



GARDENER'S GAZETTE

Winter 2022

AGM

Thursday 1st December

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

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

The Chair Chats!

Firstly, a huge thank you to all who helped set up, dismantle, cater, exhibit, man stalls and all those who visited the Summer show - making it one we can be proud of.

Although growing conditions this year were, to put it mildly, a challenge, we achieved what some Societies did not - a Show!

The judges were suitably impressed, by both the quality and quantity of the exhibits, despite all of this, so to all of you 'first timers' take credit for your efforts and encourage others to have a go - it really is fun.

The last trip of the year has happened and was a lovely day out at the Wisley Flower Show and Ann (who obviously has sway with the weather gods) again arranged for the sun to shine at just the right temperature, for all the walking around we did. What a tired but happy band returned to the coach for the, eventual, trip home; delayed, not due to the good driver, but the Wisley car park marshals!

The eagle-eyed among you will have noticed that the approach to the Trading Store has suddenly developed fissures, not due to underground activity, but the commencement of breaking up the old concrete and subsequent laying of new concrete to aid both deliveries and customers use. The work is being carried out by willing (?) volunteers. :)

With a nip in the air and Autumn upon us, it is obviously time to think and plan for the Spring Show! Bulbs and growing kits are available to purchase in the Store, so why not get a head start on your future exhibit, and I know we have not had Christmas yet! Sorry about that mention, but planning for the Summer Show 2023 has started and with it the possibility of new Classes being introduced - so watch this space!

Also, before we start the Christmas, festivities (apologies, again), we have the Pumpkin Evening and Quiz, and the Annual General Meeting to look forward to - thus bringing joy to the darker evenings to come - and just think that by attending these meetings you are saving on your energy bills!

Lynda

Talks for 2022

All talks begin at 7.30pm, but doors will be open at 7.00pm.

Thursday 3rd November

Traditionally called our 'Pumpkin Evening' though not many people now have the room to grow giant pumpkins, or even have the muscle to carry them to the hall. See below for the categories to enter. Also the ever popular (or not!) quiz. Prizes to astound - you will be awarded for the exhibits and quiz winners. There will be cake - yum, yum.

Pumpkin Categories:

1. Decorated Pumpkin/Squash/Gourd
2. Spooky Halloween Arrangement
3. Craft item related to Autumn

Thursday 1st December

The AGM, not a boring evening, but a chance for you to find out all the facts about the club and to have your say.

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Articles for Gazette

You do not have to be Shakespeare, Byron or even a Stormz (that's one for the younger members!) to write something for the Gazette. Most of us now use that new-fangled thing called spell check but even if you hand-write and cannot spell for toffee (yes, I know spell check was turned off) - Richard our editor will sort it out in the edit.

Articles of all kinds are welcome. Have you just started a new garden and can use the Gazette as a kind of diary to tell us what you do? Have you experienced living and gardening in another country (or continent)? Do you have an interest in beekeeping? Have an allotment that you could write about what is growing at present? All these things and more help make the Gazette more diverse and of interest to all, so please do consider jotting a few thoughts down, write a poem or limerick (clean please) about nature and email them to Richard Knight or bring them on paper to the meetings or the Store where we can pass them on for future publication.

Summer Show - the Winners!

Charles Rose Memorial Cup for Best Vegetable Collection - Peter Rogers

Borrow Cup for Best Potato Exhibit - Peter Rogers

Cornelius Cup for Best Vegetable Exhibit (excl. collections) -
Peter Rogers

Ted Miles Trophy for Most Points for Vegetables - Peter Rogers

Juniper Cup for Most Points in Novice Classes - Indira Mistry

Rowena Cup for Most Points for Fruit - Carol Copland

Dring Cup for Most Points for Roses - Wendy Wright

Healey Cup for Most Points for Flowers - Peter Rogers

George Broom Memorial Bowl for Most Points Pot Plants - Peter Rogers

Dring Chrysanthemum Cup for Most Points for Chrysanthemums -
Jim Osman

Norman Cup for Most Points for Dahlias - Carol Copland

Rosemary Trophy for Most Points for Floral Art - Maureen Simpson

Ava Trophy for Most Points for Jams and Preserves - Angela Rogers

Charlwood Cup for Most Points All Classes (Ladies) - Carol Copland

Napier Cup for Most Points All Classes (Gentlemen) - Peter Rogers

Enid Gauntlett Cup for Most Points for Handicrafts - Clare Waskett

Mary Gauntlett Cup for Best Fuchsia Exhibit - Peter Rogers

Society Shield for Most Points at Monthly Show Table - Malcolm Purdue

Janet Bendell Cup for Best Pot Plant - Phil Stock

Chairman's Cup for Best Floral Art Exhibit - Maureen Simpson

Greta Carter Trophy for Best Novice Floral Art Exhibit - Anne Canning

Jim Mew Cup for Best Onion Exhibit - Peter Rogers

G. A. Day Cup For Rose Class 48 - 4 Blooms - Wendy Wright

Gauntlett Cup for Local Dahlia Championship - Peter Rogers

Smith Cup for Most Points for Child up to 7 years - Sachid and Dharmini

Mary Grinter Cup for Most Points 11-16 years - Edward Hoare

Havant Borough Council Cup awarded for Most Points for Cookery -
Brigitte Hoare

The National Dahlia Society Silver Medal - Peter Rogers

The National Dahlia Society Bronze Medal - Peter Rogers

The National Vegetable Society Silver Medal - Peter Rogers

The Banksian Medal for Highest Prize Money - Peter Rogers

Vacancy

After years of service as Catering Manager, Ann has requested that we ask for a replacement to take over the role. Ann is willing to assist with the handover, but wishes to stand down at the upcoming AGM. We thank her for her service and are happy that she wishes to remain in the post of Trip Organiser.

The position of catering manager duties are as follows:

1. Provide tea/coffee/biscuits for monthly meetings
2. Provide tea/coffee and light nibbles/refreshments for annual Pumpkin Evening
3. Provide tea/coffee and festive light nibbles/refreshments for AGM meeting in December
4. Provide catering and team to assist for Spring Show in March
5. Provide catering and team to assist for Summer Show in August
6. Attend monthly meetings held at Deverell Hall on last Thursday of the month - starting at 7pm
7. Attend Show Committee Meetings - normally four annually (approximately)

Some/all of the team assisting Ann at present may be willing to remain as helpers, but this is yet to be determined.

Any willing volunteers should please contact Ann or any of the Committee Members in the first instance, as soon as possible, please!

Lynda

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Show Photographs

Summer Show photographs are now on the website!

Visit: <http://www.purbrookhorticulturalsociety.org.uk>

And click on 'Gallery/Photos' and then Summer 2022 for the results and for a close-up of Brian's greenhouse kit-made entry, click on 'Shows' then down to Summer 2022.

Enjoy!

Lynda

Wisley

Well, it was the last trip of the year, and a happy band were soon deposited at Wisley for the Trade and Flower Show. The coach journey up (coming home was another kettle of fish) was so quick we had not really had time to chat and then, astonishingly, the quick and easy access, complete with wristband, akin to a hospital patient, but green adorning our wrists and armed with maps we started walking.

The atrocious growing conditions this year did not seem to have impacted the grounds as they looked good and the glasshouse as delightful as ever, but unfortunately, the dahlia and floral art exhibit tents were, in my humble opinion, disappointing, but then it was the last day of the Show.

The weather was just right - sunny and warm, but not too hot for enjoying a wander around the trade stands; although they too were fewer and had less variety than previously, but again the growing conditions and knock-on effect of CoVid restrictions may have been the cause, with many smaller traders struggling to just stay in business. I don't think it was just myself that noticed the changes, as the boot of the coach, usually overflowing with purchases was reasonably empty, and my credit card company gave a huge sigh of relief as to how little use it had.

So, another successful year of trips has ended. Thank you Ann for organising; but having been privy to Ann's musings, it looks like 2023 will be just as good, so watch this space and start saving your pennies!

Lynda

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Potted Out!

At the Trading Store we have so many donated plastic pots that we are all potted out!

Please give us a breather, and do not bring in any more for the time being. If you have decorative pots then they will be well received, especially if they have 'Ming', 'Doulton Lambeth', 'Meissen', 'Royal Worcester' or 'Wedgewood' Impressed underneath!

If you wish to recycle plastic pots why not approach local schools and play groups who may wish to use them for projects as well as planting?

My Personal Poinsettia Saga

For Christmas 2020 I was given two Poinsettia plants and to my surprise, well into the new year, they appeared to be alive and thriving. Most of the bracts had wilted but there appeared to be the promise of new shoots, so I challenged myself to getting them to flower again the following Christmas.

My only previous successful contact with poinsettia was from over 60 years ago in the garden of a rented house in Dehra Dun in the north of India. We had moved to it in January and it had about six woody shrubs about four feet tall which were starting to produce red bracts which were at their best several weeks later. When they shed these, my grandmother removed most of the previous year's growth leaving just stems and these each sent out new growth that 'flowered' in the new year.

To augment my limited knowledge, I trawled that fount of all knowledge - the 'Interweb' and adapted the range of advice from different parts of the world.

First I cut back all the stems to the scars of two or three leaf marks and kept the compost just damp as I wasn't sure if, with no leaves, the stubs would be able to dry out a saturated pot. The pots were placed in a sunny bay window and after a few weeks, several shoots had been produced, I repotted the plants in pots about 1 - 2" larger in diameter and depth. Because they were pretty dry, a lot of the old peaty compost dropped off when I removed them from their pots and I was pleased to see healthy roots. I repotted in a mix of peat-based compost with a couple or three handfuls of John Innes 2 loam-based compost to provide weight to stabilize the pot and a couple of handfuls of grit (from the pile at the store not the expensive stuff) for drainage and extra weight. The pots were replaced in the sunny window and were soon moved outdoors to a sunny spot when all danger of frost had passed. When the pots were light, I watered then by placing them in a kitchen mixing bowl in about 4 inches of weak liquid feed (I used Chempak 3 or 4 from the store) for about 10 minutes and draining off the surplus water by standing them in the sink (you're permitted to do this if you live on your own)!

Irrespective of the location of the origin of the 'Interweb' advice, they all stated that to get flowers for Christmas, from very early October the plants had to get a cycle of 14 hours per day in cool absolutely dark conditions and 10 hours in warmer sunny conditions. Suggested options

for darkness were to cover the plant with either a large black plastic or paper bag or a large cardboard box. I favoured the latter, primarily because of the potential for damage as one positioned the plastic bag over the quite large plant while one of the very large cardboard boxes in which the supermarkets get their lighter boxed products such as cereals would slide over it easily. In fact I used neither. I kept the plants in a north facing bedroom with the curtains closed at night and moved it to a south facing bay window by day.

I naively expected the existing top leaves to redden but I soon discovered that the plant produced new red leaves which grew into the large bracts so I was glad that I had continued to water the plants with a dilute feed after I brought them indoors. Since the 'Interweb' advice decreed that absolute darkness was essential during the dark 14 hours, I was quite relieved that the leaves reddened despite a little leakage of light round the curtains in the late evening and early morning. By early December buds started to appear in the centre of some of the bracts heralding the end of red bract production. (The poinsettia flower elements are contained in a very few, insignificant, small red spheres, each resembling a small holly berry with the bracts just below and surrounding them to attract pollinating insects.) Relieved, I was able to discontinue the light/dark cycle and treat the plants as any sun tolerant house plant.

The bracts were going strong over Christmas and this was one challenge I had managed to meet. In fact, the bracts lasted nearly into February and the larger plant which was nearly as wide as a domestic doorway even graced the church for a couple of Sundays in late January when flowers were scarce.

Epilogue: I cut the plants back earlier this year but was not as interested and did not repot them or soak them in a bowl and they dried out so that subsequent waterings largely flowed right through with limited absorption by the soil. At the end of the hot spell the rain came to their rescue and they are now growing OK, though the larger plant has fewer branches and is rather asymmetrical while the smaller plant has too many, rather cramped and weaker stems which need to be thinned.

Dates for your diary:

Spring Show: Sunday 19th March 2023.

Summer Show: Sunday 20th August 2023

Facebook Group Page

As a Society we are constantly trying to keep up with technology.

Our Facebook group page is beginning to grow in popularity. For anyone unsure what it entails to get involved or for those new members unaware of this extra asset; here is how and why it is popular.

1. Firstly, be on the Facebook forum already for keeping in touch with friends and family.
2. Request entry to the Purbrook Horticultural Society facebook Group page.
3. You will be asked a small number of questions which include stating what your membership number is. (These questions are in order to make our group page available to members only, thus stopping the adverts/pop-ups, etc. that are irrelevant and also to maintain the Group page security.)
4. Once your answers have been received you will then get acceptance to the Group if all the details are correct.
5. Now you have access and can post photographs of plants grown or you wish to identify; gardens you've visited; request information and share views on gardening topics. You will get reminders of meetings and their topics.
6. This is the quickest and most efficient way to contact members to share any changes of meetings, trips, etc. and also to give up-to-date information, such as new products in the Store, new meetings and latest trips being organized.

Why not give it a try?

Lynda

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Congratulations!

Huge congratulations to Peter Chivers on his success at the Malvern Show. Peter, who is an often unseen, but important member of the Trading Store team, weighing and bagging up items, put in exhibits at the Show and received a First Prize, two Second Prizes, and a Third and Fourth Prize! What a talented bunch we have!

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.

Officers and Committee Members 2022

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:	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, Frances Leppard, Charles Mobsby, Richard Knight, Carole Rowland, Wendy Wright, Ann Richardson, Tanya Barker		
Show Committee: Brian Andrews, Ron Brumhill, Charles Mobsby, Mark Ward, Lynda Piddington, Ann Richardson		