



# **GARDENER'S GAZETTE**

## **Spring 2024**

# **SPRING SHOW**

## **Sunday 24th March 2024**

**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 2024

President: Wendy Wright

Vice-President: Richard Knight

Life Vice-President: Maureen Kemp

Chairman: Lynda Piddington  
40 Westbrook Grove,  
Purbrook PO7 5HX

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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

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Floral Art Chair: Carole Rowland

023 9225 5134

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

023 9378 2577

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

**Show Committee:** Brian Andrews, Charles Mobsby, Lynda Piddington, Mark Ward, Eddie Horrell.

## **The Chair Chats!**

The end of another year and from all accounts it has been a good one! You have enjoyed the extra four months free membership due to the changing of the subscription year back to a more memorable 1st January to 30th December and now have the reduced price of £5 per household per year as well.

We've been on four glorious outings with Ann mostly appeasing the weather Gods to ensure good weather and on that note I'm sure all of you that went on the trip to Lullingstone Castle will be relieved to hear that the member who had a tumble was able to return home later and has not been put off, having already booked her seat for the next trips.

The Trading Store has had a bumper year thanks in part to sales of Evergreen Compost and also the foresight of Brian to pre-order stock in bulk prior to the expected price increases, meaning all items are sold at prices so competitive that the service provided outweighs many of the other retail outlets.

We thank you for the patience shown during the busy growing period due to car park challenges and speed of service which have partly been addressed. A dedicated few volunteers have spent time and effort clearing the car park of bramble, cut back and trimmed hedges and borders meaning we have gained extra parking space.

However speed of service will only increase when we have more bodies willing to assist with moving of stock from store to car boots. All volunteers welcome even if only for half an hour at peak times.

The monthly meetings have been a true delight this year, thanks to Frances booking even more speakers on diverse topics such as 'The Battle of Trafalgar', our very own multi-Chelsea Gold Medal winner, Mark Ainsworth, talking about British Palms and even a Floral Art demonstration on how to display your lovingly cultivated blooms to their best advantage.

The Spring and Summer Shows have been well attended and it is lovely to see some new exhibitors; but in order to maintain a stand alone Horticultural Show (as opposed to being incorporated into a village show) we do need more of you to enter the Novice classes and also encourage children and grandchildren to enter the young people's classes. The Shows take a lot of pre-planning and effort to put on so please do continue to support them.

*Continued on page 2*

*Continued from page 1*

The catering team have had a few changes in that we thank Anne Canning for her sterling work but who due to work commitments had to stand down, but Ann Richardson has offered to take the reins while being supported by a new deputy, Sharon Twine, who kindly offered her services.

Another new appointment was Eddie Horrell, who has kindly taken over the post of Chief Steward, and what a great job he made of the Summer Show.

On a sadder note, this year has been particularly hard, as we mourned the loss of five of our 'old guard'.

Vic Mould who worked in the Store as a 'back-room boy', weighing up and bagging stock.

Ron Brumhill who was Chief Steward for Shows as well as being a Committee member and was also involved with Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies.

John Richardson (Ann's husband), who not only cheerfully worked at the Store, mainly on the wood chip mountain, but was our 'Go To' man for repairs and practical advice.

Cliff Jones was a member of our Committee who also took on the roles of Secretary, President and Vice-President over the years and helped the Society to grow.

Most recently, we lost Marian Avery, who assisted Ann behind the counter in the Store, always with a cheerful smile and who along with her late husband Harry, took on many important roles within the Society.

All will be sadly missed.

This also shines a light on the need for members to volunteer their services to deputise roles to ease the burden on others.

So please do continue to enjoy your Society but spare a thought for those (very) few who work so hard on your behalf, and do consider offering a lending hand.

Lynda

***Don't forget that we now have a  
website where you can read current issues of  
the Gazette and Store information:  
[www.purbrookhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](http://www.purbrookhorticulturalsociety.org.uk)***

## Monthly Meetings

### **Thursday 1st February**

#### **The History of Stansted House**

Stansted House is a Grade 2 listed Edwardian building which we are lucky to have right on our doorstep. It is in the parish of Stoughton and is situated in a 1,800 acre park. Up to 1983 it was the home of the 10th Earl of Bessborough. There has been a house on this site since 1688, though several houses were built on the land before this.

The chapel of St. Paul was built in the 1800s and is a Grade 1 listed building.

We look forward to finding out a bit more about the way of life in this house in its heyday and what is planned for the future.

### **Thursday 7th March**

#### **From Marching to Mulching**

The Tuppenny Barn project based in Southbourne was founded 18 years ago. It is a charity that organises school visits for children aged 3-18 to teach them about food education. The staff run green therapy garden sessions and have a project for young carers. This was featured in *Gardener's World* in April 2023. There are also activities for the community, such as foraging, wreath making, bee keeping and willow weaving. The shop is open on a Thursday and sells organic bread, cakes, eggs, preserves and vegetables and flowers grown on the site. So far over £250,000 has been raised to fund and develop this charity.

Maggie Haynes is the CEO of Tuppenny Barn and will give this talk to our group.

### **Thursday 4th April**

#### **Cunard History and Glamorous Stars**

Steve Herra has given us an interesting talk before about the liner QE2, which was the last ship he worked on. He is a third generation employee of Cunard and still gives guided tours when the ships are in dock at Southampton. This talk will cover some of the insider facts of the many famous people who sailed on the liners and their odd ways, including an actress who brought her own chickens on board so that her eggs would be fresh every day!

**Frances**

## TRIPS 2024

**Sunday 21st April 9am £36**

**Hever Castle and Tulip Festival**

Childhood home of Anne Boleyn, bought by Geoffrey Boleyn in 1462, with various owners through the centuries. It was purchased by William Waldorf Astor in 1903. The castle will have arrangements of tulips inside for the Festival. The gardens open at 10.30am and the castle at 12 noon. Included in the price is a castle multi-media guide, collected at entrance. Catering is cashless.

**Sunday 9th June 9am £36 Penshurst Place and Gardens**

Once the home of Henry VIII, left to his son, King Edward VI and granted to Viscount De L'Isle, forebear Sir William Sidney in 1552. The Sidney family have been occupants for more than 460 years. It is still a family home and welcomes visitors to discover the charm of Penshurst. Hot meals are available and light snacks. Gardens open 10am-5pm. House open 11.30am - 3.30pm. Gift Shop and Plant Centre 9am - 5pm. Café 9am -5pm.

**Sunday 21st July 9am £20 Wisley Gardens**

Hopefully we will see the gardens in their full glory.

**Sunday 8th September 9am £36 (tbc) Abbotsbury Sub-tropical Garden**

The garden originates from 1765 when the Countess of Ilchester built a castle on the site overlooking Lyme Bay. A wall was built for a sheltered kitchen garden. This walled garden is now the heart of the gardens. The range of plants was increased by the 4th Earl, who was a botanist. The garden trebled in size by the 19th century. The castle burnt down in 1915. The garden was restored in the 1960s.

Cashless payment. Tearoom open 10am - 4.30pm.

Proper Cornish pasties and homemade light snacks, available from 12 noon to 2pm.

I am sorry to say that the cost of hiring a coach for the day has risen by 25%-30%.

Deposits will therefore have to be £20 per trip. This secures your seat.

Each trip price includes your seat and a tip for the driver.

I am in the Store every Saturday and at monthly meetings. Cash or cheque only.

My telephone number is: 023 92 254 986.

Address: 16 Fir Copse Road, Waterlooville PO7 5JA.

Cheques to be made payable to: PHS.

Thank you for your support this year.

**Ann Richardson**

## **Treasurer's Report**

Copies of the accounts to 31st October 2023 can be seen at the Store. These show that it has been another good year for the Society, with Income exceeding Expenditure.

In the General a/c the main expenditure items were the shows, which includes the cost of the school for the weekend of nearly £1,000, and for updating, refurbishing and replacing some of our trophies. Other expenditure included £625.00 for printing our quarterly Gazette, done by St. Johns Church at a very competitive price. Our monthly meetings cost £1,581.82, for which the only offset is income from the raffles. Speakers these days average about £100.00. Plants and Tool sales, and Preserves, did well again and we have benefited from increased interest rates on our deposit a/c, amounting to £772.31. Donations include those to charitable causes in memory of the several long-term members we have sadly lost this year.

The Trading a/c reflects another very good trading year with a further increase in turn-over giving a total for the year of £19,371.24, a massive increase on less than £11,000 three years ago. The operating costs include the annual rent, currently £350, and electricity etc. We finished with a healthy surplus of £1,596.97.

The Trip a/c, managed by Ann, finished with a small surplus of £35.75, emphasising what good value they have been - virtually cost price. So, no wonder we have already banked a lot of advance payments for next year's trips.

The Floral Art a/c, managed by Monica, also showed a surplus this year, which must be encouraging, bearing in mind how expensive their demonstrators tend to be.

The last section compares our overall assets with the same time last year and shows a healthy surplus of £1,326.41.

**Brian**

### **Please Note**

Due to the technology not working properly - nothing to do with the Editor not knowing what he's doing, I hasten to add - a copy of the Annual Accounts can be found online or on the Notice Board at the Store.

### **Marian Avery**

Yet another of our special members lost recently - Marian, who many would know from helping Ann at the Store behind the till.

Marian had a superb knowledge of plants, and was always happy to advise others, and always with a happy smile.

As a couple, alongside her late husband, Harry, they took prominent and important roles within the Society for which we are most grateful.

Condolences were sent to the family and a cheque in her memory was given to the Rowans as requested.

A good Society turnout at her service  
(plus regrets from those not able to attend)  
attest to how much she will be missed.

### **Surprise! Surprise!**

Use your own compost at your peril - in my limited experience you will get a few surprises. My latest - a tomato plant in my indoor pot of *Dra-caena Trifusciata* which has, so far, yielded 20 very sweet cherry tomatoes with a further potential 15 on the branch. A courgette plant in an outdoor pot of antirrhinums. Lastly, I tried germinating winter pansy seeds with no success, but up came a sweet pepper plant.

**Linda Collins**



## **Christmas Cake Raffle**

It is with great delight that the winner of the Christmas Cake was Wendy (please do not put surname as she felt awful about it)!

The cake was made, decorated and donated by our lovely member, Tanya Moule, in order to raffle for Society funds. The huge sum of £100 was reached, which has more than paid for the extra meeting that was held on 30th December at Deverell Hall for a cup of tea and cake and a chat to bridge the time between Christmas Store closure and the first meeting of the New Year.

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## **The Apple of Our Eye?**

Peter Chivers, our very own Trading Store 'backroom boy', helped us celebrate National Apple Day by bringing along a quantity of apple varieties he and his sister, Betty, grow in their gardens, to both the monthly meeting and trading store. Peter generously shared his knowledge of Pomology (new word for the day!), and even provided samples to taste.

We certainly have a wealth of talent in our Society who are all willing to share their knowledge and encourage others, so Peter is one of the apples of our eye!

**Lynda**

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## **Chief Wood Chipper Appointed!**

After 20 years as an apprentice wood chip supervisor, Trevor has been appointed the Society's Chief Wood Chipper, who is always on hand to help and answer question on the use of wood chip and mulching. Our very own 'Monty Don', ably assisted by his understudies, Ken and Garry. Trevor now has his very own parking space next to the mountain of wood chips which are on sale for only 50p a bag. Come and bag a bargain - the best chips in town!

**Garry White**

## **Clearance at Back of Parking Lot**

If you are on social media and a member of the PHS, you can see the progress made in clearing the mass of brambles and accumulated detritus that has built up over the years. If you are not on social media, you can see the photos on the noticeboard at the Store.

Geoff and Sandy, were a fantastic help which enabled us to clear the back and bottom fence areas. We still have more work to do, but we've 'broken the back of it'. We need to dispose of the stuff we have uncovered, and when the cut brambles, etc. have dried out we will need to have a bonfire to get rid of it. Alternatively, we could contact HBC or their contractor, to see if they can remove it with our help. They are responsible for maintaining the grass/brambles/borders. I think the next stage when all is clear is to simply put down grass seed that will hopefully allow the area to be easily maintained.

The work has improved the general appearance at the rear of the Store and together with trimming the brambles around our site, it has created more parking space, and allows better manoeuvring of vehicles coming and going safely on site.

**Garry**

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## **Naval Words**

Following the wonderfully entertaining and informative talk on the Battle of Trafalgar by Dave Allport, we learned how some of our popular sayings came about from naval use. (I promise they are all clean!)

A Square Meal - originates from the major meal on board which was served on square plates to avoid spillage in high seas.

Skimming Off the Top - when extra money is made originates from the chief boiling the meat and bones for meals, but skimming off the top and cooling it to re-sell to the Captain to lubricate the canons.

Hogging - taking extra originates from the raised edge of the square plates being call hoggins, and therefore if more food was taken and it spilled over the edge you were hogging it.

I wonder how many others came from this era?

## **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 2024, should be with the Editor by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, for distribution at the start of May 2024.