



# **GARDENER'S GAZETTE**

**Spring 2020**

## **SPRING SHOW**

**Sunday 22nd March**

**Deverell Hall, Purbrook**

**Doors Open: 2pm**

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

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## Officers and Committee Members 2019

President: Peter Brooks, JP

Life Vice-Presidents: Maureen Kemp, Phyllis Brooks

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  
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Show Secretary: Charles Mobsby 023 9226 5136  
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Membership Sec: Jennie Ryton-Smith 023 9235 2718

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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

## **The Chair Chats!**

Yes, me again! Ready and willing to steer the Society into its 80th year. Following a lively, friendly AGM with fiendish quiz and nibbles, I was honoured to have the opportunity to continue in the Office of Chair and would like to thank you all for the support and friendship given throughout the year.

The year 2019 has proved to be a good year with membership numbers remaining buoyant (we would, however, enjoy the company of more); outings fully subscribed with 2020s looking to prove equally as popular with Ann providing good venues and good weather. Monthly meetings have been well attended with the variety of topics meaning there was something for everyone to enjoy and be informed.

I am sure Frances will make 2020 extra fun for our 80th year. At the monthly meetings the Show Table illustrated what talented members we have; with the Society Shield for most points during the year being awarded to Adele Mallows—many congratulations, Adele!

Spring and Summer Shows reported an increase in Novice and new exhibitors, keeping Charles, the Show Secretary, on his toes arranging allotted space for them without it looking crowded, and what a success he made of it!

The Trading Store has been ticking over nicely. Thanks to Brian for managing stock and deliveries despite the indecision of Brexit making for non-availability of products or difficulty to source. One item not in short supply though is wood chippings, the mountain of which keeps Trevor and his new helper, Garry, fit and busy on Saturday mornings!

Wendy has not been idle since relinquishing the task of wood chip queen, having single-handedly taken on the task of repainting the exterior of the Store and replanting the border which will include plants donated by our lively President, Peter.

Thank you to Richard for ensuring the Gazettes are not only compiled and published but for writing and cajoling others to write articles to fill the pages. New authors always welcome!

So, this being our 80th Anniversary, please keep an eye on the Gazettes, website, meetings and store for information regarding our celebrations.

**Lynda**

## MEETINGS 2020

### February 6<sup>th</sup>

Peter Barwick will talk about Tree Fruits. Most of us have at least one tree in the garden and it would be good to get the most from it. Peter spent 50 years as a commercial fruit grower spending the last 20 at Blackmoor Estate who supply fruit to all the leading supermarkets, therefore he knows his stuff.

### March 5<sup>th</sup>

Dave Allport MBE took us down the Thames last year and really brought it to life. I have chosen a talk which cruises from the Nab Tower to the Round Tower. Bring your lifejackets and seasick pills. Dave joined the Navy at 16 and retired in 2006. A lot of his talks are based around his huge knowledge of the sea. He has great experience in public speaking and has 'trodden the boards' so look forward to an entertaining evening.

### April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Ray Broughton has been to us many times and is an excellent speaker having taught horticulture for 39 years. He has been awarded many accolades and was made a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture in 2000. He was head of education at Sparsholt College for 12 years. He will share his knowledge of Alpine and Rock Gardening with us.

### May 7<sup>th</sup>

Gillian Taylor is an experienced plantswoman and gardener. She has attended courses at Wisley and Great Dixter and has developed a garden from scratch in France. Gillian will speak about her 'Greenhouse Year'.

### June 4<sup>th</sup>

Lynda will have the entries for the Schools competition for you all to judge. In recognition of this being our '80TH YEAR' we will be having a strawberry cream tea and an entertainer – watch this space.

### July 2<sup>nd</sup>

Deryn Hawkins is a photographer and comes with recommendations from another club. She is a member of the Hants and IOW Wildlife Trust but veering away from that I have chosen her talk 'Cats of the Wild'.

**August 6<sup>th</sup>**

Steve Oakes is an active member of the RSPB. He will give us a talk on 'Birds in your Garden'.

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Sandy Worth has a 'Passion for Poppies' and that is the title of her talk. She is the owner of Water Meadow Nursery in Cheriton and holds the National Collection of poppies. Cultivars such as Patty's Plum and Lauren's Lilac were developed by Sandy amongst others. Once you have established poppies they are a colourful treat in the spring and real eye catchers.

**October 1<sup>st</sup>**

This our usual Pumpkin and Quiz evening. This will probably be the last year in this format as we are not really getting enough entries for the pumpkin/squash categories. Please prove us wrong by entering a record amount of decorated or home grown produce. Phil and I welcome any ideas for changes to the evening.

**November 5<sup>th</sup>**

Andrew Watts has always had an interest in all kinds of flora, fauna and wild places. He has had a lifelong interest in photography and his subjects range from small insects to big game. He has often had pictures published and has twice been highly commended for Wildlife photographer of the year. He will entertain us with a talk and photos of the 'Wildlife of Namibia' which will include flora and fauna of Etosha National Park and the Namib desert.

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

This is our AGM and your chance to let us know what you think of the Society and any changes that you would like. Also a chance to chat and an horrendously hard non-compulsory short quiz by yours truly. As usual there will be refreshments over and above mere biscuits, all at no charge!

## **Festival of Trees**

I do hope many of you visited St. John's Church, London Road, Purbrook over the Christmas period to view the Festival of Trees.

We were invited as a Society to partake and were pleased to accept the challenge. Having been given strict instructions concerning size of tree, type of lighting, etc. we were allowed free rein in the matter of decoration. Keeping to the theme of the Society, ours was decorated with items from the Trading Store, such as packets of seeds, plant labels, Jiffy 7s, plastic and fibre plant pots and even decorative hand forks and trowels (kindly donated by Monica –components of her bird scarer).

There were over 20 decorated trees representing local groups within the community, showing what is available in the area.

**Lynda**

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## **Christmas at the Store**

Thank you to everyone that brought nibbles and drinks for our Christmas at the Store day. It was certainly appreciated! The elves were at work and being their naughty s-elves, talking about the store being elf service and generally getting up to no good.

The draw took place for the Christmas cake generously made and donated by Tanya. It made £77 for Society funds. Peter Brooks drew the winning tickets which were:

- 1st Prize: Christmas Cake – won by Brenda Porter
  - 2nd Prize: Box of Biscuits – won by Monica Tizzard
  - 3rd Prize: Box of Biscuits – won by Brian Andrews
- Thank you all.

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## **Useful Website**

The following website may prove useful to gardeners. It has plant facts and seasonal advice.

Tony Arnold: [scienceforthegardener.co.uk](http://scienceforthegardener.co.uk)

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## **Summer Show Reminder**

By the time you are reading this, Seville oranges will be in the shops for a limited time only – so why not make some marmalade to enter in the show?

## **Trips 2020**

**Sunday 26th April 9am**  
**Lacock Abbey, Fox Talbot Museum and Village**  
**£26 - N.T. £16**

Lacock Abbey is a country house with monastic roots and Britain's birthplace of photography. It has been used for many films - Harry Potter, Wolf Hall and Pride and Prejudice, to name just a few.

The village looks much like it did 200 years ago, with timber-framed cottages and shops, and was the setting for Cranford, Downton Abbey and many more.

There are two eating places - the Courtyard Tearoom and the Stables Café.

**Sunday 14th June 9am**  
**Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens**  
**£26**

Set in over 160 acres of parkland, the park has a diverse collection of species, many of which are endangered in the wild. The beautiful gardens are carefully tended by a creative team of gardeners who have made every corner of the park a joy to visit.

There is a restaurant serving hot meals and snacks.

I am repeating this trip because many of you requested a return visit!

**Sunday 26th July 9am**  
**Mapperton House and Gardens**  
**£26**

Home to the Earl and Countess of Sandwich, Mapperton is a glorious sandstone manor house among tumbling hills and countryside. The house has guided tours only, which I book in advance.

There is a Coach House Café.

Let's hope we can visit this time, as previously this was cancelled due to filming in 2019.

**Sunday 13th September 9am**  
**Waddesdon Manor**  
**£28 - N.T. £16**

This has been home to the Rothschilds, the most powerful banking family of the 19th century. During your visit you will get to see amazing architecture, art collections and beautiful gardens.

There are many eating places at Waddesdon and also a large Gift Shop.

## Down the Rabbit Hole!

Down we went, into the magical wonderful world of Alice at Hever Castle – the destination for the December Outing.

What a great day we had with so much to see and experience. The theme of Alice was well thought out, so that all ages could wonder at the story telling. Meeting the King and Queen of Hearts plus the White Rabbit and Mad Hatter while walking through the gardens was such fun, and to see vignettes of the story in all corners of the grounds. Over the drawbridge and into the Castle courtyard we were faced with the biggest Christmas tree – all beautifully decorated and then to everyone's delight – snow flurries covered it and us (OK, so there was a snow machine, situated at an upper window but it was pure magic all the same).

Within the Castle each room was decorated with a Christmas tree depicting a part of the story of Alice in Wonderland, and what beautiful rooms, so well laid out and despite it being a Castle seemed very homely and welcoming. Outside again for another walk, past the Galloping Horses Carousel, old-fashioned Hoop-La and stalls selling hot chestnuts and drinks, through the Rose Garden (which must be incredible in the Summer) and the featured hedge topiary in the shape of chess pieces, to the boat house on the lake. Within the boat house a temporary home was provided for the Husky Welfare and Rescue Society, difficult to resist smuggling one of the lovely dogs back to the coach!

Another short walk and we came across the miniature house display with each house depicting a different era, superbly crafted – you almost felt able to walk through the houses and gardens.

To top off the day, at around 3.15pm, the lights came on all over the trees and topiary shrubs and even the Castle itself, making a magical Christmassy end to the day out.

**Lynda**



## **David Parker**

As you probably know we lost our President and friend, David Parker. David was a stalwart of the Society and over the many years he was Chairman, Committee Member and helper; but I think most of all a close friend to all who knew him. He worked tirelessly to promote and encourage gardeners and was always approachable and had an encyclopaedic knowledge of plants which he was more than happy to share.

He will be sadly missed and we send our condolences to the family.

## **Subscriptions**

It has been decided that Annual Subscriptions to the Society will remain at £6 per household for this year. You should be in receipt of a white membership card – if not, please enquire, as renewal may be due.

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## **Warning for Allotment Holders**

Several plots have had produce and tools taken from their plots. Please be vigilant and any tools, etc. safely secured, or better still those of value taken home. I know it is a nuisance, but better that than having to replace the more valuable items. If you have any problems please also tell the police. I appreciate they cannot do much, but they will at least keep an eye on gates, etc. on their patrols.

**Richard**

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## **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2019**

Once again, thanks to help from Society members, the RBL Poppy Appeal collection at Lidl's in Cowplain raised another fantastic total of £3,149.24. This is just a few pounds less than last year. A very big thank you to all the collectors and everyone who contributed.

**Brian**

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2019

GENERAL A/C

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>GAIN/LOSS</u>
	£	£	£
Shows	1,774.09	2,571.42	-797.33
Plant & Tool Sales	1,451.00		1,451.00
Sale of Preserves	167.00		167.00
Gazette		503.54	-503.54
Meetings	191.00	1,460.32	-1,269.32
Pumpkin & Quiz Social	71.00	92.92	-21.92
Subscriptions	1,620.00		1,620.00
Bank Interest	7.59		7.59
Insurance		205.00	-205.00
Affiliation Fees		102.74	-102.74
Admin & Publicity		385.34	-385.34
Dontions/Presentations	120.00	55.48	64.52
Table Hire	77.00		77.00
Christmas Cake Raffle	50.00		50.00
Miscellaneous	3.00	198.46	-195.46
	<u>5,531.68</u>	<u>5,575.22</u>	<u>-43.54</u>

TRADING ACCOUNT

	£	£
Sales Income	10,907.89	
Purchases & Cost of Stock	-9,476.39	
Gross Profit		1,431.50
Operating Costs		-1,084.61
Excess Income over Expenditure		<u>346.89</u>

TRIP ACCOUNT

Ticket Sales	5,515.00	
Cost of Coaches & Tips		-3,070.00
Entry Tickets		-1,667.30
Miscellaneous		-218.39
Excess Income over Expenditure		<u>559.31</u>

FLORA ART ACCOUNT

Income from Subs & Guests	887.00	
Event Stalls & Raffles	1,039.80	
Cost of Demonstrators		-1,652.03
Other Costs - Raffle/ Refreshments		-249.82
Excess Income over Expenditure		<u>24.95</u>

NET CURRENT ASSETS AT 31st OCTOBER 2019

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>GAIN/LOSS</u>
	£	£	
Current Assets:			
Deposit Account	16666.80	15159.21	
Current Account	1681.81	2771.37	
Cash in Hand	315.49	306.67	
Trips Account	1786.40	1227.87	
Floral Art: Bank Account	959.94	931.07	
Store Stock at Cost incl. VAT	9,590.82	9,703.99	
Copier (depreciated)	16.00	18.00	
Lidl Tables (depreciated)	260.00	292.00	
	<u>31,277.26</u>	<u>30,410.18</u>	
Current Liabilities:			
Stock/Dev Hall/Gazette	299.31	284.73	
Net Current Assets	<u>30977.95</u>	<u>30125.45</u>	<u>852.50</u>

## 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 (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 Summer Gazette, should be with the Editor by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, for distribution at the start of May 2020,