



GARDENER'S GAZETTE

Spring 2021

AGM

**To be rescheduled as and when possible,
due to Coronavirus restrictions.**

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 Summer Gazette, should be with the Editor by 1st April 2021, for distribution at the start of May 2021.

The Chair Chats!

A happier New Year to you all!

With many of you already having been vaccinated, surely there is a light at the end of the tunnel. In order to keep you all safe we have made the decision to cancel all meetings until April (with constant review of the situation, of course) and therefore the Spring Show will again be Virtual. Further details on how to enter, etc. are in this issue of the *Gazette*. Please do try to provide an entry or preferably entries as so many commented on how uplifting both the taking part as well as viewing the previous Virtual Spring and Summer Show were.

I have been heartened, but not surprised, at hearing that members have been contacting other members to chat, inform of Society matters if not able to access technology and to generally enquire as to their welfare. It is such a friendly Society.

We will of course be holding meetings as soon as we are allowed to meet comfortably in the number normally attending and fully intend it to be a true celebration.

The Trading Store will again also re-open at a time when these criteria are met; but if you have any enquiries Brian will be only too pleased to answer them. In the meantime, keep enjoying the garden when you can and when you can't, enjoy all the new hobbies I hear you've taken up or rekindled and continue chatting to other members!

I would, as it is the start of a New Year, like to take the opportunity to thank the President (not Biden!) Peter Brooks, along with his wife, Phyllis, for their continued support of the Society, inspiration and friendship which I know is valued by all. Also not forgetting the Committee and volunteers who have tirelessly, and in all weathers, given of their time to ensure my role as Chair is made so enjoyable.

Lynda

Celebrity Gardeners - Did you know

Percy Thrower started off the whole cult of celebrity gardening in 1956 when he presented a monthly gardening programme called *Gardening Club*. The very image of a cardigan-wearing old codger who fiddled around the potting shed, Percy presented at a time when open-air filming was a laborious and complicated affair, and so that he could be heard, microphones were buried into the soil around the TV gardens - the system revealed its glitch, the day Percy decided to do a spot of watering!

Percy went on to appear in children's favourite *Blue Peter*, and present *Gardeners' World*, but left the BBC in disgrace after appearing in an advert on a rival channel. He continued to be an active celebrity gardener and won a number of honours, including an MBE, an appearance on *This is Your Life*, and perhaps the highest, most lasting honour of all, the naming of numerous hybrids after him.

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Plants and Sex and Rock 'n Roll!

If the rose symbolises love, the lily purity, and the bluebell consistency, then the orchid can mean only one thing - sex.

At least that's what the prudish Victorians thought. They restricted the women of the age from growing the blooms for fear the flowers were to sexually suggestive. But then, even the father of botany, Theophrastus, found the spherical tubers a little on the erotic side; it is he that first named them orchis, which is derived from the Greek for testicle.

Only Queen Victoria was able to pursue her passion for orchids with success - largely because she appointed a well known collector to the court in the position of Royal Orchid Grower.

Ordinary women, however, got their own back - if not on the men, but certainly on the orchids. In 1912, suffragettes managed to destroy almost the entire collection of orchids at Kew Gardens.

The articles were taken from the *Gardens Companion* by Vicky Bamforth, first published in 2004.

Trading Store

Taking advantage of bulk deliveries from our new supplier BHGS, and also the fact that we have had some stock generously donated from Waterlooville Allotment Club when they closed before Christmas, I have been able to reduce the price of most composts for 2021.

Also, recognising that we will all have to use peat free compost in the near future, I have a good stock of the RHS recommended peat free Melcourt Sylvagrow Compost at the reduced price of £5.60 for 50 litres.

Don't forget that if you have an urgent requirement for anything from the Store whilst it is closed because of 'lockdown', please contact me, telephone or email, and we will see if something can be arranged.

Brian

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Same thing every year

Yes, I have done it again, bought lots of seeds when last year I said 'not again', but who can really resist seeing a plant growing from such tiny beginnings. Never could go a new year without trying a new tomato variety so I have bought Big Mama (obviously a lockdown mama)!

Have also ordered some blueberry plants. I have tried them before but am determined to get some fruit - one of them has pink fruit - should that not be a pinkberry.

After reading the latest vegetable magazine, I must be a salesman's dream. I have also bought an apple tree on M27 rootstock, see my article in a previous gazette. The root will keep the plant small but hopefully with plenty of fruit, at least that's what the salesman said. The apple is called Red Devil and was recommended. How nice to actually be able to buy something which has been mentioned in a magazine.

Saw two woodpeckers in the tree at the end of my garden; rang Chris Packham but not interested. The small birds don't seem bothered with the seed I have put out so I am having it in my muesli. Hope to see you in the store in the near future.

Frances

Garden Puzzles

1. What runs around a garden, but does not move?
2. I have two arms, but no fingers or hands. I have two feet, but cannot run. I carry best with my feet OFF the ground. What am I?
3. Homophones are words that sound the same but have different meanings. Find two homophones in the following sentence. **Can you cook with something that grows in the garden?**
4. A snail sees a row of fresh lettuces at the top of a sloped garden, 20m away. Every day he climbs 5m up the slope, but at night slides 4m back. How many days will it take him to reach the lettuces?
5. A fruity anagram MOLGOOTPIS.

For the answers (if you need them!) see page 5.

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Nostradamus, Da Vinci and Monty

All have predicted future events that have become a reality. Nostradamus predicted the assassination of John F Kennedy, President of the United States; Da Vinci made detailed drawings of helicopters, but more recently has been the realization that Monty also predicted the future. Monty Don predicted the future? I hear you cry! No, not Monty Don, Monty Python! The Ministry of Silly Walks has certainly come true in 2020. Walking around the area swerving vehicles parked on pavements; unkempt prickly hedges and low flying branches and irregular pavement levels is the norm, but now we have become used to the odd signalling between pedestrians in order to avoid breaching the 2 metre social distancing rule. Signals observed are hands indicating 'I'll go that way'; 'you go that way'; 'you go there in that garden lay by'; 'I'll cross the road, you stay there as I can see what traffic is approaching' - all with many and varied interpretations and using various implements for emphasis (mobile phones being favoured). All, however, are completed with a 'thank you', thumbs up and a nod of the head. So, when you next travel around the area, whether by foot or wheels, please remember that you have the Monty Python team to thank. After all they really did 'always look on the bright side of life!'

Lynda

PS: I can hear you all singing that now!

Answers to Garden Puzzles

1. Answer - a hedge.
2. Answer - a wheelbarrow.
3. Answer - flour and flower.
4. Answer - sixteen days. on the first day, the snail slithers 5m and slides back 4m at night, managing to get one metre nearer the lettuces. On the second day, he's therefore 2m closer, and so until after 15 days he's 15m closer. Then on the 16th day, he slithers to 20m.
5. Answer - Pomologist - a cultivator of fruit.

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Cactus and Succulents Society

As a Society local to us that has also been involved in our Summer Show, successfully having a table to promote and sell items, you may be interested to know they have decided in the present climate to cancel their Summer Show originally scheduled for June 5th.

This may therefore make you wonder how we stand regarding our Summer Show. Rest assured we are aware that while many Societies have already made the decision to cancel, we are optimistically hoping to go ahead if Covid restrictions allow and if the College is still able/willing to accommodate us. As with all situations at present we will keep members aware of any changes that occur as swiftly as possible.

Members already signed up to our Facebook page will testify that they get updates the day changes are decided, so why not join the group and request membership?

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Seed Potatoes

Unfortunately, in the last week of January, we were told by BHGS that there was a major problem with our order and that they could only supply 25kg each of four of the nine varieties we had asked for, underlined below. Rapid action was taken to obtain alternative supplies from a local nursery that BHGS had identified as having stock but we were only able to obtain a limited quantity of a more diverse range.

First Earlies: Arran Pilot - Foremost - Pentland Javelin - Epicure.

Second Earlies: Marfona - Estima - Maris Piper.

Main Crop: Desiree - Maris Piper - Valor - Pentland Dell - Pink Fir Apple.

Brian

Annual Accounts

The a/cs have not been audited yet due to the Covid lockdown.

The Trip a/c figures reflect the expenses for the November trip but not all the income, since the a/cs closed before the trip took place. They also show advance income for the 2021 trips and the payment already made for the first coach.

The Floral Art a/c deficit is due mainly to expenses associated with the meeting that had to be cancelled at the very last minute due to Covid.

Brian

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

<u>GENERAL A/C</u>	<u>INCOME (£)</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE (GAIN/LOSS (£)</u>	
Shows	65.00	501.39	-436.39
Plant & Tool Sales	1,425.00		1,425.00
Sale of Preserves	197.00		197.00
Gazette		131.99	-131.99
Meetings	72.00	479.42	-407.42
Pumpkin & Quiz Social		27.00	-27.00
Subscriptions	1,176.00		1,176.00
Bank Interest	3.27		3.27
Insurance		205.00	-205.00
Affiliation Fees		127.00	-127.00
Admin & Publicity		254.18	-254.18
Donations/Presentations	115.85	50.00	65.85
Table Hire	32.00		32.00
Christmas Cake Raffle	77.00		77.00
Miscellaneous		218.82	-218.82
	<u>3,163.12</u>	<u>1,994.80</u>	<u>1,168.32</u>
<u>TRADING ACCOUNT</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	
Sales Income	10,957.45		
Purchases & Cost of Stock	8,592.24		
Gross Profit		1,531.03	
Operating Costs		-555.18	
Excess Income over Expenditure			<u>975.85</u>
<u>TRIP ACCOUNT</u>			
Ticket Sales	3,745.00		
Prepaid 2021 Ticket Sales	-3,402.00		
Expenses		1,458.00	
Prepaid 2021 Coach		-725.00	
Excess Income over Expenditure			<u>-390.00</u>
<u>FLORA ART ACCOUNT</u>			
Income from Subs & Guests	235.00		
Event Stalls & Raffles	439.50		
Cost of Demonstrators		-351.00	
Other Costs - Raffle/ Refreshments		-416.29	
Excess Income over Expenditure			<u>-92.79</u>
<u>NET CURRENT ASSETS AT 31st OCTOBER 2020</u>			
<u>Current Assets:</u>	<u>2020 (£)</u>	<u>2019 (£)</u>	<u>GAIN/LOSS (£)</u>
Deposit Account	17170.07	16666.80	
Current Account	4247.92	1681.81	
Cash in Hand	306.64	315.49	
Trips Account	4073.40	1786.40	
Prepaid 2021 Trip Expenses	725.00		
Floral Art: Bank Account	865.94	959.94	
Store Stock at Cost incl. VAT	8,756.64	9,590.82	
Copier	16.00	16.00	
Lidl Tables (depreciated)	234.00	260.00	
	<u>36,395.61</u>	<u>31,277.26</u>	
<u>Current Liabilities:</u>			
Stock not paid for at 31st Oct.	319.09	241.31	
Deverell Hall for October	0.00	58.00	
Prepaid 2021 Trip Money	3,402.00		
	<u>3,721.09</u>	<u>299.31</u>	
Net Current Assets	<u>32674.52</u>	<u>30977.95</u>	<u>1,696.57</u>

Lockdown Delights

During the Summer months being in lockdown was a great excuse not to do housework (no one was allowed in), and spend all day in the garden tending plants; growing and eating vegetables or just sitting and listening to the birds.

Then came Autumn and Winter - but did members despair? No! From the many conversations had, both real and technological, you have spent the time doing Jig Saws; Crocheting; Knitting; Baking; Painting; Tik Tokking (for the young at heart), or clearing out those cupboards containing the 'oh so important' items that have not seen the light of day for months, (ok! I confess - years). So, bearing this in mind, as the Spring Show is Virtual again this year and we don't have a concern regarding table space in the Hall for entries, we thought you would like to enter your 'Lockdown Creation' so please do enjoy sharing the fruits of your labour - no judging involved!

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And now for Something Different!

When the rain comes down in sheets and there is frost on the rooftops, we have an excuse not to go out but sit in a warm comfy chair as we are doing the Community a service by keeping it safe! If desired, however, pull on your wellies, button up your mac and find a big puddle and jump in it like a 3 year old - if someone happens to spot you they'll either just walk on by; sympathize as you've gone stir crazy or maybe feel encouraged to join you!

Happy Puddle Jumping!

A Note from the Editor

It is refreshing that members' take the trouble to submit articles for our *Gazette*.

What is interesting is that the majority come from our lady members.

Does that mean that us men have nothing interesting to say?

Why not pen an article (it need not be horticulturally based) to help make the publication more diverse and readable?

Richard

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 2021

President:	Peter Brooks, JP	
Life Vice-Presidents:	Maureen Kemp, Phyllis Brooks	
Chairman:	Lynda Piddington 40 Westbrook Grove, Purbrook PO7 5HX	023 9226 1149 linda.piddington@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:	Jennie Rytton-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	