



GARDENER'S GAZETTE

Spring 2025

Spring Show
Sunday 16th March 2025
Deverell Hall
Entrance 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

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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Treasurer: Brian Andrews
26 Kings Road, Cowplain PO8 8UR

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Trading Manager: Brian Andrews (as above)

Secretary: Jan Baxter
29 The Brow, Waterloooville PO7 5BY

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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

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Catering Convenor: Sharon Twine

Outing Organiser: Ann Richardson

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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, Alice McKerrow.

The Chair Chats!

So, another great year for the PHS! For any of you unable to attend the AGM, we are in a good enough financial position to continue with the £5 membership fee and yes all previous benefits of membership remain (see back page for details).

We have welcomed over 100 new members this year thanks to everyone spreading the word that we're a friendly bunch and ready to answer queries. Trips for 2025 are booking fast so don't delay if you want a grand day out in brilliant sunshine (Ann always delivers) with a possibility of an Autumn/Winter trip should Ann find a suitably-priced venue.

We were fortunate to have two new volunteers in the posts of Chief Steward (Alice) and Lady Convenor (Sharon), but we would love to have more members to deputise roles to safeguard against sudden situations.

This year we have weathered really wet seasons and I mean really wet causing problems with growing exhibits for Shows, but once again our reputation as a friendly, stand alone Horticultural Show meant we did attract a few major exhibitors. However in order to continue, we do need more Novice and Children's entries. Please do consider entering Shows as it is fun and advice is readily available from the more experienced, and if I received a £ for every time I heard visitors state they had as good produce I would be a millionaire!

Meetings have had a range of topics again this year so there is something to interest everyone but in 2025 we are treating you to a notably special speaker so keep an eye on the website; face book group; Gazettes and notices in Store - and so with that teaser I wish you all a great growing year!

Lynda

Meetings 2025

6th February 2025

Andrew Negus will continue his 'History of Portsmouth' with Part 4 - 1930 to Present Day.

Andrew is a local retired history teacher who has been around the world twice. He is a Blue Badge guide for the South. He also keeps chickens, bees and daughters (his own words).

Talk 6th March 2025

Alan Horgan is a qualified horticulturist and in 55 years has covered all aspects of gardening, plant trials, teaching and plant protection. Since retiring he judges and exhibits in local shows and has an interest in photography and art. He will take us through his career as 'Apprentice to Scientist'.

3rd April 2025

Deryn Hawkins is a wildlife photographer who has visited us before with stunning pictures. She is a member of the Hants & IoW Wildlife trust but we will travel further afield with 'South American Adventures'.

Frances

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Floral Art Meetings

Deverell Hall. 1.30pm for 2pm start to 4pm

TBC.

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Wednesday Evening Spring Store Opening

Following the success of the Wednesday opening last year, we intend to do the same this year, but starting earlier in the year, ie after the start of BST 2nd April, running through to 25th June. The opening times will be from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

By doing this we hope to take some of the pressure off and ease congestion on our busiest Saturdays.

Brian

TRIPS 2025

Sunday 18th May - 9am - £36

Bowood House and Gardens

Bowood House is in Calne, Wiltshire. It is the home of the Lansdowne family and has stunning Georgian architecture behind towering walls. It has a four acre 'secret garden' and an Italianate terrace garden, parkland and arboretum, cascade and hermits cave.

There are two cafes.

Sunday 6th July - 9am - £38

Knebworth House and Gardens

Situated in Stevenage. A romantic exterior with turrets, domes and gargoyles, dating back to Tudor times. A 28 acre formal garden includes a maze, borders and dinosaur trail.

Garden terrace and tea room.

Sunday 7th September - 9am - £38 - NT £22

Scotney Castle, Kent

Ruined mediaeval Castle, Victorian Mansion House, and a very picturesque garden with romance, drama and nature around every corner. A Castle for all seasons!

Book and plant shop. Coach House and tearooms.

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 please.

My telephone number is: 023 92 254 986.

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

Cheques to be made payable to: PHS.

Ann Richardson

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Bottle Tops

A big thank-you to all members who save the bottle tops which are repurposed, and so save on landfill. They are collected by Girl Guides and boost their funds as well as being environmentally friendly!

Brian Rees

Meeting 3rd October

Mike Read gave us a very entertaining talk with photos of Scotland from the west coast across to the Cairngorms in the east.

Starting in the area around Fort William which is only about 5 miles from Ben Nevis he saw and filmed pine martens, white-tailed eagles, otters, twite and red-throated divers.

From here he drove across to the Cairngorms along Loch Ness seeing scoter ducks, long-tailed ducks, gannets and ring ouzels. In the area around Balmoral he spotted Alpine Lady's mantle and Creeping Lady's Tresses, the latter is known as the Scottish Orchid and is nationally scarce. Mike also saw Cloudbberries, these plants are only found in Arctic conditions and produce strange orange fruit. They are not eaten raw but used in jams and flavourings. In Scandinavian countries where they are more prolific they are very expensive as they do not transport well. In the Cairngorms National Park he also saw and photographed the amazingly large Capercaillies and the smaller Black Grouse. His knowledge of the area was infectious and we enjoyed the evening.

While browsing the maps of Scotland, I have found a place I want to live, it is called 'Rest and be Thankful'. I'm only hoping it's not a McDonalds!

Frances

Spring Show

As you are hopefully all aware, the Society Spring Show is taking place on Sunday 16th March 2025.

This is one of the main events this Society runs.

Show entries are a great way of showcasing your talent and hard work. So don't be shy - if you grew it or made it - why not exhibit it?

There are many classes - 'experts' and 'novice' classes are available in most categories. Don't forget the children's classes - get them started and they may just get the 'bug'.

How about growing some Dahlias for the Summer Show

As a society we are lucky to attract some specialist growers whose exhibits generate a 'Wow Factor' - the response of visitors amazed by the size or perfection of their exhibits.

This is currently especially true in the Dahlia Section where three exhibitors vie for the honours with huge near perfect blooms. The downside of this however, is that we attract few, if any, dahlia entries from other members of the Society who feel that their entries, though quite respectable, may appear paltry in comparison.

To rectify this reticence and persuade more of our members to grow dahlias to enter in the show and develop a competitive dahlia growing community within the Society, the 2025 Summer Show Schedule will include two new Dahlia classes, but these will not be in the Dahlia Section but in the General Flower Section.

The two classes are:

5 blooms of a single variety of double dahlia

and 5 Blooms of a single variety of single or collarette dahlia.

The variety must be stated and the size of the bloom will be marked against the potential size of blooms of that variety, so in terms of which variety to choose to grow, a variety with uniform well-formed blooms may well be preferable to the giant bloom varieties. Additionally, if space is a problem, it may well be easier to generate 5 blooms of the slightly smaller varieties.

The Specialist Dahlia growers with entries in two or more classes in the main Dahlia Section will not be able to enter these Dahlia Classes in the Flower Section.

It is hoped that, having read this, you will decide to grow dahlias to enter in the Show and rapidly access catalogues and buy your dahlia tubers in time to produce blooms to enter in the 2025 Summer Show.

Charles

Treasurer's Report

There are four main a/cs that cover the activities of the Society; the General a/c, the Trading a/c, both of which I look after, and the Trips and Floral Art a/cs, for which Ann Richardson and Monica Bone respectively, are the treasurers.

Overall, the outcome for the year was a surplus of £2,057.62, so another good year financially for the Society.

The General a/c, which includes anything not covered by the other a/cs, such as Meetings, Gazettes, Shows, Plant Sales, Subs, etc. showed a small deficit of £187.63, with Plant Sales, Subs and Bank Interest being the main sources of income.

The Store had a busy year, with another increase in turnover, being double that of four years ago, and yielded a surplus of £1,587.33.

The Trips were well supported again, finishing with a surplus of over £400, which will be used to help offset the costs for the 2025 trips.

Floral Art also had a good year, ending with only a small deficit after covering the high costs of their demonstrators.

A summary of the a/cs is on page 7.

Brian

Trading Report

Another very busy year at the Store, with turnover of almost £22,000. Major contributions to this were the sale of more than a thousand bags of Evergreen compost and a huge amount of wood chips.

The new access gates in the fence for pallets have proved their worth with the need for more frequent deliveries.

Recently we have been negotiating a new 5 year lease with Havant BC which should be in place soon. After some debate, the new annual rent will be £475, a smaller increase than they had originally proposed. Currently the cost is £350.

Unfortunately, there is a downside to the success of the Store, and that is the need for more able-bodied helpers, particularly during the busy Spring and Summer times.

The current helpers have been helping for many years, and we desperately need some younger blood. If you can help, please speak to one of us at the Store - and there is a potential 'bonus' as regular helpers get a 5% discount on purchases!

Brian

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

<u>GENERAL A/C</u>	<u>INCOME (£)</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE (£)</u>	<u>GAIN/LOSS (£)</u>
Shows	1,605.86	3,359.54	-1,753.68
Plant & Tool Sales	1,670.00		1,670.00
Sale of Preserves	250.50		250.50
Gazette		542.49	-542.49
Meetings	248.18	1,615.02	-1,366.84
Pumpkin/Quiz		95.40	-95.40
Subscriptions	1,795.00		1,795.00
Bank Interest	1,020.10		1,020.10
Insurance		220.00	-220.00
Affiliation Fees		136.00	-136.00
Admin/Publicity/Website		394.67	-394.67
Donations/Presentations	10.00	357.25	-347.25
Table Hire	68.00		68.00
Christmas Cake Raffle	100.00		100.00
Miscellaneous		234.90	-234.90
	<u>6,767.64</u>	<u>6,955.27</u>	<u>-187.63</u>

TRADING ACCOUNT

	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Sales Income	21,947.82	
Opening Stock		£11,620.82
Purchases of Stock		£17,296.48
Less Closing Stock		<u>-10,188.12</u>
	<u>21,947.82</u>	<u>18,729.18</u>
Gross Profit		3,218.64
Operating Costs		-1,631.31
Excess Income over Expenditure		<u>1,587.33</u>

TRIP ACCOUNT

Ticket Sales	6,440.85	
Expenses		6,016.15
Excess Income over Expenditure		<u>424.70</u>

FLORAL ART ACCOUNT

Income from Subs & Guests	1,311.00	
Event Stalls & Raffles	796.50	
Other Income incl. Donations	646.14	
Cost of Demonstrators		-2,205.77
Other Costs - Raffle/ Refreshments		-593.43
Excess Income over Expenditure		<u>-45.56</u>

NET CURRENT ASSETS AT 31st OCTOBER 2024

<u>Current Assets:</u>	<u>2024 (£)</u>	<u>2023 (£)</u>	<u>GAIN/LOSS (£)</u>
Deposit Account	23507.41	21987.31	
Current Account	3324.80	1965.28	
Cash in Hand	318.57	370.99	
Trips Account	1971.90	1540.25	
Floral Art: Bank Account	2081.85	2124.64	
Store Stock at Cost incl. VAT	10,188.12	11,620.82	
Copier (depreciated)	9.00	10.00	
Lidl Tables (depreciated)	155.00	170.00	
	<u>41556.65</u>	<u>39789.29</u>	
<u>Current Liabilities:</u>			
Stock not paid for at 31st Oct.	406.56	834.82	
Deverell Hall for October	38.50	38.50	
Printing of Gazette	120.00		
	<u>565.06</u>	<u>873.32</u>	
Net Current Assets	<u>40991.59</u>	<u>38915.97</u>	<u>2,075.62</u>

100 Years of Community Service

Last month we, and other groups, who hire the Deverell Hall got together to meet and showcase our diversity in order to show appreciation for the Deverell Hall Centenary, as well as viewing the new commemorative stone placed above the window on the front exterior wall.

The afternoon was a lively event hosted by PHS members, Paul and Margaret Ludford, with special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. D. McPhail, who oversee the day-to-day running of the Hall, and councillor Paul Tansom, who cut the celebration cake, and took time to visit each Group.

Who knew we could keep fit, craft memories, communicate via short-wave radio, play games (board, bowls and table tennis); learn history and belong to either of the WIs, as well as others aside from us, all in one welcoming space.

Good on you, Deverell Hall, and we hope to be hiring you for another 100 years!

Lynda

(I'll put it in my diary! - Editor)

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The Gardener's Prayer

O Lord grant in some way that it might rain every day, say from midnight until 3 o'clock in the morning, but you see it must be gentle and warm so it can soak in; grant that at the same time it would not rain on campion, alyssum, lavender and the other plants which you in your infinite wisdom know are drought-loving plants. I will write their names on a piece of paper if you would like - and grant that the sun will shine all day long but not everywhere (not for example on spirea or on gentian or rhododendron and not too much that there might be plenty of dew and a little wind, enough worms, no plant lice and snails, no mildew and that once a week a thin liquid manure and guano may fall from heaven above. *Amen*

Karel Capek - The Gardeners' Year 1929

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
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 2025, should be with the Editor by 1st April 2025, for distribution at the start of May 2025.