



# **GARDENER'S GAZETTE**

## **Spring 2022**

**SPRING SHOW**  
**Sunday 20th March**  
**2022**

**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)**

## Officers and Committee Members 2022

President:

Life Vice-President: Maureen Kemp

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: Jan Baxter 023 9238 3007  
29 The Brow, Waterloooville PO7 5BY

Show Manager: Graeme MacFarlane 023 9225 2124  
30 Khandala Gardens, Purbrook PO7 5UA

Show Secretary: Charles Mobsby 023 9226 5136  
17 Padnell Road, Cowplain PO8 8DZ

Membership Sec: Tanya Barker 023 9378 2577  
48 The Glade, Waterloooville PO7 7PE

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, Frances Leppard, Charles Mobsby, Richard Knight, Carole Rowland, Wendy Wright, Ann Richardson, Tanya Barker

**Show Committee:** Brian Andrews, Ron Brumhill, Charles Mobsby, Mark Ward, Lynda Piddington, Ann Richardson

## **The Chair Chats!**

Where has the time gone? Another year has passed in a blur and I'm sure everyone feels they have somehow been in a parallel universe where a year has dropped off the calendar.

With mothballing the Society due to the Covid restrictions, the Committee and volunteers were still working hard, maintaining and ensuring the security of the Trading Store, sourcing new suppliers and even adjusting the Store layout to receive delivery of bulk supplies more easily; booking, cancelling and rebooking Outings and generally trying to keep everyone informed and engaged.

Then, finally, 'Freedom Day' was announced, then delayed and finally arrived, at which point it was too late to reorganise the Summer Show, so again, it was Virtual, enabling members to showcase their talents.

Two trips went ahead – firstly to Mapperton House and then to the Cotswold Wildlife Park. The monthly meetings resumed, including the ever popular Pumpkin Evening and Quiz. The website was updated regularly in order to inform of all the changes and to illustrate events for those unable to attend – thus allowing them to participate.

The Trading Store was a real boon, as gardening became even more important for mind and body during lockdown and self-isolation, enabling all to gather supplies at discounted prices.

So we made it through to the AGM and can now look forward to a happy, healthy and hopefully safe New Year, enjoying all the activities planned.

First meeting back being the first Thursday in February and the Spring Show booked for Sunday 20th March.

**Lynda**

## Talks for 2022

All talks begin at 7.30pm, but doors will be open at 7.00pm.

### **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

Deryn Hawkins is a photographer and comes to us with high recommendations from other clubs. She is a member of Hants. Wildlife Trust but hopefully we will not see any of these on our local walks as she will show us 'Cats of the Wild'.

### **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

Glenn Duggan is a Fellow of the London Zoological Society. He served in the Royal Navy for 28 years, retiring as a Lieutenant Commander in 1993. During his service he visited over 50 countries developing an interest in ornithology and gardening. Glenn gives talks to many societies and is also a keen photographer and artist. He will be talking about the 'Successful Cultivation of Roses'.

### **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

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

### **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

Kelvin Mason has worked at Sparsholt College for 18 years. He is currently Secretary of the Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies and editor of the National Vegetable Society's magazine. He has a great knowledge of gardening and horticulture and will talk about 'Trees for small gardens'

### **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

TBA

### **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July**

Chris Bird works at Sparsholt College and is an experienced gardener. He will give a talk on 'Fruit and Vegetable Growing'. We all have queries on this subject so get ready to ask questions.

## Changes

At the AGM it was announced that some changes were under way -

Our President and Vice-President, Peter and Phyllis Brooks stepped down from this position, but will remain as less active members. We thank them both for their friendship, willingness to impart the wealth of knowledge gleaned over the years, generosity of spirit and for steering the Society, despite the vagaries of fashion, to the present thriving Society.

Finding replacements are ongoing with potential candidates being considered.

Also stepping down from the Committee but also willing to remain as active members supporting where and when possible are:

Chris Middleton, the outgoing Society Secretary

Betty Clark renowned jam producer and known for her many roles within the Society, including at times, Lady Convenor, helper at Shows and member of the Membership Desk team.

Jennie Ryton Smith the Membership Secretary who moved out of area.

Tanya Barker has now volunteered for this position and is currently in the process of streamlining the system.

I'm sure you will join me in conveying your gratitude for the hard work achieved by these willing volunteers.

Further announcement at the AGM was the gift of Honorary Life Membership to the following members:

Peter Chivers - A willing volunteer at the Store, working behind the scenes in the weighing and bagging area. Supporter of all the Shows and an accredited judge for other Societies.

Trevor Mills - Self proclaimed King of the Woodchip! He who moves the mountain of woodchip from pile to car in all weathers with a smile on his face and a friendly word for all.

Wendy Wright - Also a Store stalwart, assisting with supply deliveries, sitting on the Committee, and always a willing hand wherever and whenever required.

Jan Baxter- another Store stalwart, manning the Membership Desk, doing tip runs, helping at Shows and now the new incumbent Society Secretary.

All these changes emphasise the worth of our wonderful volunteers and the value they bring to the Society

**Lynda**

## **Quiz and Pumpkin evening 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021**

We have now managed another social evening and the sky hasn't fallen in. Hopefully we can continue and stay safe.

Thank you for a great turnout on a chilly evening. The entries for the tables were very good; Charles swept the board with 2 firsts and Monica Bone and myself were seconds.

Moans about the quiz as usual but good natured - I hope! The winners were Brian, Janet, Eric and June. Well done them. A few answers made me laugh. I think I would be more terrified of a 'crash of squirrels' than of rhinos. A fruit that is also a language (Swede or Blackberry?). The answer was, Mandarin. Lastly a phrase which means grabbing a stinging plant, one answer was 'Ouch! where's the dock leaf'. The answer is 'grasping the nettle'.

Catering by Ann, ably assisted by Ann and Brenda and many thanks to them. As I've said before if anyone wants to have a go at compiling the next quiz let me know. It's not just a case of going on the internet as I try to keep away from soaps, films and modern music but you will enjoy setting one. I jot things down during the year that seem interesting.

**Frances**

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## **Strawberry Plants**

This year, as a trial, we have ordered two varieties of certified strawberry plants, which are available now.

Varieties are: Sweetheart (early season), and Cambridge Favourite (mid-season).

There are be 100 of each. Price is £1.00 each.

**Brian**

## Store - Composts for 2022

Recognising the inevitable move towards peat-free composts, and the phasing out of those containing peat, we have increased the range of peat-free composts at the Store. So that members can make an informed choice, we have identified which composts contain peat, or not, as below.

### **Multipurpose**

Melcourt Sylvagrow	50lt Peat-Free
Bullrush	40lt Peat-Free
SHL Universal	75lt Peat-Based
Evergreen	50lt Peat-Based (being phased out)
<b>Potting</b>	SHL Potting & Bedding 75lt Peat-Reduced
<b>Seed</b>	SHL Seed with Vermiculite 75lt Peat-Based
<b>Ericaceous</b>	Melcourt 50lt Peat-Free
<b>John Innes 1, 2, 3 &amp; Seed</b>	25lt Contains Peat
<b>Growbags</b>	Evergreen 36lt Peat-Based

All the SHL composts will also be available in ¼ bags.

The Bullrush compost is the replacement for the Evergreen 50lt. Having used some of it to pot up bulbs, I found that it was more fibrous than the Melcourt. Not surprisingly the peat-free composts tend to be more expensive but the cost of nearly all compost has risen, presumably because of Covid and supply difficulties.

Brian

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## Accounts for 1/11/20 to 31/10/21

This has been another year where our expenditure has been much lower than usual due to both Shows having to be cancelled again, and our Monthly Meetings curtailed until August due to Covid restrictions. But, thanks to increased support on Saturdays from our members, income from the Store was up by an amazing 20% and Plant & Tool sales by about 15%. The end result was that the 2020/2021 a/cs, see page 6, show a large surplus of £3,659.87.

In November 2021, (i.e. in the current financial year), the Trip a/c, with HSBC, was moved to come under the umbrella of the Society's main a/c with Santander. This was done because HSBC had decided to impose bank charges, even on Community a/cs. Ann will still manage the day-to-day finances for the trips, but financial transactions will be via the main a/c and therefore, in future, cheques for trips will need to be made out to just 'Purbrook Horticultural Society'. We hope members will find this a reasonably seamless change.

Brian

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021

<u>GENERAL A/C</u>	<u>INCOME (£)</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE (</u>	<u>GAIN/LOSS (£)</u>
Shows		17.60	-17.60
Plant & Tool Sales	1,648.00		1,648.00
Sale of Preserves	141.00		141.00
Gazette		197.49	-197.49
Meetings	25.00	400.78	-375.78
Pumpkin & Quiz Social			0.00
Subscriptions	594.00		594.00
Bank Interest	0.00		0.00
Insurance		205.00	-205.00
Affiliation Fees		112.00	-112.00
Admin & Publicity		278.73	-278.73
Donations/Presentations	1,026.38	80.03	946.35
Table Hire			0.00
Christmas Cake Raffle			0.00
Miscellaneous		10.00	-10.00
	<u>3,434.38</u>	<u>1,301.63</u>	<u>2,132.75</u>
<u>TRADING ACCOUNT</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	
Sales Income	13,420.27		
Purchases of Stock	<u>10,352.74</u>		
Gross Profit		1,902.81	
Operating Costs		-758.04	
Excess Income over Expenditure		<u>1,144.77</u>	
<u>TRIP ACCOUNT</u>			
Ticket Sales	1,003.00		
Expenses		1,796.00	
Excess Income over Expenditure		<u>-793.00</u>	
* 2022 Trip Money paid in advance	1,624.00		
<u>FLORAL ART ACCOUNT</u>			
Income from Subs & Guests	243.00		
Event Stalls & Raffles	266.95		
Cost of Demonstrators		-248.70	
Other Costs - Raffle/ Refreshments		-76.60	
Excess Income over Expenditure		<u>184.65</u>	
<u>NET CURRENT ASSETS AT 31st OCTOBER 2021</u>			
<u>Current Assets:</u>	<u>2021 (£)</u>	<u>2020 (£)</u>	<u>GAIN/LOSS (£)</u>
Deposit Account	22170.17	17170.07	
Current Account	3657.67	4247.92	
Cash in Hand	328.25	306.64	
Trips Account	3280.40	4073.40	
Prepaid 2021 Trip Expenses		725.00	
Floral Art: Bank Account	1049.89	865.94	
Store Stock at Cost incl. VAT	7,591.92	8,756.64	
Copier	15.00	16.00	
Lidl Tables (depreciated)	<u>210.00</u>	<u>234.00</u>	
	38303.30	36,395.61	
<u>Current Liabilities:</u>			
Stock not paid for at 31st Oct.	307.91	319.09	
Deverell Hall for October	37.00	0.00	
Prepaid 2021 Trip Money	<u>1624.00</u>	<u>3,402.00</u>	
	1968.91	3,721.09	
Net Current Assets	<u>36334.39</u>	<u>32674.52</u>	<u>3,659.87</u>



## Technology!

For many people Technology was something others used; people who were super clever or very young, but the pandemic has opened doors and minds to far more people in the good way

Technology can be used to improve lives. As 'shielders' we were able to shop for Groceries online which also provided the opportunity to actually talk to someone face to face when they delivered our precious cargo - even if it were the same conversation used when in a taxi - 'Are you nearly finished?'; 'Has it been Busy?'; 'What is the Traffic like?' - all questions that bear no relevance to our locked down situation!

Technology has helped us keep in touch with family and friends, with advanced supporters of Technology being able to 'facetime' or 'zoom' with them. Parents and grandparents became online tutors to offspring, having to relearn Mathematics techniques now taught entirely differently from the 'good 'ol days' of our youth.

Technology even brought Culture into our lives with the ability to view Museums; Ballet and Theatre Performances or even Sing along with Choirs! So although we have to be careful about online Cyber attacks, on the whole as long as we are careful, Technology can have its uses and we as a Society were able to hold Virtual shows which kept us entertained and busy in the garden; Show photo's and share updated information on the website, and we even started our own Facebook Group Page to share photographs, up to the minute information and share thoughts and tips.

If however, you or someone you know does not use Technology, please do keep them informed of Society News in the non technological way by phoning or calling round for a chat.

If this pandemic has taught us anything it is the power of friendship and care for others, something I believe the Purbrook Horticultural Society does well.

## Store Alterations

As many of you will know, following the alterations at the Store, we have been able to take delivery of most of the composts on pallets, and we are very pleased the way this has gone. However, the concrete in front of the main entrance needs to be levelled up to make access easier for the pallet trollies - a task for the warmer weather.

Brian

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## Thank You!

A big thank you to Tanya Moule who made, decorated and donated the beautiful Christmas Cake for us to raffle for Society funds. It is thoughtfulness and gestures such as these that really showcase what lovely members we have.

The winner was Brian Andrews, and the amount raised was £62. Many thanks to all who bought tickets.

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## Celebrity Gardeners

Do you remember Arthur Billit? He appeared on television with Percy Thrower and sometimes had a job to get a word in!

The name 'Clack's Farm' probably has been long forgotten. It was a run-down two and a half acre wilderness on a run-down farm. It was suggested by the BBC that he should develop it on TV as a fruit and vegetable garden on the *Gardener's World* programme.

Arthur's first interest in gardening was at the age of six years, when he started off by sowing pansy seed. He then trained to be a pharmacist at Boots the Chemist, where he was involved in the development of their horticultural department.

He was a very practical gardener, being very 'hands-on' and had a very practical knowledge of fruit, vegetables and flowers.

Having been to Clack's Farm, I was much impressed by the layout and warm welcome we received from Arthur on arrival and the fact that he had very little help in his garden. I would recommend reading the book written by Arthur, *The Story of Clack's Farm*, which I am sure you can borrow from the local library.

Peter Brooks

*Clack's Farm is in Worcestershire tithing of Boreley.*

## **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.*

## **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 2022, should be with the Editor by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, for distribution at the start of May 2022.