



GARDENER'S GAZETTE

Spring 2019

Affiliated to:

SPRING SHOW

Sunday 24th March

Deverell Hall, Purbrook

Doors Open: 2pm

The Royal Horticultural Society

National Dahlia Society

National Chrysanthemum Society

The Daffodil Society

The Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies

www.purbrookhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

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Officers and Committee Members 2019

President: Peter Brooks, JP

Life Vice-Presidents: Maureen Kemp, Phyllis Brooks

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Trading Manager: Brian Andrews (as above)

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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, Frances Leppard, Charles Mobsby, Betty Clark, Richard Knight, Carole Rowland, Wendy Wright, Ann Richardson

Show Committee: Brian Andrews, Ron Brumhill, Charles Mobsby, Mark Ward, Lynda Piddington, Ann Richardson

Auditor: Vacant

The Chair Chats!

The end of another successful year at the Society and I am looking forward with great enthusiasm to the next!

This year we have again endeavoured to further improve the Trading Store, with the car park being cleared of weeds, brambles and rubbish which resulted in two huge bonfires which were probably visible at the space station. This means that as Trevor, of the woodchips stated, we will no longer have to build a second storey for parking! The border around the Store has been cleared of plants and weeds and is now awaiting a replanting with a more multi-seasonal design.

The interior of the Store should now be warmer and less draughty thanks to the purchase of warehouse-style strip curtains for the doors. The introduction of a compost bin will also keep the exterior tidier and environmentally friendly. A big thank you to all who helped with these projects; it was much appreciated.

Successful Spring and Summer Shows and Summer outings all demonstrated your appreciation for the Society plus your willingness to participate in all aspects of the Society thereby making it a friendly place of which we can all be proud.

The Store 'ticks over' nicely with many of you realizing that what we sell is of a superior quality and the volunteers do what they can to assist with a winning smile.

The *Gazette* this year has not only had more articles but also more contributors writing about their various hobbies. This makes it a more informative and interesting read. The new webmaster, ably assisted by Richard, has dragged us into the 21st Century, as it is now accessible by all forms of smart devices (as at time of writing technological advances occur at a fast pace) making it more vibrant than before. Meetings have been well attended with many very interesting and charming speakers on a wide range of subjects and the show table has gone from strength to strength, making judging far more difficult for the visiting speakers.

All of this participation makes my role as your Chair a really pleasurable one. The year end was fuelled with much emotion when, at the AGM, it was announced that our President, David Parker, was resigning the post reluctantly after many years of service, due to the limitations of his health. We wish him well and a huge thanks along with our best wishes, although we will probably see him at Shows, health permitting.

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So as we close one door, another opens and we look forward with great pleasure to our new President, Peter Brooks reigning supreme, with the very able assistance of our new Vice-President (and his wife!) Mrs. Phyllis Brooks. Both Peter and Phyllis are highly regarded within our Society and we look forward to them taking up their posts.

On a personal note, I was honoured and delighted, and very surprised, at the AGM to be rewarded, along with Charles Mobsby (Show Secretary), with Honorary Life Membership, making for a truly wonderful end of year.

I take this opportunity now, to thank you all for the support given, the friendship and the many laughs this year and wish you all a happy and healthy 2019.

Lynda

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Floral Art Programme 2019

All meeting at Deverell Hall — start 7.30pm

Thursday 14th February

AGM — all welcome.

Thursday 14th March

Gill Sadler — Sussex Life

Thursday 11th April

Melanie Smith — Postcards from France

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Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2018

Once again, thanks to the help of members of the Society, the collection for the RBL Poppy Appeal at Lidl's in Cowplain in November raised another amazing total of £3,173.29. Although down on 2017 this was probably due to the opening of the new Lidl store in Waterlooville.

This was the tenth year that PHS members have helped with the collection at the store and the overall total is now in excess of £34,000. So a very big thank you to all who helped and to those who have contributed to the collections over the years.

Brian

PHS Meetings 2019

All meeting at Deverell Hall — start 7.30pm

Thursday 7th February

Hampshire – Nature in Trust

Mike Read is a freelance nature photographer, one of his clients being the RSPB. He was a company tour leader for many years but now runs his own wildlife watching holidays. If you look at his website his photos are stunning. In 2016 he and his wife visited one Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust mainland reserve each month recording the changing scenery and wildlife. Several other pictures were added and this year-long project will show us varieties of birds, butterflies, flowers, fungi and mammals. I am sure it will be very interesting and informative.

Thursday 7th March

Beautiful Kashmir

Anthony Powell was trained at Hilliers Nursery and Askham Bryan College. He now manages several smaller gardens in West Berkshire and North Hampshire. He has travelled extensively and worked abroad, including the 1983 Kashmir Botanical Expedition which sounds truly exotic.

Thursday 4th April

British Alstroemerias and the UK cut flower industry

Ben Cross of Crossland Wholesale Flower Nursery near Arundel will talk about these very popular plants. He has a good website, but don't watch it before the talk or you will be ahead of the rest of us! These flowers are very versatile and apparently are now becoming requested for wedding bouquets. I personally like them and will be interested to see how easy or not they are to grow in my garden.

Thursday 2nd May

A Cruise up the River Thames from Maunsell Forts to London Bridge

Dave Allport was in the Royal Navy for 34 years and now works on the Queens Harbour Masters staff. He was awarded the MBE in 2004 for his Royal Naval service and his charity work. His particular charity is Guide Dogs for the Blind. He has been an amateur actor since his teens and has also been involved with writing and directing, therefore his public speaking skills have been well honed. We look forward to an informative and entertaining evening.

Frances

Trips 2019

Sunday 3rd March

Orchids at Kew Gardens – 9am – £27

This will be the 24th Orchid Festival at Kew. The theme will be 'Columbia'.

Sunday 12th May

Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens – 9am – £22

Leonardslee is world famous for its display of azaleas and rhododendrons set alongside seven lakes. It was developed over 200 years. In 1889 it was being maintained by the Loder family.

It was closed a few years ago and now has a new owner and will be re-opening in January. It has all facilities and the doll's house, shop and café serving hot and cold meals will be open, and the wallabies will be there.

Sunday 14th July

Mapperton House and Gardens – 9am – £24

'The nation's finest house' *Countryfile* 2006. Jacobean manor overlooking an Italianate upper garden with orangery, topiary and formal borders descending to fishponds and shrub gardens. All Saints' Church forms the South wing opening on to courtyard and stables. There are fine views of nearby Dorset hills and woodlands. There will be a guided tour of the Manor which is still lived in by the Earl and Countess of Sandwich.

The café and shop are on the ground floor.

Sunday 8th September

Wisley and the Flower Show – 9am – £15

The new visitor centre should be open by then.

Sunday November TBA

Christmas at Hever Castle

As usual a deposit of £15 will secure your seat and the balance must be paid before the trip.

Payments can be made at the Trading Store on Saturdays (9.30am -11.30am) or at the monthly meetings. A cheque can be posted to Ann Richardson, 16 Fir Copse Road, Waterlooville PO7 5JA.

Cheques to be made payable to PHS Trips.

My telephone no: 023 9225 4986.

Membership

A quick reminder that renewal of your membership became due on 1st September and will remain at the £6 per household per annum again this year. To renew please speak to the person on the membership desk at the Store or at monthly meetings, as the new **BLUE** cards are now available!

We would also love you to help promote membership as this is how we manage to retain the low annual cost, as well as helping to fund meetings, the Trading Store, Shows and Outings. Why not bring along a friend to a monthly meeting or see what plants are on sale (among other items) at the Trading Store. After all, as the saying goes: 'the more the merrier!'

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Old Bags Wanted (*esp. Large*)

The sort that compost comes in! We are getting quite short at the Store of the larger bags which are used for chippings. It is a great way to ensure that plastic is being recycled and not entering landfill or our rivers and streams and then on to the sea. If you are purchasing wood chip or grit then please return the bags once emptied (or bring your own), plus any surplus to your needs. Thank you. Wendy and Trevor of the woodchip team will be very grateful

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Data/Privacy Protection Policy

Thanks to Malcolm, and in line with the Data Protection Policy the Society has a Policy which is pinned on the Noticeboard in the Store. Anyone who wishes to view the said document is welcome to visit and I will in due course be putting it on our website.

The Presidency

When Dave Parker announced his resignation as President of the Society, it was greeted with sadness, but gave us the opportunity to reminisce about the glory days of his Presidency.

In the early years, ably assisted by his late wife, Anne, he guided the Society and gave it a great foundation as he took on various roles with great aplomb. Marian remembers his Christmas Parties with his late wife, Anne, playing the piano at the Deverell Hall. Maureen, our Northern correspondent on Orkney, remembers him, not only from the Society, but also from teaching at the same School when she was 'anglicised' for many years before being pulled back North. We can all be glad that even after his illness he was, and still is, able to take part in Society functions, including the awarding of Trophies at the Shows; joining in the quiz along with his bubbly chauffeur/daughter Sandi at Pumpkin Evenings and even joining myself, Betty and Jerry in a visit to St. Alban's School in West Leigh to present a Trophy to the children. The visit to St. Alban's School truly demonstrated his love of children and their education as he answered the many questions in such a way that both informed and encouraged.

Cliff and Gerry, on hearing the news of his resignation even provided the unusual coincidence that many of us find ourselves having, that after many years of friendship and general chatter, they discovered that they were both resident in Watford, London, just streets apart at the same time before meeting at the Society!

I am sure that many more of you have stories to tell and wish to give thanks to Dave and his family for their help with the Society and wish him good health for the future. Dave will of course still be part of the Society and Brian will ensure he is kept informed and up-to-date with all Society matters and gossip on his frequent visits!

Lynda

Honey!

The sun is shining and it is quite mild and the bees are flying and altho' there is still pollen and nectar available it is limited but basically the bees are out on a cleaning flight to defecate. With all the wet weather we have had of late, they have been holed up. We have also experienced some very cold nights and contrary to belief, bees do not go to sleep in winter; they go into a cluster. The outside goes to the inside and vice versa, keeping the temperature maintained in this way to some 93 degrees. The queen is in the centre and has now stopped laying and is resting for the next two months. She will then start to lay, but only enough eggs that there are bees to nurse the brood and this will increase as the temperature rises.

The bees that are in the hive are termed as winter bees and they will live until Spring when the new brood takes over – like every living creature they need to rest, and that is what I'm going to do. Here's looking forward to next year (2019).

May I take this opportunity to wish all a happy and prosperous new year and success with all that you do. Best wishes.

Vic

Society Accounts

The PHS Annual Accounts
are displayed at the Store or can be viewed on the
Society website:

www.purbrookhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

If you wish to have a 'hard' copy,
please send an sae to the *Gazette* editor

Christmas Gifts

A very big thank you to Tanya Moule who again generously made and decorated a Christmas cake for us to raffle at the AGM and Store; the proceeds of which will help our finances. The sum raised this year was a mighty £50, showing that the previous cakes have been so tasty that ticket sales increased. To put this sum into context, that will probably pay all the refreshments at meetings for a whole year! The lucky winner was Eddie who has an allotment on the Store side of the London Road and 'pops' into the Store most Saturdays with his mug of tea for chat or to lend a hand when we are busy. So, well done him!

A big thank you also to 'The Ancient Mariner' who on his visits to the Store noticed we helpers do like a biscuit with our cuppa and very kindly donated a big box of assorted biscuits so we will not go hungry.

This gesture was lovely as our volunteer helpers turn up willingly in all weathers (and this year we had the heat of the Sahara; the rain of the Amazon Rain Forest; and gales like a really windy place!). They truck items to cars, man the tills and membership desk, pot up plants for sale, give advice and also bag up mountains of wood chips – and all with a friendly smile.

Should you have been lucky enough to receive new gardening items for Christmas, please remember that plants and old tools are always welcome at the Store for us to sell to boost our funds.

If you are unsure what resolution to make in the New Year, how about offering us help? Any help is welcome, whether any of the above, or helping out at the Spring and Summer Shows. Loading and transport to/from said shows is always needed and appreciated.

A big thank you to all our members who make the Society such a friendly, helpful, jolly place, and long may it continue.

Lynda

Orchid Growing – the Beginning

We all needed to start somewhere and today we can buy Orchids from our local supermarkets. What we need to remember is that the orchids grown for the local supermarket trade have been fed growth hormones to make them mature faster, as orchid growing is not a particularly fast growing cycle. Whilst we can grow from seed, propagate and split plants and flowers for the garden you can guarantee that they will grow in that current season.

Orchids, as we all know, are not like this. Many of them take years to mature but the nurseries that supply our supermarkets are set up to grow them and mature them quicker for a better turnaround. Likewise, the unnaturally coloured orchids, in particular, those died blue, are injected with dye to get those coloured petals. What will happen once that spike has faded and been cut off, is that the orchid will revert to its normal colour, which is predominately white. Because of the relatively low cost of these orchids people often do not give much thought to seeing if they can successfully re-flower them and sometimes discard them in favour of a new one. These days there are more varieties available to purchase in our Garden Centres and Superstores. You will often see Dendrobium - Miltonia - Oncidium and even Cymbidium Orchids as well as the more common Phalaenopsis.

The important thing to remember with all of these orchids is that they are capable of re-blooming, with a little care. With Phalaenopsis (Moth Orchid the more common one found in the supermarkets) when they have flowered it is better to cut the spike at the base of the plant. This plant likes to be kept warm and is a good windowsill plant. All Orchids are capable of being grown in the home provided you can provide a few basic elements; light, feed, water and moisture. They all like humidity and if have a tray for the windowsill that you can put some clay pellets in and some water and stand the plants on the top (not in) they should adapt.

Personally when I started I couldn't grow Phalaenopsis in the house. We are East/West facing and had no windowsills downstairs and I couldn't grow them upstairs as the cat thought they were there for his entertainment. Once I had a conservatory I found that I could grow them. The trouble is that is where the obsession started!

Potato Varieties for 2019

The Society has ordered the following varieties for the 2019 season. All seed potatoes are certified from Scotland.

FIRST EARLY

Arran Pilot is one of the most popular first early potato varieties among amateur gardeners. It has a short shelf life, but eaten when newly dug they are very flavourful.

Casablanca is classed differently by different suppliers. They produce heavy yields of tasty cream-fleshed oval tubers early in the season. They can be left to grow on for storage as a maincrop potato

Winston released in 1992 this white skinned variety has been an exhibition success. They produce a high yield of smooth shallow-eyed tubers that are short and oval in shape

SECOND EARLY

Charlotte is a good second early with long tubers, yellow flesh and skin and shallow eyes. Excellent cooking quality and very good for salads.

Kestrel potatoes produce smooth skinned tubers with purple eyes and prove to be a winner at exhibitions. Makes good chips and roasts well.

Marfona are short, oval shaped potatoes with a smooth texture. Marfona lends itself perfectly to mash, wedges and boiled potatoes cooked in a sauce

MAINCROP

Desiree have a firm, creamy tasting flesh, making them ideal for smooth mash or for being cooked in a sauce

Maris Piper is a favourite English potato grown since the 1960s This makes it a versatile all-rounder, great for chips, roast potatoes and mash and wedges.

Picasso produces round to oval tubers with smooth white skins and pink eyes. Great range of uses in the kitchen.

Valor shows great levels of blight resistance combined with the ability to produce large crops of bold white tubers. It is cream coloured and has a floury texture.

Although garden centres will no doubt have their potatoes available in January, we believe it is better to delay delivery until February so that during the worst of the weather they are kept in the controlled conditions at the suppliers in Scotland.

Limited space and facilities in our Store means that storage conditions, particularly during very cold changeable weather, are not ideal; also, a later delivery means there is less chance of the local rodent population finding them, as has happened in previous years. There will still be adequate time for chitting prior to planting and the tubers will be in a better condition when planted.

As usual, the potatoes will be available at very competitive prices in 3kg net bags, or 1kg if preferred. We have to buy in the net bags which adds to the cost (30p-60p) last year, so if possible please return them for reuse. This will help keep our costs down and help a little towards our overall use of packaging products.

Brian

Summer Show

If anyone has a business (or event) they would like to advertise in the Summer Show Schedule, please get in touch with the *Gazette* editor (details on inside front cover) or any of the Committee members.

The deadline is early March for copy
and the cost is £30 for a full page, £20 for a half page,
and £15 for a quarter page.

The print run is approximately 250, so it will be seen by at least 500 people (allowing for two per household), and of course it will be on the PHS website for all to see!

Spring Show

Do not forget that if you wish to exhibit in the Spring Show held at Deverell Hall this year on the 24th March, please get a Schedule from the Trading Store or view online.

The two annual shows staged by your Society are the lifeblood of any prospering Society, and as such, a lot of work goes into planning, setting up and staging of the event.

We pride ourselves on being a forward-looking, friendly Society and a lot of our members join for the 'social' side as well as the 'growing' aspect.

Help is always at a premium, so if you would be available on the date, please get in touch with the Show Manager (or any Committee member). There is always as much to do at the end of the show as in the setting up!

Whatever you choose, please come along and support the Spring Show. There will be nibbles and drinks available during the duration of the Show at very modest prices. Most of the food is made by our members who rightly take pride in their cooking and presentation. Too good an opportunity to miss!

You will be made most welcome.

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Medicinal Plants

Fennel: used as a digestive aid, curing hiccups and colic, a tonic and a 'hot' drink to combat spleen. The green leaves flavouring salads.

Herb Robert: a remedy for stone and kidney disease. Fresh or dried used to stop bleeding and to relieve inflammation.

Hyssop: burned and inhaled to relieve throat inflammation, it was a hot purgative drunk in oil wine or syrups to warm away cold catarrhs and chest phlegms. A stewing herb and good flavouring for omelettes, pottage and pickles.

Lavender: made into syrups, preserves and lavender water which was esteemed as a tonic and heart cordial. Good for headaches, a cosmetic and stewing herb. Lavender flowers were eaten in salads and dried to use as a clothes freshener.

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 (2)

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 Spring Gazette, should be with the Editor by 1st April 2019, for distribution at the start of May 2019.