

## 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

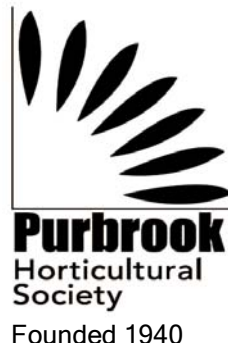
- participate in the Show Table
- buy plants from the Plant Stall
- book a seat on one of our outings
- pay your Membership Fees
- catch up with other Members and Officers of the Society

## 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 Autumn Gazette, should be with the Editor by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018, for distribution at the start of November 2018.



# GARDENER'S GAZETTE Autumn 2018

## SUMMER SHOW

**Sunday 19th August**

**Crookhorn College,  
Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville P07 5UD**

**Adults: £1 – Children Free (accompanied)**

**Doors Open: 2pm**

**Affiliated to:**

**The Royal Horticultural Society**

**National Dahlia Society**

**National Vegetable Society**

**National Chrysanthemum Society**

**The Daffodil Society**

**The Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies**

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

## Officers and Committee Members 2018

President: David Parker

Life Vice-Presidents: Peter Brooks JP, Maureen Kemp

Chairman: Lynda Piddington 023 9226 1149  
40 Westbrook Grove, 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 0613  
147 The Dale, Widley PO7 5JH

Show Manager: Graeme MacFarlane 023 9225 2124  
30 Khandala Gardens, Purbrook PO7 5UA

Show Secretary: Charles Mobsby 023 9226 5136  
17 Padnell Road, Cowplain PO8 8DZ

Membership Sec: Jennie Ryton-Smith 023 9235 2718

Catering Convenor: Ann Richardson 023 9225 4986

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

## 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.*

## A Very British Day Out

**Sunday 22nd April:** The day of the London Marathon and, not wanting to outshine Mo Farrah on his first full London Marathon, I decided to go on the first trip of 2018 which was to Down House, the home of Charles Darwin. Ann, as usual, persuaded the weather Gods to provide us with brilliant sunshine and a light cooling breeze; just right for a grand day out. When we boarded the coach it became clear who were the seasoned British trippers. Sun hats (doubling as rain hats, just in case), pac-a-macs and umbrellas (aka parasols, if sunny), cardigans and sandwiches were evident.

Excited chatter filled the coach on departure until the sweets came round and then all of a sudden we espied the signage to Down House. Well, the poor coach driver really earned his salary, driving along narrow, winding country lanes behind what appeared to be every cyclist in Britain, going for a leisurely ride, enforcing their right not only to use the road, but all of it!

And so we arrived to a very warm welcome from an experienced and informative guide who explained the layout of both the house and grounds and off we went (obviously via tea room and 'facilities'). The house itself was very modest and being the home of Charles Darwin, filled with papers, specimens and experiments. Charles' poor wife must have been a very patient woman, as he appeared to have filled every room and surface; including the pool table, with his work and then to have to endure the vehement ridicule and condemnation her husband had to endure for his theory on the origin of the species.

Being the mother to 10 rather lively sounding children (not all survived infancy), must have made her a strong character, as although Charles' experiments were the main 'feature' of the house, it did appear to have elegant touches in the soft furnishings and pictures which made it seem like a homely house, rather than the stately homes normally expected of such prominent and influential people.

The grounds of the house were particularly laid out in a manner most suited to walking, something Darwin did daily as both a pastime and for contemplation. Although often accompanied by some of his children, it was perhaps some relief from such a crowded house!

So, following a last trip to the tea room, 'facilities' and gift shop, the day concluded. As we rode into the brilliant sunset for our journey home back up the winding lanes, now devoid of cyclists, but now with cars parked on both sides of the lane causing the coach driver yet more grief, I was glad to have chosen this far more pleasant option for my very British day out.

Lynda

## The Chair Chats!

What a scorcher! The weather is on everyone's lips - is it hotter than Greece; Turkey, 1976? All I know is that my water butt is dribbling and no longer producing a flow of reviving water, and even the level in the fish ponds are falling at an alarming rate (partly due to the birds sitting on the netting and drinking as if it were their personal water fountain). However, some plants are thriving, in particular the climbers - my roses, honeysuckle and jasmine all producing wonderful evening scents and flowers, so with the Summer Show coming up please remember that no matter how poor a specimen you think you may have, it is still worth putting in the Summer Show, as everyone is more than likely in the same situation!

Talking of the Show, we would love some extra help with, in particular, dismantling the Show on the Sunday at 4pm-ish as we have to be completely clear of the school and have it returned to the state we found it in (or in some cases, better), by 6pm. Then the equipment has to be transported back to the Store. Anyone with a van/big boot/trailer and is willing to transport items we would be most grateful. If you can offer help, please contact Charles Mobsby, Show Secretary. Contact details are on the inside front cover and also on the website.

Ann our new Lady Convenor would also be grateful for donations of cakes to sell, preferably not cup cakes but larger cakes that can be easily sliced. Frances and Phil have also got a wish list for extra plants to sell as our supplies have been vastly depleted! I would like to take this opportunity to thank our new Membership Secretary, Jennie, who has really started to make a difference. New membership cards (blue in colour) for 2018/19 are now available, so people who wish to renew a little early may do so at the Store or monthly meetings.

Ann's Summer Outings for 2019, although still in the embryo stage, look really good, as usual. Make sure you keep an eye on the website/Gazette/Trading Store noticeboard for details as they fill up very quickly.

For all of you who are computer savvy, or own the latest electronic devices; our new and improved website is fully compatible and much easier to view, so please check it out, if you haven't done so already.

What else is new this quarter? It certainly seems to have been extremely busy; we have welcomed a lot of new members and thankfully retained our long-standing members, which is good news. With the new members accessing the facilities, it has meant the Store takings and monthly meetings have grown. Most of all, so has the enjoyment.

Don't forget you can borrow the RHS card to gain reduced price entry to Wisley (not on Sunday) and we do have spreaders and lawn rakes available at the Trading Store that may be loaned for the princely sum of £2.

Now that I have finished writing this, my chores are complete, and as there is only football (no, not a fan!) on the TV, I can sit in my garden listening to the water bubbling from the fountain in the fish ponds, the bird chirruping and enjoy a pleasant breeze and a good book and if I have been very good, a small glass of something red!

Lynda

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## Arty-Crafty at the Pumpkin Show

Calling all members with artistic or craft skills. Make your presence felt at the Pumpkin show and generate louder 'WOW's' than the Giant pumpkins. While extremely few of us can grow a giant pumpkin (even if we had the space), Classes 4, 5 and 6 are especially aimed at showcasing your skills in the art and craft areas and the exhibits you create can impress even more than the giants on display.

To save you having to look it up in the previous copy of the *Gazette*, the Pumpkin Show will be held at the October meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> and the classes are as follows:

Class 1: Heaviest Pumpkin

Class 2: A culinary pumpkin or squash

Class 3: Decorative Gourd(s) - up to 3 may be displayed

Class 4: A decorated pumpkin or squash. This pumpkin or squash need not be grown by the exhibitor.

Class 5: A decorative exhibit incorporating a pumpkin, squash or gourd. This will not be judged according to NAFAS guidelines.

Class 6: A painting, photograph, embroidery or other craftwork depicting 'Autumn'.

There will only be a single prize of £10 for Class 1.

First, second and third prizes for Classes 2 to 6 will be store vouchers for £5, £3 and £2 respectively.

There is no exhibit entry form or fee, just bring your exhibit(s) along to the meeting - preferably between 7pm and 7.15pm so that any exhibitor card can be generated.

Exhibitors will also benefit from free participation in Frances' super quiz and the light bites provided by Ann and her team. Non exhibitors will pay a £1 entry fee.

## Maxicrop Liquid Fertilisers

We now stock four different types of Maxicrop liquid fertilisers, all of which are based on natural seaweed extract.

### Original/Standard

A general purpose fertiliser that can be used as a growth stimulant to improve germination; propagation; mature plants; fruit crops and lawns.

### Complete

A combination of the basic seaweed fertiliser with added general purpose NPK in the ratio 5 : 5 : 5. Can be used on all flowers; vegetables; salad crops; fruit trees and shrubs.

### Tomato

This has an added compound fertiliser in the ratio 5.1 : 5.1 : 6.7. The added potash will improve the size, shape and flavour of tomatoes. It is also ideal for other greenhouse crops as well as flowering plants, especially hanging baskets and containers.

### Iron

Will enhance natural growth processes leading to greater root development and establishment with strong healthy growth and resistance to pests and diseases. The high iron content, when sprayed onto foliage or applied as a root drench, will prevent yellowing (chlorosis) of leaves, especially in lime-hating plants such as azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias and heathers.

As a general guide, the normal dose rate for all of the above is 1 tablespoon to a gallon of water. Leaflets with more detailed information for each product are available at the Store.

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## Strawberry and Raspberry Plants

This year, for the first time, I was able to obtain a limited number of young strawberry plants and raspberry canes from King's Seeds through our main supplier, Warwicks. I believe these have been quite successful, so intend to do the same next year but I can only obtain them to order so I will try to remember to put a reminder on the Store Noticeboard.

Varieties that were available this year included:

Strawberries: Royal Sovereign, Sweetheart, Elegance, Cambridge Favourite, Elsanta and Senator.

Raspberries: Glen Ample, Glen Coe, Octavia, All Gold and Jean.

Other fruit such as currants, may also be obtainable.

## Membership

A quick reminder that renewal of your membership is due shortly on 1st September - and will remain at the £6 per household per annum again this year. Any of you keen to renew early, then please speak to the person on the membership desk at the Store or at monthly meetings, as the new BLUE cards are 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

The sort that compost comes in! We are getting quite short at the Store for the larger bags which are used for chippings and the slightly smaller ones for grit. 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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## New Appointments

We have now filled the vacancies for Membership Secretary and Lady Convenor. A big thank you to Ann Richardson who, as well as being Trip Organiser, has offered to be Lady Convenor.

Jennie Ryton-Smith has volunteered to take on the job of Membership Secretary.

I am sure that everyone will assist them in any way required. Contact details for both can be found in the Gazette and also on the website.

## PHS Meetings 2018

All meeting at Deverell Hall — start 7.30pm

### Thursday 2nd August

Due to illness the advertised speaker has had to cancel. In her place, at short notice, is Steve Herra, who will talk about the QE2 from its launch to its leaving our shores in 2008. Steve worked on the QE2, so the talk should be very informative.

### Thursday 6th September

Ray Broughton is a very well-known plant expert and is frequently on television, especially around the Chelsea Flower Show time. He originally trained at RHS Wisley but is now a senior lecturer at Sparsholt College. Ray will talk about pests and diseases, which of course we all have experience with.

### Thursday 4th October

Our usual Pumpkin and Quiz Evening. Please take a look at the Classes on page 2. The categories will, I hope, encourage a lot of you to have a go at entering. Please don't take it too seriously, it's meant to be a fun evening. More details later.

### Thursday 1st November

Lesley Chamberlain has various talks available. I have chosen 'The Language of Flowers' as this sounds romantic - or not - as we will find out!

### Thursday 6th December

AGM. Your chance to have your say in the running of the Society.

Frances

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## Trips 2018

### Sunday 2nd September

#### Great Comp Garden – £23

A paradise for garden lovers, set in undulating countryside, Great Comp Garden has built up an enviable reputation as one of the finest gardens in the south-east. It is home to one of the finest collections of salvias in Europe.

There is the Old Dairy Tearoom for lunch or a cream tea. Curator, William Dyson, leading salvia expert, runs his own nursery which is situated in the garden. He is a Gold Medalist at Chelsea and Hampton Court.

## Floral Art Programme 2018

**Thursday 9th August:**

Demonstration – Nina Tucknott – ‘Come Fly with Me’

**Thursday 13th September:**

Demonstration – Pat McDonald – ‘Pots of Colour’

**Thursday 11th October:**

Demonstration – Mischa Davis – ‘Kitchen Kapers’

**Thursday 8th November:**

Demonstration – Jo Hornsby – ‘Festive Fun’

**Thursday 13th November:**

Christmas Party/Social

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## Show Sponsors

A very big thank you to all; but in particular to the ladies of the Floral Art who sponsored Classes in the Spring Show. It is surprising that every small sum (sponsoring a Class starts at just £3), adds up and certainly helps with the running costs. A show is quite an expensive event to stage, with costs of hiring premises; judging fees; catering; prize monies; maintenance and updating of trophies, as well as the more mundane, such as black bin liners to remove rubbish - so every person sponsoring a Class makes a huge difference no matter how small a sum donated.

The Spring Show, in relation to Summer is relatively inexpensive, meaning the sums given meant we broke even in monetary terms. So a big thank you and perhaps you may consider doing the same for the Summer Show. Should you wish to sponsor a class there is normally a Sponsor Sheet available nearer the event at the Trading Store and at meetings. However, if you do wish to contribute then a cheque payable to PHS and sent to Charles Mobsby, Show Secretary, with your details and which Class you wish to sponsor, will be gratefully received. If you are contemplating a Class Sponsorship please do ensure that it is not one in which you are intending to place an exhibit!

Date for the diary - Summer Show is being held on Sunday 19th August at Crookhorn College, Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville and Schedules are now available at the Trading Store, on-line or at the monthly meetings - good luck!

## Portsmouth & District British Cactus and Succulent Society Autumn Show

Christ Church Hall,  
London Road, Widley PO7 5AU

**Saturday 6th October 2018**

11am–4pm

**Entry: £1 Under 12 Free**

Refreshments and lots of plants for sale

Expert advice on your cacti and succulents

*Find out more about membership too!*

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## They Think It's All Over - It is Now!

The year is 1966 and the family were gathered around the television - a black and white huge square box with a screen smaller than the iPads of today! The occasion of course being the World Cup Final with England playing Germany, but our main point of interest being to watch our Dad proudly stepping out onto the hallowed Wembley Turf - to play. No video recorders, no DVD burners; no catch-up TV - just the BBC in all its glory, live, so we were constantly trying to catch all the action, focussing intently on the tiny screen.

Then shouts of ‘that’s him!’ - ‘no its not!’, ‘No look now, there! there he is!’ and sure enough there was our Dad, proud and smart in his uniform!, playing for all his worth. Was he a striker? A ref? In defence? Goalie? No - a very proud member of Her Majesty’s Royal Marine Band! So, yes, our Dad did play at Wembley in the World Cup Final when England won the World Cup! Did he see that match? No - the band were situated in the tunnel and therefore not able to view any of the action!