

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 Summer Gazette, should be with the Editor by 1st April 2018, for distribution at the start of May 2018.



GARDENER'S GAZETTE Spring 2018

SPRING SHOW

Sunday 18th March

Deverell Hall, Purbrook

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

Speakers 2018

See pages 2 – 3

Trips 2018

See pages 6 – 7

Another Did You Know?

Lime, common (*Tilia x europaea*)

Common Lime is a native of the United Kingdom. An interesting fact is that during the war lime blossom was used to make a soothing tea.

Common Lime is a hybrid between small-leaved and large-leaved lime and has characteristics of both. The bark is grey-brown and irregularly ridged, with characteristic large burrs and leaf shoots at the base of the tree. Twigs are slender and brown, although they become red in the sun. The leaf buds are red, with one small scale and one large scale, resembling a boxing glove and form on long leaf stalks. The leaves are dark green in colour, heart-shaped and flimsy and measure 6-10cm in length. They have a lopsided, lobed leaf base and tufts of white hairs in vein axils, and fade to a dull pale yellow before falling in autumn.

Lime flowers are hermaphrodite, meaning both male and female reproductive parts are contained within one flower. Flowers are white-yellow, five-petalled and hang in clusters of 2–5 and have a drooping habit.

The fruits, once pollinated by insects, develop into round-oval, slightly ribbed fruits, with a pointed tip. The heart-shaped leaves have white-cream hairs in the vein axils on the underside.

Common lime is easily confused with other limes and hybrids. It is possible to tell the species apart from the underside of the leaf. Common lime has tufts of white hairs in leaf axils where in small leaved lime these are rusty red. Large leaved lime has hairs all over the underside. Common lime is a hybrid and is rare in the wild in the UK. In winter the tree can be identified by red twigs which are hairy; more so at the ends. The red-pink buds are longer than 4mm and only have 2-3 scales. Common lime is usually planted in urban and residential areas, however, it also occurs as a natural hybrid in the wild.

Its value to wildlife: lime leaves are eaten by many species, including the lime hawk, peppered, vapourer, triangle and scarce hook-tip moths. They are very attractive to aphids, providing a source of food for their predators, including hoverflies, ladybirds and many species of bird (bees also drink the aphid honeydew deposited on the leaves).

Lime wood is soft and light, white-yellow and finely textured. It is easy to work and often used in turnery, carving and furniture making. Lime bark was traditionally used to make rope, and lime flowers were considered a valuable source of food for honey bees. The wood does not warp and is still used today to make sounding boards and piano keys. The most common use of common lime is as an ornamental tree in parks and estates.

The Chair Chats! - Yes it's still me!

Happy New Year to you all! Looking back to 2017, what an eventful year. The Trading Store was decorated thanks to dedicated volunteers who spent a lot of time and energy cleaning and painting. This was partially funded by grants obtained from the Borough Council.

We were entertained by speakers on a variety of subjects at the monthly meetings; went on superb outings; held Spring and Summer Shows which were a resounding success and read interesting and varied articles in the *Gazette*. None of this would occur without the hard work of the Committee and volunteer members working behind the scenes to ensure everything runs smoothly. Please do take the time this year to acknowledge the difference they make to the Society and perhaps offer help in any capacity, no matter how small – it will be greatly appreciated.

On a personal note, I would like to express my huge gratitude to **all** volunteers who give of themselves unselfishly and to **all** the members who make the Society so caring and friendly. So now we are in 2018 we await your suggestions and ideas on how to improve. Do not be shy as your ideas will be appreciated and considered as, after all, there are no silly ideas – just ones that can be adapted!

Lynda

* * * *

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2017

Once again, thanks to the help from about ten members of the Society, the RBL Poppy collection at Lidl's in Cowplain in November raised another amazing total of £4,042.96, an increase of just over £150 compared to the 2017 total.

So a very big 'thank you' to the collectors, and to everyone else who contributed to the collection. It was a fantastic result and for a very worthwhile cause.

Brian Andrews

PHS Meetings 2018

All meeting at Deverell Hall — start 7.30pm

Thursday 1st February

John Goodspeed is a well-known local naturalist. He leads walks on behalf of the Wildlife Trust and also posts details on his website of anything concerning conservation which can be paintings, photographs, geology, bird and butterfly sightings and details of other reserves. It is worth looking at his website which has a very amusing anecdote about his dog 'Captain'. The website is www.havantnature.net or just key in his name. John will give a talk about garden birds.

Thursday 1st March

Nick Gilbert from Gilbert's Dahlia Nursery, a family-owned business, will give us a talk on – guess what – dahlias. The nursery is just outside Romsey and sells everything you would want from a plant shop; it also has a tearoom. I am sure Nick will be able to give advice on other plants as well.

Thursday 5th April

Jonathan Rogers runs courses on wine tasting and viticulture (vine growing) at Solent Wine Experience at Emsworth. He has 25 years grounding in the wine trade at Wickham Vineyard and I am sure he will be able to advise us on our own small vine plants.

Thursday 3rd May

Maurice Pugh is a photographer and naturalist. I looked at his website and there are some stunning pictures of butterflies seen in Hampshire. His talk is entitled 'Nature in Close-up'.

Thursday 7th June

Madeleine Salvetti is a Blue Badge Guide and former chairman of the Portsmouth Tourist Guides Association. She has lived in Portsmouth most of her life and is a teacher. Madeleine will give us a talk on the 'Famous and Infamous Associated with Portsmouth'. This promises to be very interesting.

During tea and a natter we will once again ask you to vote for the winner of our Schools Gardening Competition. Please join in with this

The Visit

In December, we were honoured by a visit to the Trading Store by Mr. Alan Mak, MP and earlier in the year by Councillor Gary Hughes, so we are going up the ranks! Who next? Celebrities? Royalty?

On a more serious note, it is great to know the Society is being acknowledged and appreciated for the work in the community. Both Councillor Hughes and Mr. Mak MP spent time chatting to volunteers and customers despite their busy schedules and an open invitation has been extended for further visits.

* * * * *

Next Stop Hollywood!

Having previously been interviewed on Radio Solent about the Society and now on Solent television, I think the next step must be Hollywood! It was quite a fun, exciting experience and one that I never thought possible. Knowing that I was representing PHS was both an honour and a privilege, though quite daunting. I do so hope that any of you that caught the interview were not disappointed, as despite chatting for 40 minutes, the edited version was approximately 5 minutes long! Perhaps my new, self-appointed agent Frances Leppard of the Leppard Talent Agency, can negotiate full editorial rights at any subsequent appearance!

Lynda (by permission of the Frances Leppard Talent Agency c/o Trading Store).

* * * * *

The Annual General Meeting

Members braving the cold weather were rewarded with festive nibbles care of our outgoing Lady Convenor, Mavis and a Christmas Quiz compiled by fiendish Frances – what fun! Suggestions from the Committee and membership as how to further promote the Society, increase membership numbers and customers to the Trading Store, were welcomed and will be discussed or actioned at the next Committee meeting. Thank you all for your contributions.

Talk about Tresco Gardens by Ben Turner on 2nd November

This was very well attended and Ben gave us an interesting talk about the Island of Tresco, which is off the coast of Cornwall and is part of the Scilly Isles.

There are five inhabited islands and they are AONB (areas of outstanding natural beauty). Tresco was originally owned by the Duchy of Cornwall but is now owned and run by one family, the Dorrian-Smiths. Ben lived and worked on the island and has fond memories of his time there. It is internationally recognised as one of the finest sub-tropical gardens in the Northern Hemisphere owing to its mild climate.

Daffodils were a huge industry back in the '50s and '60s as Tresco enjoys an early Spring. Unfortunately, because of transport problems and competition from growers in Europe, it no longer produces them in as large a number as previously.

Some of the slides Ben showed us were of Aoniums, so prolific that they are known as Scilly cabbages, South African Aloes with their healing properties and pretty red flowers, Giant Banksias, stunning plants, Agaves which can sometimes have flower stalks of 10 metres.

Evergreen oak hedges have been planted around the garden to protect plants from salt-laden winds. St. Nicholas Priory ruins date from the 12thC when the Benedictine monks lived on the island. There is a museum (The Valhalla) which houses shipwrecked figureheads which have been brought up from the seabed and restored.

I thought Ben was a good speaker; he gave us all the Latin names as well as the common ones and assumed we knew our gardening which is very complimentary. Hope you enjoyed it too.

Frances

as the schools involved and Lynda have put in a lot of hard work to produce very good entries. It is also our link with gardeners of the future.

Thursday 5th July

Rosina Brandham, if you remember, gave us talks on Paxton and the great Exhibition at Crystal Palace. She will entertain us with a new talk which is entitled 'Plants which changed the World and the way we live'. Rosina is an excellent speaker.

Thursday 2nd August

Christine Bennett, an RHS speaker, will tell us about the 'Spectacular Gardens of Singapore' which should be very interesting, especially if you have plans to visit after this date.

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 in the next *Gazette* when it is available. 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

Trading Manager's Report

I hope you agree that the time and effort spent this year on decorating the Store was well worth the effort. It is now a much better environment in the shop area especially, with less damp and draughts for customers and helpers. So a big thank you to all who helped over the several weeks that it took.

Unfortunately, our trading level showed a further decline compared to the previous year; about 5%, which is of concern, so we will be redoubling our efforts to increase our footfall, to use a commercial term. If you have any suggestions as to how we could make the Store more attractive to members, or any other ideas on possible improvements, please let us know. One thing under consideration is possibly opening for an hour one evening in the week during the busy Spring and early Summer period.

Looking ahead, we have taken delivery of all our bulk stock for the coming year and, although there are some small price increases, some have actually gone down! Orders have been placed for new seeds and bulbs, and our seed potatoes, including some changes to varieties, should be available by the end of January. The days have started to get longer so all we need now is for the weather to improve and we can get started on a new gardening season.

Brian Andrews

* * * * *

Treasurer's AGM Report

An abbreviated set of the accounts that were presented at the AGM is on page 5.

This year, with no major expenditure on maintenance, having spent £2,550 on the roof in 2016, we finished the year with a surplus of over £1,000, even though we had a further decline in takings at the Store. It was a particularly good year for plant and tool sales, helped by a number of donations of items from families of members who, sadly, are no longer with us. The other main source of income was from subscriptions. Various other items contributed to our income, including the Meeting raffles which also did well this year. The money spent on cleaning and redecorating the Store this year was covered by a grant from Havant B.C. So overall, financially the Society remains in good shape.

Brian Andrews

Store News Potato Varieties for 2018

The Society has ordered the following varieties for the 2018 season. A short description of each is added for your information.

FIRST EARLY

Arran Pilot is one of the most popular first early potato varieties among amateur gardeners.

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 winning many titles on the show bench.

SECOND EARLY

Kestrel potatoes produce smooth skinned tubers with purple eyes and prove to be a winner at exhibitions.

Marfona is an oval shaped potato 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. It is purple flowered and has a golden skin and creamy white flesh with a fluffy texture.

Picasso produces round to oval tubers with smooth white skins and pink eyes.

Valor shows great levels of blight resistance combined with the ability to produce large crops of bold white tubers.

Transporting filled vases to the Show.

A low cost support for the conical society vases during transit to the show can be made from upside down cardboard boxes in which the fruit and veg are displayed in some supermarkets.

From your friendly supermarket (I use "L****") pick up the empty larger and deeper (ideally boxes more than two thirds the depth of the vases you intend to transport) fruit and veg boxes.

Turn the boxes up side down and arm yourself with a Stanley knife or similar. One method is to cut out a circle in the base of the box, smaller than the top of the vase and large enough to support the conical vase (minus its supporting base) with about three quarters of the vase below the card. Leave enough vase exposed to be able to easily grip the top and withdraw the vase from the hole.

An alternative method of supporting the vase is to cut a multi-pointed asterisk and then depress the central points in the asterisk to form a hole in the middle slightly larger than the size of the bottom of the conical vase to be supported and then gently forcing an empty vase into the hole, pushing back the cardboard so that the vase is gripped securely more than halfway up the vase without the vase wobbling. The empty vase is then withdrawn and the hole is ready for a vase with an exhibit to be inserted. The length and number of the cut lines forming the asterisk will have to be found by trial and error as it will depend on the thickness of the cardboard and the size of the vases.

Cut the circle or asterisk in each position on the base of the box at which a vase is to be supported. As a rough guide about 6 small vases or 4 medium vases can be transported in each box. The limiting factors are the rigidity of the box bases and in the case of a three flower vase, the need to position the vases so that the flowers do not touch.

When transporting vases only just over half fill with water and top them up at the show.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2017

GENERAL A/C	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	GAIN/LOSS
	£	£	£
Shows	1,854.87	2,562.57	-707.70
Plant & Tool Sales	1,862.00		1,862.00
Sale of Preserves	139.00		139.00
Gazette		528.00	-528.00
Meetings	240.00	1,244.68	-1,004.68
Pumpkin & Quiz Social	58.00	68.90	-10.90
Subscriptions	1,619.00		1,619.00
Bank Interest	6.04		6.04
Insurance		195.00	-195.00
Affiliation Fees		148.50	-148.50
Admin & Publicity		34.73	-34.73
Presentations		135.67	-135.67
Table Hire	60.00		60.00
Website Annual Cost		95.00	-95.00
Donations	50.00	52.90	-2.90
Christmas Cake Raffle	35.50		35.50
Miscellaneous	51.60	166.48	-114.88
	<u>5,976.01</u>	<u>5,232.43</u>	<u>743.58</u>

TRADING ACCOUNT

	£	£
Sales Income		11,218.03
Opening Stock	9,224.62	
Add: Purchases	10,126.28	
	<u>19,350.90</u>	
Less: Closing Stock	<u>9,623.06</u>	
		<u>9,727.84</u>
		1,490.19
Less: Operating Costs		
Rent to Havant B.C.		350.00
Electricity EON		171.44
Other		89.38
Excess Income Over Expenditure		<u>879.37</u>

NET CURRENT ASSETS AT 31st OCTOBER 2017

	2017	2016	GAIN/LOSS
	£	£	
Current Assets:			
Deposit Account	15152.33	13845.65	
Current Account	2149.09	2238.10	
Cash in Hand	560.23	586.03	
Trips Account	937.46	809.96	
Floral Art: Bank Account	1078.90	1578.75	
Store Stock at Cost incl. VAT	9,623.06	9,224.62	
Copier (depreciated)	20.00	30.00	
Lidl Tables (depreciated)	324.00	360.00	
	<u>29,845.07</u>	<u>28,673.11</u>	
Current Liabilities:			
Stock not paid for at 31st Oct.	0.00	18.68	
Deverell Hall for October	56.75	56.75	
Gazette Printing	122.40	120.00	
	<u>179.15</u>	<u>195.43</u>	
Net Current Assets	<u>29,665.92</u>	<u>28,477.68</u>	<u>1,188.24</u>

Trips 2018

Sunday 22nd April

Down House – Home of Charles Darwin – £25

A visit to Down House is a fascinating journey of discovery. The family home for 40 years of Charles Darwin and now you can explore it to the full. Discover both sides of Darwin – the great thinker and the family man. An audio tour narrated by Sir David Attenborough will bring the house to life and increase your understanding of Darwin's revolutionary theory. Stroll in lovely gardens and take the sandwalk which he paced daily in search of inspiration.

There is a tearoom serving light lunches; picnics are not allowed in the gardens.

Sunday 10th June

Chiddingstone Castle and National Trust Village – £23

In 1803 Henry Streatfield, squire of Chiddingstone, intoxicated by the current passion for mediaeval chivalry, transformed his home into a fantasy castle which would be the 'fairest house' in Kent. Visitors today find the house enchanting. The 35 acre park and garden is a haven for wildlife. A short walk takes you into the National Trust Tudor-housed village of Chiddingstone.

There is a café for lunches and also eating places in the village.

Sunday 22nd July

Sissinghurst Castle Gardens – £26 NT £16

A haven of poetic vision in a thousand-year-old landscape where the exuberant and romantic Vita Sackville-West created a world famous garden. The buildings contain a book conservation project in Vita and Harold's library. The story of the garden and the couple's wedding can be discovered in the tower and oast house.

There is a restaurant and coffee shop.

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.

I do hope these trips sound interesting. The cost of coach hire has increased a little. Prices of tickets includes a tip for the driver and all entrance fees.

Deposit £15

Balance payable at least 4 weeks before day of trip, as I will not be at the Trading Store so much in future.

Please telephone and book on 023 9225 4986 and either send a cheque to 16 Fir Copse Road, Waterlooville PO7 5JA made payable to PHS Trips or put payment in an envelope with name and phone no. and hand into Lynda Piddington at the Store or at the monthly meeting.

We leave Ladybridge Road at 9am for all trips.

Ann Richardson

* * * *

Plastic Bags and Sacks

With increasing pressure for everyone to reduce the amount of plastic being used, it is likely to become increasingly difficult for us to provide plastic carrier bags and sacks at the Store. Therefore, it would help if members could, where possible, bring their own bags for purchases in the Shop and also return the plastic sacks that we use for woodchips. Carefully opened compost bags are ideal for woodchips. Also, if you buy our potatoes, onions or bird nuts in plastic net bags, please try and return them for reuse.

* * * *

Christmas at the Trading Store

Well what a surprise! We obviously have been very good this year to receive a special visit from Father Christmas and a couple of elves. We had sausage rolls, mince pies, carrot cake and quiche as well as mulled wine which made it very festive. Many thanks to the wonderful people who helped make it special by providing nibbles and dressing up. The Store will seem very mundane in the New Year! The Christmas cake, beautifully made and decorated and donated by Mrs. Tanya Moule, was won in the raffle by Muriel Smith and raised a total sum of £44.80.

Photographs of the event are on our website!

Officers and Committee Members 2018

President:	David Parker	
Life Vice-Presidents:	Peter Brooks JP, Maureen Kemp	
Chairman:	Lynda Piddington 40 Westbrook Road, Purbrook PO7 5HX	023 9226 1149 lindapiddington@sky.com
Treasurer:	Brian Andrews 26 Kings Road, Cowplain PO8 8UR	023 9226 3731
Trading Manager:	Brian Andrews (as above)	
Secretary:	Chris Middleton 147 The Dale, Widley PO7 5JH	023 9238 0613
Show Manager:	Graeme MacFarlane 30 Khandala Gardens, Purbrook PO7 5UA	023 9225 2124
Show Secretary:	Charles Mobsby 17 Padnell Road, Cowplain PO8 8DZ	023 9226 5136
Membership Sec:	Peter Davis 48 Privett Road, Purbrook PO7 5JW	023 9226 2059
Catering Convenor:	Vacant	
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, Peter Davis, Frances Leppard, Charles Mobsby, Carole Rowland, Wendy Wright, Betty Clarke, Richard Knight	
Show Committee:	Brian Andrews, Ron Brumhill, Charles Mobsby, Mark Ward, Lynda Piddington	
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.