



# **GARDENER'S GAZETTE**

**Winter 2021**

## **AGM**

**Thursday 2nd December**

**Subject to change  
due to Coronavirus restrictions.**

**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 2021

President: Peter Brooks, JP

Life Vice-Presidents: Maureen Kemp, Phyllis Brooks

Chairman: Lynda Piddington 023 9226 1149  
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Treasurer: Brian Andrews 023 9226 3731  
26 Kings Road, Cowplain PO8 8UR

Trading Manager: Brian Andrews (as above)

Secretary: Chris Middleton 023 9238 0613  
147 The Dale, Widley PO7 5JH

Show Manager: Graeme MacFarlane 023 9225 2124  
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Show Secretary: Charles Mobsby 023 9226 5136  
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Membership Sec:

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, 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!**

Welcome back!

A very warm welcome back to the faithful and a very warm welcome to new friends.

It is such a pleasure seeing you all and despite what hardship and sorrows we have endured (or are still enduring) to see such happy, smiling faces again is truly uplifting.

Catching up with all that you have been doing to keep mind, body and soul engaged has been fun, but I suspect the Charity Shops have not been so welcoming as they receive all that 'very important treasure' we kept for far too long!

My garden has been a source of comfort; potting, digging, weeding and planning with the wonderful notion of being able to sit and enjoy the fruits of my labour ... who has the time to sit and enjoy? There is always that rogue weed that catches your eye as you sit down armed with a cuppa and reading material – so before you know it another couple of hours have passed weeding with the cuppa now stone-cold and the reading untouched.

Now, with Autumn and Winter upon us, we can keep busy potting up Spring bulbs for the Spring Show, which is scheduled for Sunday 20th March 2022, at the Deverell Hall - with fingers firmly crossed that it can take pace in 'real time', so that all of you who submitted wonderful photographs for previous 'Virtual Shows' will now have the confidence to provide more exhibits for shows.

The end of a year is a conclusion which will be even more important, so please do come to the AGM (Thursday 2nd December) at the Deverell Hall - 7.30pm start. You will be able to hear what your Society has achieved and future plans for what we wish to achieve. Your ideas and comments are important.

On a personal note, the support of the Committee, hardy volunteers and members, has been more important than ever, and I thank you all, knowing that you give your time and support freely and willingly, while coping with your own concerns.

What a great bunch you are!

**Lynda**

## Trading Store

### Seed Potatoes

The following seed potatoes are on order from Kings for delivery in early February:

#### 1st Early:

**Casablanca** - Good for boiling, steaming and French fries. White skin. Good resistance to scab.

**Foremost** - Very good cooking qualities and gardener's favourite for flavour.

**Pentland Javelin** - Good early flavour. Very good disease resistance. Good for show bench.

**Red Duke of York** - Large deep red tasty tubers.

#### 2nd Early:

**Kestrel** - Excellent flavour and good disease resistance. Very good show variety.

**Marfona** - Large tubers, good for baking and will store well.

#### Main Crop:

**Desiree** - Excellent red type, strong flavour, waxy potato. Very drought resistant and heavy cropper.

**Marvel** - A new variety. Robust and easy to grow, huge yields. Great all rounder.

**Valor** - Good disease resistance and heavy cropper. Ideal all rounder

#### Salad:

**Charlotte** - Reliable, high yielding, waxy with great flavour. Easy to grow.

All the potatoes will be pre-bagged in 2.5kg nets, but we can split some bags if smaller quantities are required.

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## Strawberry Plants

This year, as a trial, we have ordered two varieties of strawberry plants direct from Kings.

Varieties will be Sweetheart (early season), and Cambridge Favourite (mid-season).

There will be 100 of each and are due for delivery in early November. Price is expected to be about £1.00 each.

## Store Alterations since August

Those of you who have been into the Store since August will have seen quite a lot of work going on, so apologies for the inevitable disruption.

We are rearranging the main stock area, and doing some structural alterations, in order to allow us to take delivery of some of our bulk stock on complete pallets. Until now, all the bulk stock, some 12 tons or more each year, has had to be unloaded by hand, trolleyed into the Store, and then stacked. But we are all getting older and feel we need to plan for the future.

Apart from altering the main storage area to accommodate complete pallets, we have to provide much wider access between the lobby and stock area - this work is almost complete as at end of September; also widen the main entrance door by changing it to a double door - work is well under way on this; and incorporate a wide opening in the fence between the car park and the plant/yard area - not yet started.

Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, most of the work will have been completed and we may even have taken delivery of some pallets. It will not be possible to have everything on pallets, so some stacking will still be necessary, but we will see if further improvements might be possible in the future.

Apologies again for any disruption while the work has been under way.

Brian

### A Note from the Editor

It is refreshing that members' take the trouble to submit articles for our *Gazette*.

Obviously, my last missive re: articles has widened the number of people who have submitted articles this time. Men as well!

Many thanks - please keep them coming.

We hope to resume our usual four issues per year (Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter) but remember the website is updated regularly.

Richard

## **Visit to Mapperton House, Dorset**

**Sunday 25th July**

The day dawned a bit grey but we had passed 'Freedom Day' and were ready for a trip at long last in our charabanc to Dorset. The staff were very pleased to see us and welcoming.

The house is not huge, but has a large church attached. The current owners, the Earl of Sandwich and his American wife, live in the house. You may have seen her on TV going around other stately homes.

Mapperton House was mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 as the property of William De Moion, cousin of William the Conqueror. It has been variously added to and the front windows are Georgian. It was purchased in 1919 by a widow, Ethel Labouchere, who lived alone in it until her death in 1955. It was then purchased by the current owner's father, Viscount Hichingbrooke. We had a timed guided tour of part of the house and it was interesting.

Of course, the word 'sandwich' originated here as one of the previous Earls asked for a piece of meat to be put between two slices of bread, as he was too busy to stop for a meal. Seeing what the Earl was having, other wanted the same, and thus the sandwich we know today was born.

The gardens are unusual and I think most of us were itching to pull up a few weeds and tidy - though unlike some National Trust properties it was homely with some interesting plants. Not wholly suitable for 'trippers up'; and not really for young children to run around in, due to a disused swimming pool and pond. The gardens are free for local people to walk in. Our guide said that the owners are looking at yoga retreats to bring in revenue. It was a lovely day, our weather there was fine unlike home and the café was good. There was a bit of scrapping as to who was going to take the driver home for tea!

Well done, Ann, good organisation, as usual.

**Frances**

## **A Gift that Keeps on Giving**

During lockdown I sent a family member a floral bouquet that was ordered online from a company I had previously used so I knew what flowers were being sent and in what condition they usually arrived. What a wonderful surprise on delivery as the recipient phoned to thank me and said not only were the flowers beautiful but that also inside was a complimentary packet of sunflower seeds! They then had great joy in planting them and watching the sunflowers grow, and then the anticipation of collecting the seeds for next year or giving the birds in the garden a treat.

A little while passed and another occasion arose that meant another order of a floral bouquet so I was further delighted to hear from that recipient of a free complimentary packet of seeds had been included, only this time it was Cornflowers. What a simple, thoughtful addition to an order and one that was not advertised, thus really making a gift that keeps on giving.

**Lynda**

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## **Runner Beans**

This year we had the variety 'Firestorm' at the Store for the first time and we would welcome any feedback from members who grew them.

According to the King's catalogue they are self-fertile and stringless, and are strongly recommended.

My own experience, even allowing for it being a good year for beans, was that they produced an enormous crop of long straight, good quality beans. I would certainly recommend them, as I think my neighbours would who are also full of beans!

**Brian**

## **Talk by Ray Broughton**

### **2nd September 2021**

This was a talk on growing alpine plants, though Ray started the evening by advising us to keep our garden tools clean. This he advocates by coating secateurs, chain saws and any cutting tool with tomato ketchup (he recommends Heinz).

The soil he advises for alpiners is John Innes No.1 with perlite added. In a greenhouse the main problem is overwatering so use clay pots or plastic pots with a raised base and some heat if possible. Also hypertufa containers can be made in a former with a mix of peat, cement, sand and either perlite or vermiculite. Clay pots in a stack can look good with alpiners.

To feed plants you can make a nettle stew or buy a product called SB Invigorator. Potassium Sulphate can be applied to plants in the autumn to promote good bud formation for the following year.

Alpine plants do not germinate in the autumn so sow them in spring. Seed can be scarified by scratching with aluminium sandpaper. To prevent plants getting too leggy in the greenhouse he told us about putting manure into a container and cover with mesh. This prevents a build up of carbon dioxide which causes plants to get too tall. Ladybirds can be bought online to keep down aphids. Apparently the 2-spot ladybird becomes too fat to fly away (not sure whether that was a joke).

A few plants he recommended, *Pulsatilla vulgaris* (pasque flower, very pretty blue), *Eranthis hyemalis ramonda* (yellow buttercup type flowers), *Rosa rosado narcissus* (not too tall), *Lachenalia* (tube shaped pink flowers) and *Lewisia*.

He gave us a couple of general tips. Cut the stigmas out of tulips and they will last longer. If a frost is forecast and plants are vulnerable spray them with water with a fine hose.

Sorry, I cannot remember any more and my notes written in the dark are mostly indecipherable.

**Frances**



## The Gardener's Hymn

All things bright and beautiful  
All creatures great and small  
All things wise and wonderful  
The Lord God made them all

But what we never mention  
Though gardeners know it's true  
Is when he made the goodies  
He made the baddies too.

All things spray and swattable  
Disasters great and small  
All things paraquatable  
The Lord God made them all

The greenfly on the Roses  
The maggots in the Peas  
Manure fills our noses  
he also gave us these

The fungus on the Goose-gogs  
the club root on the Greens  
The slugs that eat the Lettuce  
and chew the Aubergines

The drought that kills the Fuchsias  
The frost that nips the buds  
The rain that drowns the seedlings  
The blight that hits the Spuds

The midges and mosquitos  
The Nettles and the weeds  
The Pigeons in the green stuff  
The Sparrows on the Seeds

The fly that gets the Carrots  
the Wasps that eat the Plums  
How black the gardener's outlook  
Though green may be his thumbs

But still we gardeners labour  
Midst Vegetables and Flowers  
And pray what hits our neighbours  
Will somehow bypass ours

### Membership News

We have recently updated our information regarding name, address, etc. and have discovered that there are several anomalies.

Please, when next in the Store or at the Monthly Meeting, could you check with the Membership desk that we have the correct information?

Thank you.

## **Celebrations**

Despite a challenging time the PHS have had some cause to celebrate, albeit quietly, in weathering the pandemic thanks to the hard working Committee and a very loyal membership.

Although our 80th anniversary passed without the celebrations we were hoping to achieve, we are beginning to celebrate in an alternative fashion by rewarding existing members with free membership for the year 1st September 2021 to 31st August 2022. New members for the same period receiving a 50% reduction thus paying £3 instead of the £6 per household. A great opportunity for you to invite friends, neighbours and extended family to join, as they will still receive all the usual benefits despite the reduction in price.

Further celebrations this year included the 100th birthday of our valued member Mrs Lunn, who managed to celebrate with her family and received a gift of a Shrub and large decorative pot from the Society (photo on the website).

Also celebrating was Brian Andrews (not I hasten to add his 100th birthday!) receiving the Royal Horticultural Society Banksian Medal which is usually awarded to the exhibitor achieving the highest prize money at the Summer Show, but advice from the RHS was that due to cancellation of all Shows it could be presented to a person within the Society or Community worthy of recognition for their work during the pandemic. Brian has not only continued to ensure the Trading Store was maintained and kept secure during lockdowns, but successfully sourced and negotiated with new suppliers due to the cessation of our long-term supplier Warwicks and ensured the Trading Store when open, felt safe and comfortable for members to use, so I am sure you will agree, a worthy recipient of this honour which was presented to him by our President Mr Peter Brooks. (A photograph is on our website.)

**Lynda**

## **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 Spring Gazette 2022, should be with the Editor by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022, for distribution at the start of February 2022.