



GARDENER'S GAZETTE

Summer 2020

SUMMER SHOW 2020

**Due to Coronavirus 'lock-down'
it has been necessary to cancel the
Summer Show**

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

**Please see page 10-11 for latest information
regarding
Meetings/Shows/Trips, etc.**

Officers and Committee Members 2020

President: Peter Brooks, JP

Life Vice-Presidents: Maureen Kemp, Phyllis Brooks

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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

The Chair Chats!

Where and how to start? Well, first of all a big thank you to the many members who have done their bit. It is amazing how people normally seen at the beginning and end of each day entering and leaving their homes are suddenly conversing over fences during their 'lunch break' while working from home and offering all kinds of help, so uplifting! As gardeners we are truly blessed to have a sanctuary in which to work; exercise or just sit and listen to birdsong and strange that sounds we have become accustomed to such as a dog barking or children at play are both new and a distraction to those now having to work from home!

We also have the capacity for solitude, pottering around the garden; the time to sit and watch; the time for a cuppa and the crossword in a quiet spot enjoying the even fresher air. Many of you though will be missing the social interaction of just meeting up with friends and family and although able to keep in contact via technology (who knew that what was once a bit of a nuisance in time would become a lifeline to many) the action of social distancing or self-isolation is a very strange concept.

As a Society we are trying to remain a constant in people's lives with new initiatives for members in current times and I will outline a few of these in further articles in this online only *Gazette*.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your efforts; in particular the members of the Committee who despite their own challenges are still working hard on your behalf, and to wish you all good health and ask that you keep safe until we all meet up again.

Lynda

MEETINGS 2020

July 2nd

Deryn Hawkins is a photographer and comes with recommendations from another club. She is a member of the Hants and IOW Wildlife Trust but veering away from that I have chosen her talk 'Cats of the Wild'.

August 6th

Steve Oakes is an active member of the RSPB. He will give us a talk on 'Birds in your Garden'.

September 3rd

Sandy Worth has a 'Passion for Poppies' and that is the title of her talk. She is the owner of Water Meadow Nursery in Cheriton and holds the National Collection of poppies. Cultivars such as Patty's Plum and Lauren's Lilac were developed by Sandy amongst others. Once you have established poppies they are a colourful treat in the spring and real eye catchers.

October 1st

This our usual Pumpkin and Quiz evening. This will probably be the last year in this format as we are not really getting enough entries for the pumpkin/squash categories. Please prove us wrong by entering a record amount of decorated or home grown produce. Phil and I welcome any ideas for changes to the evening.

November 5th

Andrew Watts has always had an interest in all kinds of flora, fauna and wild places. He has had a lifelong interest in photography and his subjects range from small insects to big game. He has often had pictures published and has twice been highly commended for Wildlife photographer of the year. He will entertain us with a talk and photos of the 'Wildlife of Namibia' which will include flora and fauna of Etosha National Park and the Namib desert.

December 3rd

This is our AGM and your chance to let us know what you think of the Society and any changes that you would like. Also a chance to chat and an horrendously hard non-compulsory short quiz by yours truly. As usual there will be refreshments over and above mere biscuits, all at no charge!

Please see page 10 for the latest news on the Summer Show and all the other Society activities.

Trips 2020

Sunday 14th June 9am
Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens
£26

Set in over 160 acres of parkland, the park has a diverse collection of species, many of which are endangered in the wild. The beautiful gardens are carefully tended by a creative team of gardeners who have made every corner of the park a joy to visit.

There is a restaurant serving hot meals and snacks.

I am repeating this trip because many of you requested a return visit!

Sunday 26th July 9am
Mapperton House and Gardens
£26

Home to the Earl and Countess of Sandwich, Mapperton is a glorious sandstone manor house among tumbling hills and countryside. The house has guided tours only, which I book in advance.

There is a Coach House Café.

Let's hope we can visit this time, as previously this was cancelled due to filming in 2019.

Sunday 13th September 9am
Waddesdon Manor
£28 - N.T. £16

This has been home to the Rothschilds, the most powerful banking family of the 19th century. During your visit you will get to see amazing architecture, art collections and beautiful gardens.

There are many eating places at Waddesdon and also a large Gift Shop.

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The Virtual Spring Show

As you are aware we had to cancel the Annual Spring Show, so it was decided to start a virtual show - no prizes or awards - just for fun and the kudos or being included on the website! This entailed members taking photographs of their Spring blooms or Floral Art display, etc. and sending them to me via email - linda.piddington@sky.com - and what a fantastic response. Some of you replied almost by the time I had clicked on 'send'! All current, yes still keep them coming.

Photographs are on our website:

<http://www.purbrookhorticulturalalsociety.org.uk>

under the category 'photo gallery' and sub-section 'Virtual Spring Show 2020'. Enjoy a virtual tour!

**Please see page 10 for the latest news on the
Summer Show and all the other Society activities.**

Floral Art Programme 2020

Thursday 14th May

Workshop - CANCELLED

Thursday 11th June

Demonstration by Susan Tausig - CANCELLED

Entitled: Bang On Trend Baskets.

Thursday 9th July

Garden Party/Social

Tickets available from May meeting.

Thursday 13th August

Demonstration by Ellouise Haslar-Scott

Entitled: Summer Night.

Thursday 10th September

Demonstration by Eleanor Bracken

Entitled: Autumn Splendour.

Thursday 11th June

Demonstration by Christine Evans

Entitled: My Love of Flowers.

Thursday 12th November

Demonstration by Liz Pelly

Entitled: 'Tis the Season.

Thursday 10th December

Christmas Party/Social Evening.

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Store - Covid 19

Saturday 21st March was the last day that we were able to have the Store open under the Coronavirus restrictions, and thanks are due to the helpers, all in the 'at risk' category, who came to help that day. We did our best to operate within the social distancing guidelines and, as it happens, we had our busiest day of the year. A few days later the Government restrictions were tightened and now, unfortunately, prevent us from re-opening, although we managed to complete a couple of special orders earlier that week.

It is frustrating that the Store has to be closed when we are stocked up in readiness for the start of the growing season, and when gardening is something one can do whilst in isolation and which has recognised benefits such as fresh air, exercise (both physical and mental) and can, in the due course of time, help reduce demand on shops for produce. Fortunately, not much of our stock is perishable or life-limited except for the unsold seed potatoes, bulbs and the outside plants. At this time, the beginning of April, there is uncertainty about future orders of stock, e.g. next year's Spring bulbs, and there is the complication of having to set up trading arrangements with a new supplier(s), see below. We are, however, fortunate in having adequate finances in the Bank which should see us through any financial difficulties that may arise.

Closure of Warwicks

Earlier this year we received the very unwelcome news that Warwicks, our main supplier of everything we sell in the Store, are to cease trading in September. This is a major blow as they have been supplying us and other local Societies for the best part of 50 years and we have benefited from a very close working relationship with them. They have keys for the Store and so can deliver without the need for someone to be there to open up. This is obviously not a decision they have taken lightly and is yet another example of the hard times that traditional retailers are facing. They have agreed to continue supplying us right up until they close in order that we have several months to find alternative suppliers. At least, this was the situation before the arrival of Covid-19!

We have been in touch with other local Societies that are in a similar position to try and determine a way forward. We have identified some suppliers within a reasonable distance and are working on possible delivery arrangements, as access to the Store is one of the difficulties. Inevitably, someone is going to have to be there to open up for every delivery. A final decision has yet to be made but I have a potential supplier in mind and am confident that we can resolve most of the issues. We may find that we have to operate in a slightly different way and that our range of stock may change and may be more limited initially. We also have to take into account the large amount of stock we may already have if the current restrictions go on through to the Autumn. So, watch this space!

Brian

Meeting on February 6th Fruit trees

Peter Barwick gave us an interesting talk on the growing and care of fruit trees. Peter spent a lot of his working life at Blackmoor Nursery who supply fruit to many of our main supermarkets.

Obviously the first job is to choose your tree. Some apples do not store well, pears flower quite early so need a fairly sheltered spot in case of late frosts, cherries, unless they can be covered, will almost certainly be food mostly for birds

The next consideration is the eventual size of the tree. This is governed by the roots. Most fruit trees are grafted onto another stock. This also, besides the size, ensures a more vigorous and healthy plant more resistant to bugs and diseases. The most common rootstocks are M27 (easy to remember) this will produce a dwarf tree, M9, medium size and MM106, the best general size tree. M27 and M9 can be grown in large containers.

A pollinator will be needed for most trees. This can be in a neighbours garden as long as there is easy reach for the bees. Crab apples make good pollinators and they are also very attractive in the garden.

Planting the tree should be carefully done. Spring is a good time. A sunny spot is always preferable with early morning sun to dry the dew quickly. Good drainage is also vital. Soak the tree roots the day before planting and make sure that you do not cover the join of the tree and rootstock, called a graft, when planting. Mulch and water well making sure mulch does not cover the graft. A tree guard and stake may be necessary. If planting in grass make sure a large circle is taken out as a tree does not like to compete with other plants. If you have a sunny, sheltered wall a fruit cordon can be grown. This is a single stemmed tree where the branches are thinned to allow only horizontal branches which are tied. All trees fruit better if the branches are not vertical so if necessary tie the odd branch downwards. Like most plants if they feel in danger they will fruit to reproduce.

The pruning of fruit trees was simplified for us by Peter. Leave the long whippy branches for two years. When you can see the buds forming lower down then they can be pruned back to the buds. If you prune every year then more and more non-flowering whippy branches will appear, making a lot of extra work. Keep the centre of the tree clear to discourage fungi and check for crossing branches as damaged bark will be an entry for pests and diseases.

Whatever you decide to plant, apples, pears, cherries, do the preliminary work and then enjoy the fruits of your labour.

Frances

Down with the Kids!

Another initiative, and this was a lovely surprise, organised by our clever web design team, was putting our virtual Spring Show on Youtube! The link being:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wqxSPUenQw@feature=youtu.be>
which has meant that we have gone global.

I have already sent the link to friends and family here and also in the USA, Australia and New Zealand who have all admired the photographs and said it brightened their day.

So why not do the same with your friends and family, and tell me what countries you have linked to, in order to see how far our efforts have travelled? Just send me a quick email with the subject Youtube country and list those countries in receipt of our wonderful photographs. Who said gardeners were stick in the muds?

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A Plea

Please, please, please if you are in communication with other members via telephone/email/social media, etc. pass on all the information you can about the new initiatives and ways to keep in touch so that all members can feel included. Perhaps you could print a copy of this online only *Gazette* and if allowed to leave the house for exercise, post it to them or if not why not read it over the phone?

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Trading Store Security

I understand from Brian, the Trading Store Manager, that we have a new security guard for the Store - Robin. At the end of the last trading day, as Brian was closing up, Robin was spotted nesting inside ready for a family of baby Robins, so we are still providing a service of a kind!

Facebook

I know many of you are wary of some technology and online forums with particular concerns over online security, but we have set up a members only facebook page in order to keep everyone informed and up to date with Society news, including cancellations of meetings and postponement of trips. Ann has been working very hard with her contacts to postpone, as opposed to cancelling trips, so is trying to rearrange trips for later dates, so that we all have something to still look forward to, and get a lovely day out at the end of all this. Members trying to access the Purbrook Horticultural Society facebook page will be invited to request membership and required to answer three very simple questions prior to gaining access, so we can really try and keep a tight hold on security. The page may be used for Purbrook Horticultural Society news and views only, so gardening hints and tips, etc. are acceptable, but we do not wish to have anything other than horticultural issues raised.

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Apologies

I must apologise to any member that has not been contacted by myself via email or telephone, this was not intention but due mainly to working from home without the normal resources and access to everyone's contact details. However, contact details for myself and committee members are available both in *Gazettes* and on the website for you to access.

Keep safe.

Lynda

RHUBARB, RHUBARB!!

Here we are, with lots of us confined, more-or-less, to home on account of the Coronavirus. Among the many events and activities which have been cancelled is our Summer Show. However, there is nothing to stop us from baking at home, provided, that is, we can get the necessary ingredients! One of the recipes which would have featured in the Cookery Section is a Rhubarb and Ginger Cake, from a recipe which appeared in *The News*. Judging by the number of entries in the Class for 'Rhubarb', a lot of members grow this, and, like much else in the garden, the rhubarb is flourishing. If, like me, you live with someone who doesn't like rhubarb, then give this recipe a try - it doesn't really taste of rhubarb and my test-run met with approval!

RHUBARB AND GINGER CAKE

250gm rhubarb, cut into

1cm cubes	25ml golden syrup	
75gm caster sugar	3 eggs	
140gm caster sugar	2 teaspoons ground ginger	sifted
120ml olive oil	250gm self-raising flour	together

1. Line a 22 - 24cm diameter cake tin.
2. Put the rhubarb and 75gm caster sugar into a saucepan and cook on a low heat until the rhubarb starts to give. Allow to cool.
3. Put the 140gm caster sugar, olive oil, golden syrup and 1 egg into a mixing bowl and beat together thoroughly (or blitz in a food blender for 30 seconds).
4. Add half the flour and ginger mix and another egg, and mix together.
5. Add the remaining flour mix and the last egg, and mix together.
6. Add the cooled rhubarb and mix. Pour into the lined cake tin.
7. Cook for 1½ hours approx, at 130 C/Gas 2, until golden and cooked through. Check by inserting a skewer into the middle of the cake which will come out clean if cooked.
8. Allow to cool.

RHUBARB JELLY

Another palatable way of using rhubarb is to cook a quantity (say, 3 or 4 sticks), and dissolve a raspberry or strawberry jelly in it. When cooled enough, liquidise and pour into a large basin or bowl. Whisk up a small tin (170gm size) of evaporated milk, (I chill this in the fridge first) and fold this in to the rhubarb. Pour into a serving bowl and leave to set. I don't usually add sugar as the jelly makes it sweet enough, but you may like to. In our house, this is known as 'Pink Pudding', thus avoiding use of the 'r' word!

Happy Baking and Happy Gardening!

Janet Andrews

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STOP PRESS

This is an update as circumstances change due to the uncertainty, especially with regard to those terms that are likely to be new editions in next year's New Oxford Dictionary for Crossword and Scrabble fans, ie. Social Distancing, Shielding and of course Cocooning!

MONTHLY MEETINGS

May Meeting - cancelled

June meeting - also celebrating our 80th year - postponed as we hope to celebrate later in the year when we all are both permitted and feel comfortable with meeting up.

QUARTERLY GAZETTE

Latest issues will be an online only version but may be downloaded. If you are in contact with members who are not tech. aware, why not read it to them over the phone?

WEBSITE (and new Facebook page)

We are updating as often as possible in order to keep everyone aware of latest news. Please visit it regularly and again pass on information to non-technical members.

TRIPS

Ann is in constant contact with both venues and coach companies regarding regulations on possible re-opening dates and is contacting those that have booked seats as each date nears. Ann is trying to re-schedule rather than cancel, in as many cases as possible, to ensure we have something to look forward to.

TRADING STORE

Remains closed until further notice but Will re-open when permitted and we have enough fit and willing volunteers to man as usual. Brian will ensure the website is again updated with a re-opening schedule when appropriate.

SUMMER SHOW

Has unfortunately been CANCELLED. If however, you have already started work towards exhibits, then, as the Virtual Spring Show received enough interest, I would like to do the same for the Summer Show. This entails sending a photograph via email to me at linda.piddington@sky.com of any of the following:

1. Summer Flowers in your garden
2. Floral Art Display
3. Fruit in your garden
4. Vegetables from your garden or allotment
5. Home Baking (if you still have access to black market flour and eggs!)
6. Handicrafts

They will not be judged nor receive any award but will be put on our website for all to admire.

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On a Lighter Note some comic observations!

1. My car now does 20 days to the gallon.
2. The bins have a better social life than me, as they go out more often.
3. Advice to stop you touching your face - hold a wine glass in each hand.
4. Just off now dear - where are you going today? - the patio!
5. Office attire for the young and trendy is white button-down shirt with cravat and pocket square with pyjama bottoms.

Keep well, keep safe.

Lynda - Chair

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 (2)
Leaf Vacuum/Blowers (2)
Lawn Rakes and Leads (2)
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 Autumn Gazette, should be with the Editor by 1st July 2020, for distribution at the start of August 2020.