



GARDENER'S GAZETTE

Autumn 2024

SUMMER SHOW
Sunday
18th August 2024

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

Officers and Committee Members 2024

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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.

Show Committee: Brian Andrews, Charles Mobsby, Lynda Piddington, Mark Ward, Ann Richardson, Alice McKerrow.

The Chair Chats!

Well, it's Summer - but not as we know it! Winds from the Arctic, torrential rain? It must be England. We have though managed, thanks to Ann's special arrangement with the weather Gods, enjoyed lovely weather on both trips to Hever Castle and Penshurst Place (article on which trip is featured later in this Gazette). Hopefully the weather and the resulting abundance of slugs and snails have not destroyed your entries for the Summer Show. Speaking of the Summer Show, the usual requests apply for home made cakes to sell, new items for the Tombola and if you are able to sponsor a Class (prices start from just £3) all in order to help with the large expense of hosting the Show.

It being half-way through the year (soon be Christmas!) a quick review of the Society's health is in order. The recruitment of new members and retaining of past is doing very well resulting in extra income at the Store but a Society can only survive by going forward, so if you have friends, neighbours or family that you think may enjoy what we do why not bring them along or even buy them a year's membership, after all at just £5 it is cheaper than a couple of coffees and offers so much more! We have gained a few more willing helpers at the Store which is tremendous especially since the request for bags of Evergreen compost increased to such an extent the sack trucks automatically veer towards those pallets.

The volunteers who help in Store; at Meetings; at Shows and generally behind the scenes are a valuable asset so please accept my gratitude for your help and friendship and on days when the rain is pouring down and Trevor; Garry; Ken; Phil; Frances and latest recruit Penny are working outside please spare a thought and give assistance where possible.

The Face Book group page has now exceeded 100 members and is a great platform for sharing photo's of trips and even your own gardens; advice on growing; request for and offers of items for sale and to be kept up to date with what the next meeting topic is so why not make a request to join? It is for members only in order to keep it as secure as possible and avoid all those irritating adverts. The Gazette though does need a few more of you to write, even if very short articles on how you grow your plants; gardens you have visited; reviews of garden centres used; what you have gained from the monthly meeting topics or even write a poem about the garden! All articles welcomed; we do not mark your grammar or spelling and if unable to email then old-fashioned pen and paper will be acceptable!

Lynda

Monthly Meetings

Thursday 1st August

'Growing for Showing'. Peter Rogers, one of the younger members of our Society who has won at many shows; most recently, Wisley, will tell us about growing vegetables, flowers and pot plants. His talk will be how to nurture them and keep them healthy in order to enter the plants into a show. Peter is an excellent speaker and will give us inspiration to 'give it a go'.

Thursday 5th September

Wendy Gilbert, who is one of our members and supplies us with excellent honey to sell in our Store, will tell us all about beekeeping. If you are interested in this worthwhile hobby come along and get inspired.

Thursday 3rd October

Mike Read has been to us before and is a superb photographer. He will be taking us through the 'Wildlife of the Scottish Highlands'.

Frances

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Floral Art Meetings

Deverell Hall. 1.30pm for 2pm start to 4pm

Thursday 15th August

Demonstration by Angela Woodley. 'Traveller's Tales'.

Thursday 19th September

Demonstration by Nina Tucknott. 'Green Inspiration'.

Thursday 17th October

Workshop by Liz Pelly. 'Vertical Design using 10/12" Oasis ring.

Thursday 21st November

Demonstration by Steven McDonnell-Daley. 'Paint the Sky with Stars'.

Thursday 19th December

Christmas Lunch. Details and venue to be confirmed as soon as we can.

Subscription is £40 per year. Guest Attendance is £8.

TRIPS 2024

Sunday 8th September 9am £36 (tbc) Abbotsbury Sub-tropical Garden

The garden originates from 1765 when the Countess of Ilchester built a castle on the site overlooking Lyme Bay. A wall was built for a sheltered kitchen garden. This walled garden is now the heart of the gardens. The range of plants was increased by the 4th Earl, who was a botanist. The garden trebled in size by the 19th century. The castle burnt down in 1915. The garden was restored in the 1960s.

Cashless payment. Tearoom open 10am - 4.30pm.

Proper Cornish pasties and homemade light snacks, available from 12 noon to 2pm.

I am sorry to say that the cost of hiring a coach for the day has risen by 25%-30%.

Deposits will therefore have to be £20 per trip. This secures your seat.

Each trip price includes your seat and a tip for the driver.

I am in the Store every Saturday and at monthly meetings. Cash or cheque only.

My telephone number is: 023 92 254 986.

Address: 16 Fir Copse Road, Waterloooville PO7 5JA.

Cheques to be made payable to: PHS.

Thank you for your support this year.

Ann Richardson

Penshurst Place - Sunday, 9th June 2024

Another excellent trip organised by Ann. Penshurst was built in the style of a defended manor house and is one of England's oldest family homes. Built in 1341 it has been owned by members of the nobility and royal family, including Henry VIII. In 1552 it was given by Edward VI to the Sidney family and is still their family home. At the heart of the house is the Baron's Hall, one of the earliest examples of a domestic mediaeval hall in the country. It truly was massive and took you back to a bygone time. The staterooms contained an interesting array of tapestries, furniture, portraits and armour, the goriest of which was a beheading sword!

I found most interesting the Victorian kitchen. It was located in the 15th Century Buckingham Building, the room - with its high ceilings and flagstone floor - was used as the main kitchen for Penshurst Place from at least the 1800's through to 1950. It was opened to the public and restored last year, and provides a snapshot in time of how a traditional kitchen in a large private house would have been used, plus an insight into the roles of the household staff on a country estate. A vast Victorian table in the centre of the room was set for cake making, while a cook's desk complete with menus, cookbooks and shopping lists provided an insight into the types of ingredients that would have been bought and meals they would have prepared. It contains one of the largest private collections of copper pots, pans, etc. from the tiniest beehive-shaped jelly moulds to a huge warming pan that would have been put inside a carriage to keep it warm.

There was a toy museum which featured everything from dolls and dolls houses to rocking horses and board games going back many centuries.

The formal gardens consisted of an 11-acre walled garden which is Grade I listed, with yew hedged rooms within and combine a wonderful example of Elizabethan Garden design. There was a 100 metre long Peony Border, showcasing four different hues of beautiful pink peonies, including Monsieur Jules Elie, Lady Alexander Duff, Albert Crousse and Sarah Bernhardt but unfortunately this was going over. There was a woodland walk and an adventure playground for the children.

A small but well stocked café provided somewhere for refreshments and next to that there was a large gift shop with a smaller plant area. Unfortunately, plant purchases were fairly limited but there were some nice trinkets for the garden which I saw being loaded into the coach.

The weather was just right - sunny, although a little windy but you did not notice this in the walled garden. It was also nice to see some new faces on the trip.

All in all, another lovely day out and very little hold up at the Wisley junction, which meant we were back for 6.30pm. Looking forward to the next venture.

Wendy

Store Opening Times

The trial period of Wednesday evening opening at the Store has come to an end for this year, but as it seemed to assist with easing the Saturday car park congestion in the summer months, we intend to repeat it next year, but with an earlier start - no, not the hour but the month! It is believed that March may be a good starting point but will be confirmed in due course.

Thank you to the volunteers who gave up their Wednesday evenings to help (especially new recruit to the Store family - Greg) and to those of you who came to purchase.

Lynda

***Don't forget that we have a website where you can read current issues of the Gazette and Store information:
www.purbrookhorticulturalsociety.org.uk***

Potty Exhibits for the Spring Show

Most of the daffodils I attempt to grow for exhibits as cut blooms in vases in our Spring Show are raised in pots with the bulbs being planted at normal ground planting depth in especially deep pots about 40cm deep. Unlike bulbs planted in the ground, the pots can be moved around in response to weather conditions and any need to retard or advance development. The pots can also be relegated to the background while the bulbs mature after flowering and even laid on their sides as part of the drying out process. Additionally, there is no need to forfeit plants in their prime to plant the daffodils in time or to delay spring planting to mature the daffodil bulbs. However, there is no getting around the fact that with the best blooms cut for the show, the next day I am left with a sorry collection of pots largely denuded of the best blooms. The exceptions are the daffodils for the classes which require a POT of daffodils. These pots come home largely intact and together with the reserve pots continue to provide a burst of colour.

For a relatively small show like ours, growing daffodils for these pot exhibit classes has one special attraction - the pot size is specified and the pot forms part of the exhibit. Even really keen exhibitors gib at expending expensive bulbs from specialist suppliers in these smaller pots and are much more likely to use cheaper bulbs - so there is a slight levelling of the playing field.

The three 'potty' classes in the show, also make a good starting point for members who are new to exhibiting at the Spring Show - no special deep pots required, you get to take home and enjoy your exhibit after the show and the bulbs are readily and cheaply available at the Society Store.

The first 'potty' class specifies the daffodil variety - for 2025 this is 'Flower Record', a Large cup daffodil with a white perianth and a golden trumpet edged in red. Larger size bulbs have been ordered and all exhibitors will probably be using bulbs bought in the store. Plant up two or three pots and since this is a Large cup daffodil you can also enter it in Show Classes 3 and 9.

A second pot-based class does not specify a variety and merely excludes two varieties. Select any one variety from the range the store will be stocking. These include:

Sealing Wax - an alternative Large cup variety with a yellow perianth and orange cup.

Kimmeridge - a Small cup with a white perianth and small yellow cup edged with orange also suitable for Show Classes 4 and 10.

Tahiti - a reliable yellow double daffodil also suitable for Show Classes 5 and 11.

Sunny Girlfriend - a white perianth and split (flattened) yellow and pink cup suitable for Show Classes 6 and 12.

Planting up a second or third pot should provide cut blooms, either as an alternative large cup or for entry in the stated Show Class.

The third pot-based class specifies a smaller pot of miniature daffodils. Stocked daffodil varieties Tete-a-tete and Jetfire are both suitable varieties for this Class.

Bulbs should be available from mid-August - possibly at the Summer Show. Get in early - last year the 'specified' bulb sold out. Get them in by mid-September.

So have a go!

We hope to see you with one or more pots at the Spring Show.

Charles

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Summer Show
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★ As you are hopefully all aware, the Society Summer Show is
★ imminent! This is one of the main events this Society runs.
★
★ Show entries are a great way of showcasing your talent and
★ hard work. So don't be shy - if you grew it or made it - why not
★ exhibit it.
★
★ There are many classes - 'experts' and 'novice' classes are
★ available in most categories. Don't forget the children's classes -
★ get them started and they may just get the 'bug'.
★
★ Any donations of cakes, tombola prizes will be gratefully
★ accepted.
★

Evening Talk on 6th June

Darren Everest gave us a talk on growing dahlias which was very informative. A couple of weeks before, he had won a Gold Medal at Chelsea for his sweet peas and was interviewed on BBC.

He explained that his interest in gardening was fuelled by his parents who ran a Horticultural Society in Kent and where as a lad he was able to use an allotment. He now lives on the Isle of Wight.

He explained that rooted cuttings produce better blooms and then told us how to get to that stage. Lift your dahlias in October with a 6" stem and keep them upside down until dried out. Do not wrap them. In mid-February take cuttings when stems are at least 4" high. If the stem is hollow then don't use. Do not cut into the tubers. Root in a sand and perlite mixture and spray with water. When they have two pairs of leaves, trim the roots and pot into 3" pots, burying the first pair of leaves. This should be about April, then feed with a slow release fertiliser.

When the plants are in their final position pinch out the two side buds. From January to July use a high-nitrogen feed for the leaves then Miracle Grow and then a potash feed for the flowers (tomato feed is fine). Your plants with luck should be in flower from June till October.

If your plant shows signs of the mosaic virus place it in bin. Sometimes the leaves can suffer from mildew. Vaseline on the stem can deter earwigs. Bright colours can be bleached by the sun so bear that in mind if you want to put your exhibits into a show. Also dahlias grow at night so they might be over the next day. Water melon dahlias close up at night - just a fact thrown in. Darren cuts his dahlias at 5am, now that is dedication. We wish him the best of luck in his future shows.

Frances

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

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 2024, should be with the Editor by 1st October 2024, for distribution at the start of November 2024.