngsters to a friendly night out at the monthly meeting.

The second celebrity was at the Floral Art Club and although not a member (yet) I went along as a guest, Price £4.50, to view David Denyer, a Chelsea Medal Winner demonstrate his artistry. He certainly challenged many long held beliefs in the art of display including always using odd numbers (he used pairs) and the triangular arrangement suits all situations. He showed how the simplest of materials (off-cuts, remnants, discarded items) could be transformed into beautiful receptacles for arrangements. I personally will never be able to pass a pile of breeze blocks again without thinking of his ingenuity!

As well as using traditional blooms and foliage he interspersed arrangements with items ‘forged’ and even used green tomatoes.

He was the sort of demonstrator who, in my opinion, probably divided the room into love that/hate that groups, but certainly challenged and at the same time inspired me to look again. So to all of you not yet members of the Floral Art Club please look at their programme of events and when a topic takes your fancy, pop along as a guest and ‘try before you buy!’.

Lynda Piddington

PHS TRIPS

Thank you to everyone who supported the trips this year. I think you all enjoyed the days, even though the weather was not too good for a couple of them.

We went through some stunning countryside on the way to Sherbourne Castle and it just got better at the castle; the day was perfect.

The plant fair at Chenies Manor certainly made us all spend money, we certainly had a well packed boot for the journey home.

I have a few ideas for 2012 – so watch this space – best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Ann

TIPS ON GROWING TULIPS IN CONTAINERS.

The following is a rough and ready extract from an article by Andy McIndoe in the Autumn 2011 edition of the Hillier Gardening Club Magazine.

- Tulips in pots need to be planted with their noses about 10cm (4") below the surface, so a deep container 12" (30cm) or more in diameter is recommended.
- Use a 50-50 mix of John Innes No 3 and a multi purpose peat based compost. This will provide the necessary nutrients and the compost can be re-used the next spring if revitalised with some granulated slow release fertilizer.
- Plant the bulbs about 1" (2cm) apart – this is much closer than the bulb suppliers recommend but gives a better display. If depth permits you can plant bulbs in two layers with the earlier flowering variety in the upper layer positioned in the gaps between bulbs in the lower layer.
- If possible protect from the worst of the rain and cold by placing pots below the eaves.
- When about 4" (10cm) tall move to flowering positions.
- Once leaves are developed, make sure the pots never dry out. If they do the flowers will not last.



BATTLE OF THE SEXES

Well, ladies! We can no longer contentedly sit on our laurels (strange expression looking out at the laurel in the garden). The Summer Show produced many extra Male interference in our domain – the Home Baking and Handicraft Classes.

Following an unfortunate accident, Betty the jam/cake/chutney fairy was unable to use her mixing hand but was heartened by the response to her emotional plea for 'Everyone Get Baking!' Many previously shy bakers timidly contributed and a larger than ever percentage were Male! Then to make matters worse, they infiltrated the Handicrafts and the entry that raised the most comments as produced by a Male. So ladies, we must make a concerted effort to beat them at their own game... try to grow the biggest, heaviest vegetables for the next Show next year, but before then, let's hope we win the biggest pumpkin at the Pumpkin Evening Competition,

Lynda Piddington

CASABLANCA – A GOOD ALL-ROUNDER

This year when ordering potatoes Brian Andrews was unable to obtain one of the usual varieties and chose instead a variety called 'Casablanca'. These were met with some scepticism by some of the die-hards who like to stick to the same varieties, but some braver souls thought they would give them a go.

I grew some myself at home in the garden and at an allotment. I was pleasantly surprised as the harvested tubers were quite large for the time I dug them up and they were blemish free and of quite uniform shape, making them ideal for the Show Bench. Taste and their performance in the kitchen are far more important to me and I have found them good for all cooking methods. Other members of our society have also commented favourably on them both as a cultivar and their performance in the kitchen. They are first earlies with smooth skin and short oval tubers. They have shallow eyes, white skin and cream flesh.

Their parentage is Picasso crossed with a numbered tuber and listed below is the technical data given by the British Potato Council.

Tubers have good resistance to splitting and some resistance to bruising. Trials have found good resistance to potato leafroll virus and blackleg. This variety has low resistance to dry rot (*Fusarium coeruleum*) and skin spot. Tests for resistance to potato cyst eelworm demonstrated resistance to *Globodera rostochiensis* Ro1 and susceptibility to *Globodera pallida* Pa2/3,1. They score well on resistance to potato blight.

Finally Casablanca is thoroughly recommended by our members so give them a try next year.



PHS TRIPS

This year we were able to go on all the trips and enjoyed them all. Yes, the weather was not always kind to us, but it in no way stops us enjoying ourselves. Thanks to Ann, the trip organiser, for all the hard work. It is much appreciated by us all.

Betty

SUMMER SHOW

Does it really need me to break my wrist to have all the willing helpers and suppliers of delicious cakes and preserves? Thanks to you all, we had the best takings ever, and what is more important to me, a happy buzz the whole afternoon with all the chattering to friends old and new. That for me was the 'icing on the cake'.

Betty

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

10th November	Demonstration Pamela Welch	'Xmas Extravaganza'
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**



PURBROOK HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY PROGRAMME FOR 2011

3rd November	National Parks of the USA Paul Bowers
1st December	AGM

Meetings are held at the Deverell Hall – doors open 7pm – start 7.30pm

Magazines, 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.

Magazines

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 Vacuum/Blower (2) £2 non- returnable

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)

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 and 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 9.30pm.

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 Spring 2012 issue, distributed at the start of February should be with the Editor by the first Saturday in January 2012.