



# GARDENER'S GAZETTE

Autumn 2017

Affiliated to:

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

[www.purbrookhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](http://www.purbrookhorticulturalsociety.org.uk)

## **Summer Show**

**Sunday 20th August 2017**

*At the Crookhorn College, Stakes Hill Road,  
Waterlooville*

*Doors open 2pm*

*Admission £1*

# Officers and Committee Members 2017

President: David Parker

Life Vice-Presidents: Peter Brooks JP, Maureen Kemp

Chairman: Lynda Piddington 023 9226  
1149

40 Westbrook Road, linda.piddington@sky.com  
Purbrook PO7 5HX

Treasurer: Brian Andrews 023 9226  
3731

26 Kings Road, Cowplain PO8 8UR

Trading Manager: Brian Andrews (as above)

Secretary: Chris Middleton 023 9238  
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Show Manager: Graeme MacFarlane 023 9225  
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30 Khandala Gardens, Purbrook PO7 5UA

Show Secretary: Charles Mobsby 023  
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17 Padnell Road, Cowplain PO8 8DZ

Membership Sec: Peter Davis 023  
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48 Privett Road, Purbrook PO7 5JW

Catering Convenor: Mavis Davis 023  
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48 Privett Road, Purbrook PO7 5JW

Floral Art Chair: Carole Rowland 023 9225  
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Outing Organiser: Ann Richardson 023  
9225 4986

Gazette Editor: Richard Knight  
rwknight@live.co.uk

**General Committee:** Lynda Piddington, Brian Andrews, Phil Stock, Jan Baxter, Ron Brumhill, Chris Middleton, Mavis Davis, Peter Davis, Cliff Jones, Frances Leppard, Charles Mobsby, Betty Clarke, Wendy Wright, Carole Rowland, Richard Knight

**Show Committee:** Graeme MacFarlane, Brian Andrews, Ron Brumhill, Mavis Davis, Charles Mobsby, Lynda Piddington, Mark Ward

**Auditor:** Helen Stock

## **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

Chrysanthemum Society

National Vegetable Society

Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies – Monthly Bulletin

### **Cards:**

RHS Reduced Garden Entry (+ 1 guest) – not Sundays at Wisley

National Vegetable Society

National Chrysanthemum Society

National Dahlia Society

### **Equipment:**

£2 non-refundable charge per item towards replacement costs

Lawn Spreaders (2)

Leaf Vacuum/Blowers (2)

Lawn Rakes and Leads (4)

Folding Tables (for indoor use only)

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

***Please use RCDs when using electrical equipment outdoors for your own safety.***

## **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 are open at 7pm and the meeting commences at 7.30pm. Illustrated talks are presented by 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/tea and biscuits are served (at no charge). This is then followed by the drawing of the Raffle and the winner of the Show Table. 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 also

- participate in the Show Table
- buy plants from the Plant Stall
- book a seat on one of our outings
- pay your Membership Fees
- catch up with other Members and Officers of the Society

## **Trading Store Opening Hours**

Every Saturday 9.30am – 11.30am

The Trading Store is situated on the London Road, Widley, adjacent to Purbrook East Allotments.

Items for inclusion in the Winter Gazette, should be with the Editor by 1st October 2017, for distribution in November 2017.

## The Chair Chats!

Well what a busy few months and what has been achieved since the last *Gazette*!

The Trading Store has been thoroughly cleaned, painted and restocked making it a pleasing environment to shop and volunteer. The huge pile of wood chips has really diminished which certainly provided Wendy with a lot of exercise — a big thank you to her for braving all weathers to bag up for all you lucky people and with such good humour.

The Store, however, does get very busy in these Summer months and volunteers are needed. Our volunteers are sometimes away for family celebrations; holidays (yes, Brian does allow such events!). We also have several volunteers who judge at Shows around the region thereby making them unavailable for 'duty'. So, once more, if you can help on an ad-hoc basis on a Saturday morning you would be made very welcome. Contact Brian Andrews or just turn up as we can always find tasks for willing hands.

We have also, during the June meeting, voted on the entries in the Inter-School's Trophy Competition. Results are in this *Gazette* on page 5.

The meeting itself was great fun and was an extremely entertaining and informative talk by Andrew Negus on the 'History of Portsmouth — Part 2'. Hopefully, Frances will book Andrew again for Part 3. The talks this year have been very entertaining and informative in equal measure. Don't forget the Pumpkin Evening and Quiz, so start swotting now.

The trips organised by Ann have been well worth going on. They are very varied; I, in particular, loved the Butterflies — so beautiful, and the good company and camaraderie is a bonus. So if you have time and have not tried the trips, I can certainly recommend them, but you do have to be quick to book as they fill up very quickly.

We have also been busy behind the scenes preparing for the Summer Show, so please reward our efforts by entering the Classes (there really is something for all ages, abilities and interests), so check the Schedule and come along and visit us with family and friends, and have an enjoyable afternoon.

**Lynda**

# **PHS Trips 2017**

**Sunday 23rd July Tyntesfield N.T.**

**9am Cost £26 N.T. £15**

This mansion is an extraordinary Gothic revival extravaganza and survives intact with an unrivalled collection of Victorian decorative arts and an insight into life below stairs. There is a sumptuously decorated private chapel. Surrounded by 500 acres of land which includes formal gardens and a wonderful kitchen garden. Saved by the N.T. in 2002, this has been one of their most exciting projects.

**Sunday 10th September Sussex Prairie Garden &  
Borde Hill Garden 9am Cost £25**

Sussex Prairie Garden is an exciting new garden where Paul and Pauline McBride have followed their dream to design and create a beautiful garden in the heart of Sussex. Contained within six acres are 30,000 plants of over 600 varieties which give constant colour from June to October.

Borde Hill is a paradise for plants in the heart of Sussex. A beautiful and botanically rich heritage garden within 200 acres of parkland with a series of living garden rooms.

A £14 deposit secures a seat. Payable at monthly meetings or at the Trading Hut on a Saturday morning. Alternatively telephone Ann on 023 92 254 986.

**Hope you enjoy your days out with the Society.**

## **Reminder**

**A polite reminder that all membership cards are to be shown at the Trading Store prior to transaction. Should you have forgotten/mislaid/washed it in the machine or other mishap, please speak to the Volunteer on the Membership Desk who will then either issue a replacement or tell you the number. This year the card colour is orange.**

# PHS Meetings 2017

All meeting at Deverell Hall — start 7.30pm

## **Thursday 3rd August**

Kevin Hobbs from Hilliers Nursery will talk about the Chelsea Flower Show — possibly the greatest flower show in the world. It will be good to see it without the hustle and bustle of the crowds and hear about the trials and tribulations of entering the show. He will bring plants for sale — the proceeds of which will go to charity.

## **Thursday 7th September**

Marcus Dancer will talk to us about ‘Scented Plants throughout the Year’. Marcus is a very experienced gardener and owns his own plant company specialising in clematis.

## **Thursday 5th October**

Our annual Pumpkin and Quiz Evening. There will be separate articles on this in future issues of the *Gazette*. We need more entries on the night; not necessarily huge pumpkins which we know are not easy to find room for but the other categories should be a doddle for all you clever gardeners and pumpkin decorators. So why not have a go?

## **Thursday 2nd November**

Benjamin Turner (known as Ben), has been recommended by another local gardening Society. He will talk to us about ‘The Gardens of Tresco’ off the coast of Cornwall.

## **Thursday 7th December**

AGM. This is your opportunity to have your say in how the Society is run. Elections to the Committee will also take place. There is a short suggestions period for any ideas you may think will help the Society to grow and prosper. Last, but not least, nibbles and a cuppa — a chance to catch up with friends!

## Spring comes late to Orkney!

I know I said I would write another article for the *Gazette* and I have not forgotten about it completely, but time goes by so quickly!!!!

The countryside this morning is looking excellent — roadsides all yellow with daffodils — some more horizontal than others because of the strong winds we had last week. There are a few lambs to be seen but, as with everything that grows, they are a little bit later arriving than in Hampshire. Ribes, flowering currant locally, thrives here and, as my neighbour has a bush, is making its presence felt every time I come out of the garage – I do not prefer its perfume! Berberis also does well here and I am delighted that my new hedge is looking so healthy.

I have an interesting show of daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and other spring flowering bulbs and shrubs in pots at the back of the house. Once I decide on the layout of the garden – this will happen after the greenhouse is built – they will be given more permanent homes. I am beginning to run out of room for the pots! I also have six Sungold tomatoes, five Sakura tomatoes and a tray of basil seedlings on various window sills. If my greenhouse does not materialise in time, I hope my brother will find room in his greenhouse.

As I look out of the window I see what I refer to as ‘my Trojan Horse’. Currently there are three oil-related structures ‘resting’ in Scapa Flow. The one I am able to see is further west than the others. It looks exactly like a picture of the Trojan Horse in a wee book I had more than 60 years ago! If one drives out to Scapa Flow it takes on a completely different shape.

I do miss all the fun of the PHS Store, meetings, outings, etc. but there are lots of things to attend to here. Last night I was at the theatre and enjoyed a local quiz. There were three teams; the Minister of St. Magnus Cathedral and his wife; a former young farmer — like lots of us he doesn’t qualify as young any more — and his wife and our MSP and a local doctor. The show was hosted by two of the presenters from BBC Local Radio. It was organised to raise funds for Wild-Hearts Foundation and Orkney Heart Screening. An excellent evening’s entertainment and just one event of several that were happening last evening.

Sometimes there is just too much to enjoy.

**From our Northern correspondent**



# **Inter-School's Trophy Competition 2017**

## **The results**

Following our June meeting where attending members voted on the Schools' entries by placing coins in front of their preferred entries, the voting (which was extremely close with only one vote between 1st and 2nd place) these schools will all receive a Trophy in recognition of their splendid efforts.

St. Alban's Primary - West Leigh

Petersgate Primary After-School Gardening and Cookery Group –

Clanfield

Warren Park Primary – Leigh Park

Barncroft Primary – Leigh Park

Riverside Community Special School - Waterlooville

The overall winning School who not only receives a Trophy but also £45 donated by voting members is:

Petersgate Primary After-School Gardening and Cookery Group -

Clanfield

We look forward to next year's Schools Competition as the standard of entries seems to improve every year!

**Lynda**

## **Malvern Spring Flower Show**

Some of the winning exhibits travelled over 160 miles to be at the Show. Fortunately, the weather was fair and over 100,000 people attended. The setting is magnificent and parking is free.

My sister, Betty took 1st prize for her carnivorous plant, a *Sarracenia purpurea*; also a clutch of 3rds for foliage in a hanging container and flowering patio container.

I won 1st prize for one pot of Regal Pelargonium (Bermuda pink); 1st for a vase of cut Lilac (Madame Lemonie) a scented white. 1st for five stems of Wallflower (Golden Bedder). 2nd for a display of pot plants and vegetables 36" x 24". 3rd for five Pelargonium flower heads. 3rd for a Dwarf Shrub (*Euonymus Japonicus Micropyllus*) Gold Dust. 3rd for a Dwarf Conifer *Cryptomeria*.

Finally a 2nd prize for a display of herbs entered in the Paul Harvey-Brookes Growing Challenge, which carried no prize money but was awarded a Sneeboer hand towel.

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**Peter Chivers**

## Showtime!

Yes, the Summer Show is fast approaching and time for the usual rallying of troops in order to make the Show the glorious event that we can be truly proud of.

Although much of the hard work of organising and planning is complete, we still need volunteers to assist with setting up the Show on Saturday 19th August and dismantling after the Show on Sunday 20th August. Donations of cakes and plants are always most welcome. If you are not a baker or plantsperson perhaps you would show support in sponsoring one of the many Classes? If you have the odd hour (or two or three) to help then please contact Charles Mobsby our Show Secretary or any Committee Member.

This year we have invited a representative of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to have a stall and who will, no doubt, have some interesting ideas for encouraging wildlife to our gardens and can possibly answer any questions you may have about planting and caring for wildlife.

We look forward to seeing you on **Sunday 20th August** at the Show. All your Class entries (and we hope you have plenty!) are to be entered prior to the Show. Details are available in our Schedule which is available online at:

[www.purbrookhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](http://www.purbrookhorticulturalsociety.org.uk)

or in person at the Trading Store adjacent to Purbrook East Allotments on London Road. The Store is open on a Saturday morning from 9.30am until 11.30am.

Lynda

Support your  
Society

Everything a gardener needs

## Visit to Studley Grange Butterfly and Craft Village and Lydiard Park and House

On Sunday 23rd April we left Purbrook for the above destinations and on the way went through several changes of weather; eventually settling for a fine day, neither too hot nor too cold.

The first stop was the Butterfly and Craft Village attached to a huge Wyevale Store. The butterflies were very exotic and the chrysalis hanging in rows waiting to hatch were fascinating. Unfortunately the heat in the butterfly house caused my camera to steam up, so most of the snapping was in vain. However, there are some photos on the website. We then walked out into the farm where the cute meerkats were posing, the otters being fed and the goats were trying very hard to climb over the fences. The animals had plenty of space and looked very well cared for.

Next on to Lydiard House which was the home of the St. John family for 500 years. They now live in New Zealand and the house was sold to Swindon Corporation in 1943 for £4,500. One of the wives was an artist; her name was Diana Spencer and a room is dedicated to her with some copies of her work. The family had property in London and were not at the house very much (more of a holiday home). In 1943 the house was requisitioned by the Military and became a hospital for American servicemen. After this it was used to keep up to 200 German prisoners of war. The military huts were subsequently used as temporary housing for families right up to the 1960s. Not all of it is open to the public but it has been well restored. In 2005 the council were granted £3,000,000 to help in the work needed.

The church of St. Mary was built in the 12th Century. There are several monuments to the St. John family including a Polyptych and a statue of Edward St. John, a Cavalier who died in the Civil War. The Victorians painted the statue in gold.

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Outside the house is a walled garden, not yet in full swing being only April, but is well kept and has lots of fruit trees. In the grounds is an ice house where the ice was kept for a year (not in my drink, thanks). The grounds are extensive and are free to the public. There is a huge lake which is a real suntrap. Lots of footballs in the water but what a lovely park to have on your doorstep.

We left at 4.30pm and were home in very good time; a great start to the 2017 coach trips.

**Frances**

## **Slugs and Snails**

Familiar to everyone, slugs are more widespread than snails which are a larger form of slug that can be reduced by trapping.

They hide during the day and traps such as boards, pots, cut potatoes, etc. can be put down in strategic positions for them to hide under. Examine daily and destroy pests. A mixture of Paris Green (Arsenic Oxide) and bran, or Meta (which I think was a preparatory slug bait) and bran, or Meta and dried tea leaves, can be used as poison bait, placed in small heaps among crops. These baits are not very effective against small black slugs which feed underground as well as on the surface — those which eat roots and bore holes in potatoes. A liquid slug destroyer watered on the soil, preferably at night, is best for these. Quick lime or salt dusted on soil at night when slugs are active are useful.

The old remedy of hand picking is still as good as any. Get a long hatpin, a tin of strong salt water and a lamp, and search for them at night, spearing into salt water.

**Wendy**

## Floral Art

We have had some enjoyable evenings at the Floral Art Club, but the outstanding evening for me, so far, was Interactive Rainbow, demonstrated by Susan Tausig. The flowers and arrangements were superb and her comments and stories only added to the enjoyment.

July 13th is our Annual Garden Party and BBQ. We will be pleased to welcome visitors and a good time will be had by all; but do remember to bring your own drinks!

My garden is looking fantastic at the moment. roses, delphiniums, clematis and bedding are all blooming. My lupins have provided the slugs and snails with a huge feast, but it is a battle I shall continue to fight! *(I'm sure you are not alone in this — battle commences when the weather warms up and 'tasty' plants are the prime targets! - Ed.)*

I am also looking around the garden trying to find anything that will be suitable for the upcoming Summer Show; also busy crafting. I won the Cup last year but a friend of mine is also fired-up, so we shall have to wait and see.

I have done some hard landscaping this year and am looking forward to enjoying sitting in a part of the garden that gives us different vistas. The hot weather was too hot to sit out for too long, and since then we have had rain! Much needed and the water butts are full once more.

It won't be long before we need to think about spring bulbs and bedding and so it goes on.

Happy gardening everyone; hope to see some of you at the party on 13th July.

**Carole**

# Another Did You Know?

## Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)

Hornbeam is a native of the UK.

Hornbeam is often confused with common beech, the bark is pale grey with vertical markings, sometimes with a short, twisted trunk, which develops ridges with age. The twigs are brown-grey and slightly hairy and the leaf buds are similar to beech only shorter and slightly curved at the tips. Mature trees can reach a height of 30m and can live for more than 300 years.

Leaves on the Hornbeam are a similar shape to beech leaves — oval, toothed and with pointed tips; however, they are smaller and more deeply furrowed than beech leaves. They become golden yellow to orange before falling in Autumn.

The flowers is monoecious, meaning male and female catkins are found on the same tree.

Fruits, after pollination by wind, female catkins develop into papery, green winged fruits know as samaras.

The leaves have a pleated look and the seed is a small nut, about 3-6mm long, held in a leafy bract with three lobes.

In winter distinctive papery seeds hang in tiered clusters through autumn. Leaf buds are pressed closely to the twig.

Hornbeam is naturally found in oak woodland and is often coppiced or pollarded. Only two species occur in Europe, the greatest number of the 30 - 40 species can be found in East Asia.

Like beech, a hornbeam hedge will keep its leaves all year round, providing shelter, roosting, nesting and foraging opportunities for birds and small mammals. Hornbeam is a food plant for caterpillars of a number of moth species, including the nut-tree tussock. Finches and tits and small mammals eat the seeds in autumn.

The timber of the hornbeam is pale creamy-white with a flecked grain. It is extremely hard and strong and is mainly used for furniture and flooring.

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Traditional uses for the wood included ox yokes (a wooden beam fitted across the shoulders of an ox to enable it to pull a cart). Another use was for butchers chopping boards and cogs for windmills and watermills. It was also coppiced and pollarded for poles.

Hornbeam turns well and makes good firewood and charcoal.

Hornbeam has been found susceptible to fungal diseases, namely *Phytophthora*. It may also suffer from bark stripping damage by grey squirrels

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## Time is catching up with us — can you help?

Albert Einstein is famous for his equation  $E = mc^2$  and his theory of Relativity but, considering his age, it is surprising that he forgot to mention a few things that most of us 'Seniors' are aware of as time goes by. Firstly, as time passes it speeds up — we all know that days, weeks and years are much shorter than they used to be. Secondly, distances increase — journeys we used to do at the drop of a hat now have to be planned and include comfort stops. Lastly, and the main reason for this missive, gravity must be increasing with time because everything you pick up has increased in weight since the last time. This latter fact is well recognised by the 'young' trolley lads who help load larger items into your cars on a Saturday morning.

As a matter of interest, the average age of your regular helpers at the present time is 76 years!

So if you are able to offer some assistance, please do so; they will not be offended. Even better, if you would be willing to help on an occasional Saturday, even if only for half-an-hour, then please let us know. We would not ask, or expect, you to lift heavier items on your own, as in the words of the old Chinese proverb — 'Many hands make light work'.

**Brian**

*Just in case you didn't read the front cover!  
Please don't forget our*

## **Summer Show**

**Sunday 20th August 2017**

*At the Crookhorn College,  
Stakes Hill Road, Waterloo*

*Doors open 2pm      Admission £1*

*This is one of the highlights of the year for  
**YOUR Society***



# Pot Culture of Exhibition Daffodils

This is an adapted extract from daffodil society.com entitled 'The complete guide for growing and exhibiting daffodils; fifth edition 2010 and incorporates opinions of the author which may be open to question.

## Why grow in pots?

Daffodils grown in the open ground, however well covered, are still to some degree at the mercy of the elements, whilst in pots the grower has more control over watering and feeding and of choosing the medium in which the daffodils are grown and they can be moved about as desired from one environment to another, in order to influence flowering time.

## How to pot

The choice of pot, whether clay or plastic and of size is a matter of availability or personal preference if carrying quite heavy weights is a problem. Most growers have found little difference with growing in either clay or plastic. All pots must be clean and disinfected and well rinsed and allowed to dry before use. Special pots which are much deeper than ordinary pots (12 to 15" deep) are best since the bulbs can be buried well below the surface where the bulb is less likely to throw a large number of bulblets. The optimum number of bulbs is probably five in a 25cm (10") pot, three in a 22cm (9") pot, and one in an 18cm (8") pot. An extra one in the larger size pot is unlikely to make much difference.

Good, round, firm, single-nosed bulbs normally give the best exhibition flowers when grown in pots. If availability dictates, these may have to be supplemented with bulbs of a similar size with a few small offsets. Large multi-nosed bulbs should be avoided as these will not produce quality flowers and also take up both pots and space (unless there is Class for a pot of 'n' bulbs, when multi-nosed bulbs could produce a better display).

Standard proprietary composts such as Levington or Arthur Bowers mixed with coarse grit to ensure that it is free draining usually works well and avoids the need to mix large quantities from scratch. Plenty of crocks should be placed at the bottom of the pot to ensure good drainage and topped with a handful of either well-rotted compost or coarse peat. This will not only keep the crocks clear of the compost but will also give the roots something to run around in. Next fill with

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sufficient compost to within about 10cm (4") of the top of the pot 15cm

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Good, firm, single nosed bulbs normally give the best exhibition flowers. In a pot, a person is usually left with a surplus of small offsets. Large multi-nosed bulbs should be avoided as these will not produce quality flowers, and also take up both pots and space (unless there is Class for a pot of 'n' bulbs, when multi-nosed bulbs could produce a better display).  
Standard proprietary composts such as Levington or Arthur Bowers mixed with coarse grit to ensure that it is free draining usually work well. As well as the need to have good quantities of the media, plenty of crocks should be placed at the bottom of the pot to ensure good drainage and topped with a handful of either well-rotted compost or coarse peat. This will not only keep the crocks clear of the compost but will also give the roots something to run around in.  
Next fill with

Over to YOU!

# **Annual Pumpkin and Quiz Evening**

**Thursday 5th October**

**Once again our very popular and well-attended  
Pumpkin and Quiz Evening**

We need more entries on the night; not necessarily huge pumpkins which we know are not easy to find room for but the other categories should be a doddle for all you clever gardeners and pumpkin decorators.

***So why not have a go?***

## **Large Plastic Bags Wanted at the Store for Filling with Chippings**

As most of you are aware every Saturday our resident bag filling machine (named Wendy — ably assisted by Trevor) is kept very busy filling up larger plastic bags (compost bags of 50+ litres are ideal). Unfortunately we have plenty of chippings but are running short of the bags! Please, if you purchase chippings from the Store we would be grateful if you can return intact empty bags for the next customer. As mentioned, the larger bags are in short supply, so when you finish with the potting compost, etc., please keep us in mind.

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## **No more Bottles please!**

We also decant our liquid fertilisers into bottles and we seem to have a steady supply from thirsty gardeners. At the moment we are overrun, so please recycle into the normal council bins. We will let you know when we need replenishing. Many thanks to all who have put themselves out to drink all the spirits, etc!