



GARDENER'S GAZETTE

Autumn 2023

SUMMER SHOW

Sunday 20th August 2023

Affiliated to:

The Royal Horticultural Society

National Dahlia Society

National Chrysanthemum Society

The Daffodil Society

The National Vegetable Society

The Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies

www.purbrookhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

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 2023, should be with the Editor by 1st October 2023, for distribution at the start of November 2023.

The Chair Chats!

Well, we have reached half way through the year (soon be Christmas!) and time to reflect on the months passed and look forward to those to come.

As yet another Horticultural Society falls by the wayside, Havant, and yet another incorporating their Summer Show into a Community/Village event, we are pleased to say that we will continue to hold a stand-alone Horticultural Show on Sunday 20th August at Crookhorn College and that we are in a fairly healthy state of affairs, both regarding finances and membership numbers. An increase in membership numbers could be as a result of CoVid lockdowns making families more appreciative of green spaces, plus with the cost of basic food stuffs rising, the scramble to obtain and work an allotment, rethink that area of the garden, or find imaginative ways to grow your own even on a window sill or balcony. I also think a major contributor to increased numbers is the welcoming, friendly people who belong and promote our Society.

With younger families joining the Society we have introduced a Children's Membership Pack to encourage our younger members to be inspired by the world outside of technology, to enjoy the seasons and perhaps even to enter the Shows.

With two Outings complete and two to look forward to, as well as the good variety of topics for the meetings, we have more to enjoy.

I know the Store has been particularly busy on Saturdays (probably due to our remarkable prices and knowledgeable volunteers) so I would like to thank you for your patience as we try to manoeuvre you in and out safely, but please do try and offer a small thanks to the woodchip chaps who have been working flat out filling bags with often little time to drink their cuppa. It is a dusty task and very hot and as the chaps are not getting any younger they would be most grateful if you could spare even just an hour to fill a few bags.

Talking of our more mature members, I am pleased to share that we helped celebrate the 102nd birthday of Mrs. Lunn (Janet Andrews' mother, ergo Brian Andrews' mother-in-law) with a special card and a montage of Society photographs for her new room.

So, with the Summer Show fast approaching please do support us in any way by exhibiting, baking cakes, stewarding, helping set up and/or dismantle the Show, sponsoring a class or just inviting friends and family to come and see what we get up to!

Lynda

Talks for 2023

All talks begin at 7.30pm, at the Deverell Hall, and doors will be open at 7.00pm.

Thursday August 3rd

David Tite has been growing carnivorous plants for 50 years. He has built prize winning displays for Gardener's World at NEC Birmingham, also providing the plants. He assists Matt Soper of Hampshire Carniverous Plants in RHS Shows around the country, but is also based at a nursery in Lower Upham. We have had a talk on this subject before; they are fascinating plants and we are able to grow a lot of them in this country.

Thursday 7th September

Martyn Cox has been to us before and he is a very enthusiastic speaker based in Portsmouth. He is an award-winning garden writer for the *Mail on Sunday* and has been writing for them for 15 years. He has also written several books on gardening and cooking and contributes to many garden magazines. Martyn will give us a talk entitled 'The hidden world of fruit'.

Frances

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Royal British Legion

The closure of Lidl's in Cowplain has brought an end to the annual collecting that PHS members have been the backbone of for many years. Since 2009, a team of 10 to 12, mainly made up of PHS members, has collected for the two weeks leading up to Armistice Day, every year (except 2021 because of CoVid) and have collected an amazing total of £46,118.25! Last year was a record amount of £4,768.36. Everyone who took part should feel a real sense of achievement, and thanks are due to all those who contributed in any way. One more year would have undoubtedly seen us reach the milestone of £50,000, but it seems that, for this year at least, we shall have no opportunity of continuing our collections. If another store moves in, then it may be possible to collect there again.

Brian

Trips for 2023

SUNDAY 23rd July 9am £30

PARHAM HOUSE WITH GARDEN as well as **THE SOUTH DOWNS CENTRE** before onward travel to Parham House, which opens at midday.

Restaurants at both sites.

SUNDAY 17th September 9am £30

LULLINGSTONE CASTLE AND THE WORLD GARDEN

At Lullingstone Castle they will be celebrating Mexico weekend entitled 'Cactus At The Castle', therefore there will be a wide range of Cacti and Succulents, as well as related plants on display and to purchase. Guided tours of the World Garden with Tom Hart Dyke. The Nursery will be fully stocked with Botanical delights alongside the House and Church which are also open. A Gift Shop is also on site.

There is no restaurant but there will be a large Marquee Tea Room serving sandwiches and cakes, etc. Picnics are welcome.

A £15 deposit is required in order to book a seat

Pick up is from Ladybridge Road. You may park your vehicle in the car park which is situated behind the Purbrook Pharmacy and accessed via Ladybridge Road.

Enquiries to Ann Richardson on 023 9225 4986.

Now to book the good weather for those dates!

Ann

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Pumpkin Evening

Thursday 5th October

The Classes for the popular Pumpkin Evening are as follows.

1. Decorated Pumpkin; Squash or Gourd (may be shop-bought and then decorated)
2. A Spooky Halloween Floral Arrangement (to be judged by Lorraine Plant)
3. Any Crafted item or Photograph relating to Autumn.

Prizes awarded: 1st-£10 2nd-£5 3rd-£3

Also a super quiz (in teams) where the prize is a bottle of wine.

Scilla Peruviana

Many of you have commented on the beautiful starry blue flowers of Scilla Peruviana which grew against the side wall of the Store in late Spring.

Scilla Peruviana, also known as Portuguese squill, is a spring-blooming bulb with striking, lavender-blue flowers. The flower heads can be as large as a tennis ball, with star-like florets that open gradually over a period of three weeks or more. The plants have long, strappy leaves very similar to a hyacinth, and grow to approximately 12"-20" (305mm-510mm) tall.

This bulb grows wild in the Western Mediterranean (parts of Italy and North Africa) and performs best in similar climates that are warm and arid.

Scilla Peruviana should be grown in well-drained, relatively lean soil that has a sandy or gritty texture. The bulbs will not tolerate dense, heavy soils or soils that are too rich or too moist. Full sun is best for flowering, though the plants will also grow in partial shade.

Flowering time is late spring to early summer. The plants need moisture before, during and immediately after flowering. During the summer months, the soil should stay as dry as possible. The plants usually lose their foliage for a few months during the summer and then sprout new foliage in the autumn.

Plant the bulbs shallowly so the very tip of the bulb is visible. The bulbs should be spaced about 8" to 10" (200mm-250mm) apart.

As with other bulbs, it's best to remove the spent flowers after they fade. Cut the stems close to the base of the plant. Allow the foliage to continue growing. It will usually yellow and fade away by midsummer.

Over time, Scilla Peruviana bulbs can multiply and form large clumps, as they have done at the Store. If flowering gradually decreases, dig and divide the bulbs in early summer to give them more room.

We will be dividing these in the summer. The bulbs are quite expensive but if they are happy where they are planted they will multiply quickly. As so many members have expressed an interest in 'having a bulb' please put your name down on the list at the Store. The cost will be £1 per bulb and if there is a lot of interest then there will be a restriction of one bulb per person. We can't promise that there will be enough to go round, because of the interest, but we will try our best!

Floral Art Programme 2023

Thursday 20th July:

Garden Party Social: Tickets available from April Meeting

Thursday 17th August:

Demonstration: Carole Norman: Hearts & Flowers

Thursday 21st September:

Workshop: In House: TBC - Details will be available at August Meeting

Thursday 19th October:

Demonstration: Karla Bell-Marsh: Night Skies

Thursday 16th November:

Demonstration: Dennis Van Wonderen: Christmas

Thursday 21st December:

Christmas Lunch: Venue TBA

Spring 2024 Bulbs

The usual selection of bulbs, many of which will be suitable for classes in our Spring Show, are on order from Taylors of Spalding. The first delivery should be in time to be available at our Summer Show on 20th August.

The bulbs chosen for the two special classes 13 and 14 are 'Sacajawea' for the pebbles and 'Bridal Crown'. We buy these bulbs in bulk, so they are particularly good value, even if you don't enter them in the Show.

Brian

Preserves

Now that the soft fruit season is upon us and therefore jam-making will soon start again, I would be glad to have a supply of suitable jam jars. These need to be standard size, with lids, and can be left at the Store or brought to the monthly meetings. Thank you!

Janet

PLANTS THAT ARE POISONOUS TO DOGS

Battersea are reminding all dog owners about the dangers of some plants to their pets. Dogs often like to explore their surroundings with their nose and mouth, so it is important to know which plants may be harmful to them. If you don't know the name of a plant in your garden, check out [this guide](#) from the Royal Horticultural Society.

Please note, this is not a full list of all poisonous plants in the UK. If you are unsure, always contact your vet, and consider keeping your dog on a lead around any unknown plants before you've had chance to identify them.

ALLIUMS

Alliums are a family of flowering plants, including onions, garlic, shallots, leeks, and chives. They are often grown as crops but can also be found as flowering plants in gardens. If your dog eats any part of the plant, they may be at risk of anemia, which can become fatal for dogs.

AZALEAS AND RHODODENDRONS

Azaleas and rhododendrons are a family of shrub that blossom in spring. They contain a powerful neurotoxin which can disturb the body's cell membranes. Eating these plants can cause vomiting and difficulty breathing and may be fatal.

BERGENIA

Also known as Elephant Ear, Bergenia can be fatal in any quantity. Symptoms include irritation, difficulty breathing and swelling of the tongue, which can lead to suffocation if you do not act fast.

BLEEDING HEART (DICENTRA FORMOSA)

The bleeding-heart plant contains soquinoline alkaloids which cause vomiting, as well as convulsants that can cause seizures. Eating large amounts of this plant can make your dog very unwell.

DELPHINIUM

Delphinium is a tall flowering plant that can cause symptoms from constipation to heart failure. The alkaloids in the plant can block receptors in your dog's muscles and can be fatal.

FOXGLOVES

Foxgloves are a flowering plant found in woodlands and gardens and can be fatal if consumed by dogs. All parts of the plant contain cardiac glycosides, which can cause severe heart problems if eaten.

HELLEBORES

A member of the buttercup family, hellebores are toxic to animals. While its unpleasant taste often stops dogs from eating it, puppies may eat without tasting. Symptoms include vomiting and diarrhoea, drooling and lethargy.

LILIES

This family of flowering plant includes lily of the valley, calla lily and peace lily varieties, all of which are potentially toxic for dogs. The pollen, bulb and foliage of these plants can cause a variety of symptoms depending on the variety of lily, but the most common symptoms are vomiting, diarrhoea, lack of appetite and drooling.

MISTLETOE

This weed, which can be found growing at the tops of trees, is often used as decoration around Christmas time. Mistletoe berries can be fatal, especially to small dogs and puppies. The symptoms include vomiting, diarrhoea, and collapse.

NICOTIANA (TOBACCO FLOWER)

This floral plant contains alkaloids which are toxic to pets. These toxins cause complex symptoms affecting the central nervous system.

OLEANDER

Oleanders are flowering plants that can grow into large trees/hedges. The foliage contains cardiac glycosides which affect the heart, the bark is very toxic, and even a small amount of this plant can be fatal if eaten.

PERENNIAL BULBS

Spring often means bulb planting season, but many common bulbs are actually toxic to dogs. Daffodils, tulips, narcissus, and bluebell bulbs can all make your pet unwell if eaten, with symptoms including vomiting, diarrhoea, and irritation in your pet's mouth.

RAGWORT

Senecio varieties, including ragwort and angel wings, are common weeds which can cause kidney damage and liver failure if eaten. Symptoms include lethargy and gastrointestinal issues which may begin straight away or develop over a few days.

SACRED BAMBOO

This outdoor shrub with white flowers and red berries, is very toxic to pets. The plant contains toxins which can cause difficulty breathing, vomiting and collapse, and should be treated very seriously.

SPURGE

Euphorbiaceae plants, such as pencil cactus and spurge, are all toxic to animals. If ingested, symptoms include vomiting and diarrhoea, while the sap from plants can cause skin irritation and blindness.

WISTERIA

Wisteria is a climbing vine with recognizable bunches of pink or purple flowers. The plant, especially the seed pods, contain lectin and wisterin toxins which can be fatal if consumed. As there are often no immediate symptoms when eaten, your dog may continue eating, so it is important to get to a vet as soon as you can.

YEW

The needles of these evergreen trees are extremely poisonous to dogs. Any part of the tree can be toxic if eaten, causing dizziness, drooling, vomiting and diarrhoea.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY DOG HAS EATEN ANY OF THESE?

If consumed, even small amounts of these plants can be fatal so always act immediately and take your dog to the vets.

Further interesting articles regarding pet safety can be found on the Battersea Web page.

Anne Canning

**Dates for your diary:
Summer Show:
Sunday 20th August 2023**

*Don't forget that we now have a
website where you can read current issues of
the Gazette and Store information:*

www.purbrookhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

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 - available online only

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
Leaf Vacuum/Blowers
Lawn Rakes and Leads
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.

Officers and Committee Members 2023

President: Wendy Wright

Vice-President: Richard Knight

Life Vice-President: Maureen Kemp

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General Committee: Lynda Piddington, Brian Andrews, Phil Stock, Jan Baxter, Frances Leppard, Charles Mobsby, Richard Knight, Garry White, Carole Rowland, Wendy Wright, Ann Richardson, Tanya Barker, Anne Canning.

Show Committee: Brian Andrews, Charles Mobsby, Lynda Piddington, Mark Ward, Anne Canning, Eddie Horrell.