



GARDENER'S GAZETTE

Spring 2023

SPRING SHOW **Sunday 19th March**

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 2023

President:	Wendy Wright	
Vice-President:	Richard Knight	
Life Vice-President:	Maureen Kemp	
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:	Jan Baxter 29 The Brow, Waterloooville PO7 5BY	023 9238 3007
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
Floral Art Chair:	Carole Rowland	023 9225 5134
Membership Sec:	Tanya Barker 48 The Glade, Waterloooville PO7 7PE	023 9378 2577
Catering Convenor:	Anne Canning	amcanning@btinternet.com
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, Garry White, Carole Rowland, Wendy Wright, Ann Richardson, Tanya Barker, Anne Canning.		
Show Committee: Brian Andrews, Ron Brumhill, Charles Mobsby, Mark Ward, Lynda Piddington, Anne Canning.		

The Chair Chats!

As another year comes to a close it is time to reflect back and what a surprising year it has been! As a Society we have achieved, with the massive aid of volunteers, a Spring and Summer Show despite the concern regarding numbers willing to exhibit and attend with Covid guidelines changing and many still wary of meeting in large numbers. Monthly Meetings resumed, as did Trips, and numbers visiting the Store increased where the eagle-eyed would spot better access thanks to a widened door and evenly laid new concrete, all aiding safety as well as ease of delivery of stock.

The weather this year seesawed from flaming hot, to deluges, making life as a gardener somewhat difficult. First there was record temperatures, hose pipe bans in many areas and water butts running dry, meaning a return to the 'olden days' of saving and reusing washing up water and bath water, which is made more difficult nowadays with households having showers and dishwashers!

Then came the rain, more rain and then even more, so water butts overflowed and we really began to believe that an Ark would be necessary and that Waterlooville and Purbrook were not named in memory of troops billeted before the Battle of Waterloo locally and the Brook but after the amount of water in the area!

We said a sad farewell to Peter Brooks as President and welcomed Wendy Wright as his successor and despite the long shadow left by Peter she is doing an admirable job. Ann Richardson stepped down as Catering Manager but thankfully remains as Trip Organiser with the role of Catering Manager now filled by Anne Canning.

I would now like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for their continued support; the volunteers who willingly gave their time; muscle and expertise to ensure the Society runs smoothly and the members who attended Monthly Meetings; provided exhibits for, and helped at the Shows; went on trips; visited the Store and spread the word that our Society is a friendly, vibrant, welcoming and relevant one - your reward is outlined within the pages of this Gazette!

Thank you.

Lynda

Talks for 2023

All talks begin at 7.30pm, at the Deverell Hall, and doors will be open at 7.00pm.

Thursday 2nd February

John Wood, who is head gardener at the National Trust's Hinton Ampner, will tell us about the history, plants and the day-to-day management of the gardens. The garden overall is 14 acres, and he has a team of three, and one of the things he has achieved in his time there has been to restore the walled garden.

Thursday 2nd May

Richard Jones from 'Friends of Portsdown Hill' will tell us about the wildlife on the hill.

Thursday 6th April

Mark Porter is the NGS (National Garden Scheme) county organiser for Hampshire and Chair of the S.E. region. Under this scheme people's gardens are open to the public and all money raised is given to charity. Mark will show slides of some of these stunning gardens and talk about some of the caring, nursing and health charities that are supported by the NGS.

Thursday 4th May

Mark Ainsworth is a member of our Society but he is also a multiple Chelsea Gold Medallist. He specialises in British Palms and we look forward to finding out about these exotic looking plants.

Frances

Vic Mould

As many of you are aware, we lost a valued friend and member of our team at PHS recently. Vic was on the Committee and was Show Manager for many years, and a keen chrysanthemum grower.

Vic was probably better known as one of the 'backroom' lads, ensuring full shelves and the bagging of the many items that came into the Store in bulk.

He was a skilled carpenter and could turn his hand to most tasks on construction projects.

We fondly remember his depth of knowledge regarding plants - both flowers and vegetables. He had an allotment for many years and his wit and kindness will be sorely missed by those who knew him well. He was always in demand for his knowledge of which he would give freely.

Our sincere condolences to his family.

TRIPS FOR 2023

SUNDAY 30th April 9.15am £28

EXBURY GARDEN AND STEAM TRAIN

Picturesque Garden filled with Camellias; Rhododendrons and Azaleas.

Large restaurant on site.

SUNDAY 11th June 9.15am £30

MOTOR MUSEUM BEAULIEU INCLUDING HOUSE AND GARDEN

A day out for everyone as the Motor Museum has new displays; a Monorail; Palace and Gardens.

Restaurant on site.

SUNDAY 23rd July 9am £30

PARHAM HOUSE WITH GARDEN as well as **THE SOUTH DOWNS CENTRE** before onward travel to Parham House, which opens at midday.

Restaurants at both sites.

SUNDAY 17th September 9am £30

LULLINGSTONE CASTLE AND THE WORLD GARDEN

At Lullingstone Castle they will be celebrating Mexico weekend entitled 'Cactus At The Castle', therefore there will be a wide range of Cacti and Succulents, as well as related plants on display and to purchase. Guided tours of the World Garden with Tom Hart Dyke. The Nursery will be fully stocked with Botanical delights alongside the House and Church which are also open. A Gift Shop is also on site.

There is no restaurant but there will be a large Marquee Tea Room serving sandwiches and cakes, etc. Picnics are welcome.

A £15 deposit is required in order to book a seat

Pick up is from Ladybridge Road. You may park your vehicle in the car park which is situated behind the Purbrook Pharmacy and accessed via Ladybridge Road.

Enquiries to Ann Richardson on 023 9225 4986

Now to book the good weather for those dates!

Ann

A right old moan

I have been reading some old gardening magazines which Wendy kindly gave me and one of the articles struck me as relevant today as when it was published in 2004. It says (in respect of specialised plants, in this case alpine) that television does not help to encourage budding plantsmen and real enthusiasts. It is a fact that television audiences are treated as callow novices. Personally, if I hear one more presenter telling me to plant bulbs 'pointy side up', something will go through my telly screen!

In another edition (2010) it says that 'so called experts' dish up superficial tosh with contrived personalities that they cultivate more than plants. The only light at the end of the tunnel is where they visit specialised nurseries or gardens; a case in point of the ranunculus grown at West Dean gardens. More of those would be good.

Frances

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Calling All Novices!

Not for the latest productions of the 'Sound Of Music' or 'Sister Act' but to please provide an exhibit for the Spring and Summer Shows. So often we overhear comments such as 'I've grown those and mine look as good or even better' - yet people seem to feel afraid to take that leap and decide to enter.

Although the Shows are judged, everyone from the more experienced to even the judges themselves, willingly give advice and encouragement, so if you are walking through the garden and spot a lovely Daffodil; Rose; Dahlia; Tomato or Onion please do enter it in a Show.

The Spring Show is a good place to start, because if you bought the bulbs at the Store you will have lovely blooms! The Summer Show is more varied and enables members to showcase other talents such as Baking; Handicrafts and Floral Art while also entering Flowers; Fruit and Vegetables, and with 2023 having a few new classes an even greater chance of winning.

Accounts for 2021/2022

A summary of the accounts for the Society, as presented at the AGM, is on page 6. A copy of the full accounts, which have been audited, can be seen at the Trading Store.

One or two items probably need some additional explanation:
In the General a/c - The deficit, or cost, of putting on the shows should in fact be significantly more because we have still not received the bill from Hants. County Council for the use of Crookhorn School for the Summer Show, which for our last show in 2019 was over £700.

The income from both Plant and Tool sales, and Preserves, were record amounts this year.

The transfer to Floral Art was to help with the high cost of their demonstrators and was effectively the £1,000 that Waterlooville Allotments and Gardens very generously gave to us when they had to close.

In the Trading a/c - The income was the highest since 2009 and was 20% up on last year. The closing stock figure is unusually high because we bought our bulk stock in early this year to beat impending price increases. The operating costs included the laying of the new concrete which cost nearly £1,000.

In the Trip a/c, managed by Ann - the final figures are misleading, because most of the ticket monies for this year's trips was paid in advance last year, or carried over from Covid cancelled trips. The account still has a healthy balance of over £1,500 as shown in the Assets.

In the Floral Art a/c, managed by Monica - the £1,000 transfer has enabled them to have a healthy balance to start the coming year.

The final section indicates that, overall, our assets have increased by more than £1,500 this year, although the actual figure is subject to the accuracy of our stocktake figures.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022

<u>GENERAL A/C</u>	<u>INCOME (£)</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE / GAIN/LOSS (£)</u>	
Shows	1,345.55	1,437.86	-92.31
Plant & Tool Sales	1,948.00		1,948.00
Sale of Preserves	286.40		286.40
Gazette		602.49	-602.49
Meetings	224.00	1,440.90	-1,216.90
Pumpkin/Quiz/Jubilee Socials	106.00	134.25	-28.25
Subscriptions	1,385.00		1,385.00
Bank Interest	44.92		44.92
Insurance		205.00	-205.00
Affiliation Fees		139.00	-139.00
Admin/Publicity/Website		326.39	-326.39
Donations/Presentations	2.00	165.97	-163.97
Transfer to Floral Art		1,000.00	-1,000.00
Table Hire	80.00		80.00
Christmas Cake Raffle	62.00		62.00
Miscellaneous		339.95	-339.95
	<u>5,483.87</u>	<u>5,793.81</u>	<u>-309.94</u>
<u>TRADING ACCOUNT</u>			
Sales Income	16,086.20		
Opening Stock		7,591.92	
Purchases of Stock		17,914.35	
Less Closing Stock		<u>-11,452.74</u>	
	<u>16,086.20</u>	<u>14,053.53</u>	
Gross Profit			2,032.67
Operating Costs			-1,868.81
Excess Income over Expenditure			<u>163.86</u>
<u>TRIP ACCOUNT</u>			
	Inc.	Exp.	
Ticket Sales	1,875.00		
Expenses		3,650.90	
Excess Income over Expenditure			<u>-1,775.90</u>
<u>FLORAL ART ACCOUNT</u>			
Income from Subs & Guests	852.00		
Event Stalls & Raffles	408.90		
Other Income Incl. Donations	1,722.70		
Cost of Demonstrators		-1,469.00	
Other Costs - Raffle/ Refreshments		-721.74	
Excess Income over Expenditure			<u>793.86</u>
<u>NET CURRENT ASSETS AT 31st OCTOBER 2022</u>			
<u>Current Assets:</u>	<u>2022 (£)</u>	<u>2021 (£)</u>	<u>GAIN/LOSS (£)</u>
Deposit Account	20714.99	22170.17	
Current Account	2267.39	3657.67	
Cash in Hand	362.51	328.25	
Trips Account	1504.50	3280.40	
Prepaid 2021 Trip Expenses			
Floral Art: Bank Account	1845.93	1049.89	
Store Stock at Cost Incl. VAT	11,452.74	7,591.92	
Copier	14.00	15.00	
Lidl Tables (depreciated)	<u>190.00</u>	<u>210.00</u>	
	<u>38352.06</u>	<u>38303.30</u>	
<u>Current Liabilities:</u>			
Hants C.C. School for Show	724.00	[2019 Figure]	307.91
Stock not paid for at 31st Oct.			37.00
Deverell Hall for October	38.50		
Prepaid 2022 Trip Money			<u>1,624.00</u>
	<u>762.50</u>	<u>1,968.91</u>	
Net Current Assets	<u>37589.56</u>	<u>36334.39</u>	<u>1,255.17</u>

Trading Store News

The good news is that we have obtained the same range of compost as last year at, more or less, the same price. Also, the popular Evergreen multipurpose continues to be available.

Multipurpose - Melcourt Sylvagrow 50lt Peat-Free
Bullrush 40lt Peat-Free
SHL Universal 75lt Peat-Based
Evergreen - 50lt Peat-Based
Potting - SHL Potting & Bedding 75lt Peat-Reduced
Seed - SHL Seed with Vermiculite 75lt Peat-Based
Ericaceous - Melcourt 50lt Peat-Free
John Innes 1, 2, 3 & Seed - 25lt Contains Peat
Growbags - Evergreen 36lt Peat-Based

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Seed Potatoes

Seed Potatoes on order for delivery in early February are -

1st Early - Casablanca, Pentland Javelin, Winston

2nd Early - Charlotte, Kestrel, Marfona

Main Crop - Desiree, Maris Piper, Valor

They will be available in pre-packs of 2kg but we can split some for smaller quantities if required. The slightly later delivery date of February is to help avoid frost damage whilst in our Store, particularly important if the recent very cold spell comes back again in January.

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A Late Present!

Yes, we are giving you a late present in that it has been decided to change the date that you renew membership fee to 1st January 2024. That means all members fully paid this year, 2022-2023, who normally renew on 1st September, will have an extra four months free! As a bonus, we will also reduce, yes reduce, the Membership Fee on 1st January 2024 to £5 per household.

This little extra is a thank you to you all for your support in helping increase Membership numbers; buying stock at the Store; attending monthly meetings and going on the Trips; which in turn aids Society funds to an extent that makes this little, late present possible.

Many thanks!

Lynda

Royal British Legion Poppy Collection 2022

The RBL Poppy Collection at Lidl's in Cowplain this year raised an amazing record amount of £4,768.36. Particular thanks are due to the collectors, 9 out of the 10 of whom were PHS members, and of course everyone that contributed to the collection.

If you would like to join the collecting team, please let me know. It is not very onerous - we collect for 2 hour stints between 9.00am and 5.00pm - usually for the two weeks before Armistice Day, 11th November. We collect inside the Store and a chair is provided.

Brian

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Christmas at the Store

A big thank you to everyone who supplied the mulled wine and nibbles for the end of year get-together at the Store, and for those that weathered the icy winds, to come and partake! I am sure you did not mind having elf service!

The Christmas cake kindly made, decorated and donated to raffle for Society funds by Tanya Moule was won by Tanya (coincidence) Barker and raised a total of £64. Tanya (the winner) was delighted to be the holder of the winning ticket which was drawn by our President, Wendy, and was looking forward to sharing the cake with her family. Grateful thanks to Tanya Moule for taking the time, effort and of course ingredients to make the wonderful looking cake.

Photographs of the fun can be viewed on the website and on our Facebook group page.

(For those of a strong disposition - Ed.)

Lynda

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Dates for your diary:

Spring Show: Sunday 19th March 2023

Summer Show: Sunday 20th August 2023

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 2023, should be with the Editor by 1st April 2023, for distribution at the start of May 2023.