

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 2017, for distribution in August 2017.



GARDENER'S GAZETTE

Summer 2017

Summer Show
Sunday 20th August 2017
At the
Crookhorn College,
Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville
Doors open 2pm

Affiliated to:

The Royal Horticultural Society

Royal National Rose Society

National Dahlia Society

National Chrysanthemum Society

The Daffodil Society

The Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies

www.purbrookhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

Spring Show 2017 – Pipe Major Bulbs

I would like to apologise to everyone who tried to grow the 'Pipe Major' bulbs that we had at the Store for one of the Special Classes in this year's Spring Show.

The mixed flowers that resulted were very poor and nothing like the ones we ordered. I have taken this up with Taylors, our long-term bulb supplier, who were extremely apologetic and do not understand how the wrong bulbs could have been supplied. They are looking into it and have undertaken to provide recompense in the next order for this Class in our Show.

For advance information, the bulbs we have chosen for the two Special Classes for our 2018 Spring Show are: 'Cheerfulness' for the pebbles and 'Sealing Wax' for the Pot Class.

Who ever said we don't plan ahead!

Brian

Specialist Daffodil Suppliers

At the Spring Show interest was expressed in sourcing daffodil bulbs for the Show and identifying the Daffodil Division to which a named daffodil belonged. Our resident daffodil guru gave me the names of two suppliers. Both suppliers have catalogues which include daffodil information for each variety and also carry pictures. This information is also available on their website. Catalogues can be requested or downloaded—but beware the tile sizes are quite large and you will expend a lot of ink printing a copy.

The two suppliers are:

R. A. Scamp – whose website is www.qualitydaffodils.com/
and

Choice Bulbs who have now combined with Miniature Bulbs and Frank Charlton Chrysanthemums as one organisation with the name of 'Choice Bulbs and Plants'.

The website is: www.miniaturebulbs.co.uk/

I have already taken my R. S. Scamp Catalogue to the Store where it can be borrowed and I hope to be able to get a Choice Bulbs Catalogue for the Store. Postage and packing is quite high, so if there is enough interest we may be able to put together a joint order to save on this aspect.

Charles Mobsby

The Chair Chats!

What a wonderful Spring Show! Thank you to all who assisted, encouraged, contributed and visited; it really was spectacular this year with even more exhibits and superb quality. How encouraging to see more 'new names' entering and even more to witness these first-timers being advised and assisted by the more experienced and then, on receiving their winnings, their obvious delight. So, all you first-timers, share your experiences and encourage others to participate by providing items for the Show Table at monthly meetings and then at the Summer Show on Sunday 20th August at Crookhorn College of Technology, Stakes Hill Road, Waterloooville. Schedules are now available at the Store or at the monthly meetings. This year there is a Entry Form stapled in the centre, to make life easier! Put the date in your diary or on your calendar.

The sharp-eyed amongst you will have noticed a change to the Chair of Floral Art. After many years of hard work and dedication (a lot of it behind the scenes), Jenny has decided to take a well-earned break and just sit back and enjoy Floral Art without the responsibilities of the position, so I would personally, as well as on behalf of the Society, like to thank Jenny for all her support and look forward to working alongside the new incumbent, Carole Rowland.

Now with the Spring Show behind us and with the Summer Show in the final planning stage, it is now time to spring clean the Store. If you can donate new paint rollers and trays and even man/woman-power then please contact Brian at the Store who is co-ordinating this big undertaking.

Again, a big thank you!

Lynda

Reminder

A polite reminder that all membership cards are to be shown at the Trading Store prior to transaction. Should you have forgotten/mislaid/washed in the machine or other mishap, please speak to the Volunteer on the Membership Desk who will then either issue a replacement or tell you the number. This year the card colour is orange.

Trips 2017

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Sunday 23rd April Lydiard House and Park stopping at Studley Grange Butterfly & Craft Village

9am Cost £23

Lydiard is the ancestral home of Viscount Bolingbroke. The exceptional restored house contains the family furnishing and portraits and a rare 17th century window and room devoted to the society artist, Lady Diana Spencer. The restored 18th century ornamental walled garden is a beautiful and tranquil place to stroll, with unique garden features and monuments including the golden cavalier in the adjacent church.

Sunday 11th June Ightham Mote N.T.

9am Cost £23 N.T. £14

Beautiful moated manor house covering 700 years of history from medieval times to 1960. The first owners in 1320 to Charles Robinson an American businessman who bequeathed it to the N.T. Inside there is a refurbished great hall, Jacobean staircase, old chapel, crypt and many other features. Outside are extensive gardens with lakes, set in 550 acres of estate.

Sunday 23rd July Tyntesfield N.T.

9am Cost £26 N.T. £15

This mansion is an extraordinary Gothic revival extravaganza and survives intact with an unrivalled collection of Victorian decorative arts and an insight into life below stairs. There is a sumptuously decorated private chapel. Surrounded by 500 acres of land which includes formal gardens and a wonderful kitchen garden. Saved by the N.T. in 2002, this has been one of their most exciting projects.

Sunday 10th September Sussex Prairie Garden & Borde Hill Garden

9am Cost £25

Sussex Prairie Garden is an exciting new garden where Paul and Pauline McBride have followed their dream to design and create a beautiful garden in the heart of Sussex. Contained within six acres are 30,000 plants of over 600 varieties which give constant colour from June to October.

Borde Hill is a paradise for plants in the heart of Sussex. A beautiful and botanically rich heritage garden within 200 acres of parkland with a series of living garden rooms.

A £14 deposit secures a seat. Payable at monthly meetings or at the Trading Hut on a Saturday morning. Alternatively telephone Ann on 023 92 254 986.

Hope you enjoy your days out with the Society.

Willows are prized for their slender, flexible stems, which have been used for many years to weave baskets and 'cribs' for animal food. Larger stems are traditionally used to make small sailing boats. A hybrid of the white willow and crack willow is the cricket bat willow, which is used to make cricket bats.

Crack willow may be susceptible to watermark disease.

Annual Pumpkin and Quiz Evening

Thursday 5th October

**Once again our very popular and well-attended
Pumpkin and Quiz Evening**

We need more entries on the night; not necessarily huge pumpkins which we know are not easy to find room for but the other categories should be a doddle for all you clever gardeners and pumpkin decorators.

So why not have a go?

**Plants will be available at the Store on a Saturday
morning hopefully by late April early May.**

Alternatively, you can use your own 'specials'!

Another Did You Know?

Willow, crack (*Salix fragilis*)

Crack willow is a deciduous broadleaf tree and one of Britain's largest native willows.

The crack willow is named after the sound made when branches and twigs fall, which they often do. Because the trees often grow beside rivers, any twigs that break off are carried down stream. This helps the trees propagate themselves, as the branches take root easily and may end up some distance from where they fell.

The crack willow is hard to tell apart from the white willow. Mature trees grow to 25 metres. The bark is dark brown and develops deep fissures with age and twigs are slender, flexible, shiny and yellow-brown in colour.

Leaves are slender, oval and are similar to white willow, being long and slender, dark green above and light green below. However the leaves of the crack willow are shorter than those of the white willow and they do not have a felty covering of fine, silky white hairs on the underside.

The crack willow is dioecious, meaning male and female flowers are found on separate trees, in May. The male catkins are yellow, while the female catkins are green.

Once pollinated by bees, the female catkins transform into woolly white seeds dispersed by the wind. At maturity leaves are hairless and shiny on top and sparsely hairy below. Catkins appear before the leaves. In winter the twigs are brittle and make a 'crack' sound when snapped. Yellow-brown hairless narrow buds are pressed close to the twig.

Crack willow can be found in the UK, Europe and Western Asia and is often found growing alongside rivers, lakes and watercourses. Crack willow is regularly planted to help stabilise banks and dykes.

Caterpillars of a number of moth species feed on the foliage, including the puss moth, eyed hawk-moth and red underwing. The catkins provide an important source of early nectar and pollen for bees and other insects, and the branches make good nesting and roosting sites for birds.

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PHS Meetings 2017

All meeting at Deverell Hall – start 7.30pm

Thursday 4th May

Alan Martin will tell us about 'Plants and their Wicked Ways'. Did you know for instance, that half a cup of apple pips can kill you if you eat them; and that the castor oil plant contains ricin which was used recently to kill the Russian Georgi Markov – a terrible death where the organs in the body close down. Those of a delicate disposition should stay away – but Alan is a good speaker, so it would be a shame to miss.

Thursday 1st June

Andrew Negus will continue his history of Portsmouth. Last June he gave us 'Harlots, Dung and Glory'. This will be Part 2, so try not to miss it. We found the first part very interesting.

We will also be voting for the Best Schools Garden Entries in our Annual Competition. Our Chairlady, Lynda, puts a lot of effort and enthusiasm into this, so please support her. After all, with encouragement, these children are the gardeners of the future

Thursday 6th July

John Baker with his wife gave us a very good talk on Hostas in 2015. We are lucky to get him again and this time he will show us slides and talk about the 'Gardens of Japan'.

Thursday 3rd August

Kevin Hobbs from Hilliers Nursery will talk about the Chelsea Flower Show – possibly the greatest flower show in the world. It will be good to see it without the hustle and bustle of the crowds and hear about the trials and tribulations of entering the show. He will bring plants for sale – the proceeds of which will go to charity.

Thursday 7th September

Marcus Dancer will talk to us about 'Scented Plants throughout the Year'. Marcus is a very experienced gardener and owns his own plant company specialising in clematis.

Thursday 5th October

Our annual Pumpkin and Quiz Evening. There will be separate articles on this in future issues of the *Gazette*. We need more entries on the night; not necessarily huge pumpkins which we know are not easy to find room for but the other categories should be a doddle for all you clever gardeners and pumpkin decorators. So why not have a go?

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Thursday 2nd November

Benjamin Turner (known as Ben), has been recommended by another local gardening Society. He will talk to us about 'The Gardens of Tresco' off the coast of Cornwall.

Thursday 7th December

AGM. This is your opportunity to have your say in how the Society is run. Elections to the Committee will also take place. There is a short suggestions period for any ideas you may think will help the Society to grow and prosper. Last, but not least, nibbles and a cuppa – a chance to catch up with friends!

What a Clever Lot!

I was pleasantly surprised at the Spring Show, as were many others, from the comments overheard, to see so many wonderful entries.

This year you did us proud with more entries and more first-time exhibitors than we could have wished for. For all of you reluctant to take part, take heed; we all start off as a Novice and it is lovely to go into the garden or past the pot on the windowsill and think gosh! that's pretty, and decide to put it in the Show. With helpful advice and assistance by the Stewards and more experienced exhibitors, it's great to see it in all its glory and win a third, second or even a first. If at first you don't succeed, take a look at the winning exhibit and ask why that achieved a better placing.

The Floral Art ladies (yes, no men yet – why, are you scared?) again put on a great display and it was lovely to see some new exhibitors, who using lowly garden or supermarket flowers and foliage interpret the titles to great effect and now that you may bring the arrangement partially, or in some cases, completely finished, then it is not so intimidating to try and arrange with the more experienced members. Why not come along to one of the Floral Art demonstrations and view the professionals at work to gain ideas and advice?

The next opportunity to have a go is on the Show Table at monthly meetings and then at the Summer Show which this year is on Sunday 20th August at Crookhorn College of Technology, Stakes Hill Road. Schedules are now available, so get your thinking cap on and see what you can grow, paint, photograph, bake, craft or get the grandchildren started in time for Summer.

The main thing is to have FUN!

Lynda

Spring Show Winners 2017 – the Results!

Stan Wood Cup: Pot of 'Pipe Major': Sue Andrews

Peter Harden Trophy: 'Sir Winston Churchill' in pebbles and water:
Brian Andrews

PHS Spring Cup: Highest Aggregate Points – Classes 1-6: Mark Ward

PHS Novice Spring Cup: Highest Aggregate Points – Novice Classes:
Anne Heelan

Beryl and Cyril Payne Bowl: Highest Aggregate Points: Brian Andrews

Floral Art Trophy: Best Floral Art Exhibit: Shirley Goode

Eric Martin Cup: Best Vase of Daffodils: Mark Ward

Daffodil Society Bronze Medal: Best Bloom in Show –

Variety: Invercassley': Mark Ward

A big thankyou to all who put entries in this year. It was encouraging to see a lot of new names showing for the first time and it reflects what a thriving Society we have. Also a 'well done' to all our dedicated volunteers for their enthusiasm and dedication. Now let's see if we can encourage even more new entries at the Summer Show! Well done to everybody!

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Potato Planting Guide

There is a handy 'Potato Planting Guide' on the Noticeboard in the Store. So, if you were in any doubt about planting times for 'First Earlies', etc. this is a useful guide for you.

There are certified 'Seed Potatoes' in the Store but they are getting low on some of the most popular varieties, so be quick!

**Support *your*
Society**

Everything a gardener needs

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The Trust believes in involving children from a very young age in wildlife projects or in just being outside. There are courses for adults, Forest School for children and outdoor classrooms for school visits.

Grazing animals are used on some sites to keep down the vegetation; only pure English breeds are used as they are more placid. The manure sustains insects at the bottom of the food chain.

One interesting fact that I now can't use in my next quiz is that the Swanwick Lake site was formed from the excavation of the clay for the Bursledon Brickworks and the Albert Hall was one of the buildings where these bricks were used.

On the plus side, ducks, wading birds, water voles and otters are doing well but the downside is that 60% of UK species are in decline. Without the work of organisations such as the Wildlife Trust things could be a lot worse, so we must be grateful for their drive and enthusiasm.

Frances

As Slime Goes By

A snail met a slug in the garden,
'not got a house yet, I see?'
The slug turned and said,
'Beg your pardon?'

Was the question directed at me?

The snail said 'now don't get offended
I just noticed you haven't a shell.
No critical judgement intended,
The slug replied 'go to hell'.

'I happen to be on vacation,
I don't need a house on my walks.
Now I hope that's enough information,
So put your eyes back on their stalks'.

A bird flying by was the winner,
He dived on the pair in a spurt,
He crunched up the snail for his dinner.
And then had the slug for desserts.

Return from Australia

Coming back in a taxi from Heathrow it was a grey damp evening, unlike the very bright hot weather we had left behind in Australia. It was high summer when we left; our daughter's garden was full of spider plants, Clivia, honeysuckle (which the Aussies regard as a weed), scented jasmine, and many more scented flowers whose names escape me!

I also spent a few days in New Zealand and the most striking plant there was a tree the Kiwis call the Christmas tree; it is so named because it is in flower at Christmas time but also has beautiful large red flowers at the ends of the branches. Some of these trees can grow to 50ft or more and really look wonderful.

Unfortunately where our daughter lives it is a little too hot to grow what we would call our spring flowers. Therefore, on that dull damp evening I was thinking about what we would find in our own garden. I was not disappointed. The snowdrops were in flower and the crocus were in bud. Hellebores were flowering and many daffodils and tulips were beginning to bud; what a grand welcome home!

A few days of getting over jet lag and a phone call from Lorraine Plant informed me I was the newly elected Chairperson of the Floral Art Club. Being Chairperson is a roll I undertook in my professional life and holds no fears but the Floral Art Club is another kettle of fish.

I am not a flower arranger but do love flowers and watching those who can.

Our first demonstrator was Angela Merryfield and her theme was 'Floral Symphony'. The arrangements were well executed and colourful and were also accompanied by music. I hope those present enjoyed the evening. We look forward to our workshop on 13th April where the theme is 'With Easter in Mind' and would love to see you there. Everyone is welcome to join us.

On 19th March the PHS Spring Show was a sight for sore eyes. The hall was full of wonderful shades of yellow in all shapes and sizes, in some cases with fragrance – always welcome!

The Floral Art section gave a splendid show with some beautiful arrangements and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the time and hard work you put in.

I look forward to the following months in my garden and at the Floral Art meetings and hope that we all enjoy the varied programme.

Carole

Spring Show Musings

Yet again, a great Spring Show. More exhibits than I can remember and the perfume in the hall was quite exquisite. From the hub-bub in the hall I concluded that everyone was enjoying a great afternoon.

We had a sell-out on the refreshments. Cakes ranged from the exotic to the good old favourites, Hummingbird cake (unfortunately I was too late to sample). Orange drizzle (a twist on the lemon variety), Jamaican Ginger cake and Carrot cake (no label needed as there were little marzipan carrots on a bed of chopped walnuts).

Mocca with caramel for the chocoholics and a sophisticated coffee and walnut, always a favourite, Country Fruitcake and Victoria sponge and a good old Apple tart with a twist.

On the cakes and preserves table were more delights. A wonderful selection of fruit-filled jams and another assortment of cakes: peanut, sultana, lemon drizzle and Simnel cakes already for Easter.

The all-time favourite Shortbreads are made from a secret family recipe I am told, what a choice!

A great big thankyou to all the ladies and gentlemen who made the effort to bake some wonderful cakes and provide them for the Show, without which we would not have had such a wonderful choice for the public to sample.

My special thanks must go to my Team who worked happily and diligently throughout the day. I look forward to their help once again at the upcoming Summer Show on 20th August. Make a note in your diary.

Once again, many thanks.

Mavis

End of an Era

It is with regret I have to inform you of the passing of Eileen Jones, our oldest member, at the age of 101.

Eight of us from the Society attended her funeral at the Oaks, Havant to the delight of her niece and family from Bedfordshire. Eileen was often seen at the Shows, driving herself in her very large motorised buggy, even in her later years but according to her family and friends used that reluctantly when having had to stop using her moped!

As requested, the Society will make a donation in Eileen's name to the Blue Cross.

The March Meeting at Deverell Hall

On 2nd March we had a talk by Hazel Fotheringham who is the Senior Membership Recruitment Officer for the Hants and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. We had an extremely good attendance so thank you all for coming; it gives out a positive vibe to the speakers.

These are a few facts about the Trust but they also have a website which is very informative, it is www.hiwwt.org.uk.

The Wildlife Trust was formed in 1960 and by 1965, without the advantage of websites for advertising, the membership was 1,000. They are now responsible for 50 sites with 99,000 hectares of land. They are a non-profit-making organisation and their base is at Curdridge.

In 1988 Lady Dutton of Hinton Ampner gave the Trust 'Shutts Copse' and a million pounds worth of investments. In 2010, on it's 50th anniversary the largest ever bird seed cake was produced. All the sites and their locations are online but if you join you receive a booklet which has some lovely illustrations showing some of the plants and wildlife you can expect to see.

As well as the paid staff they have very active and keen volunteers. Sponsorship is well received but the companies involved must prove that they are ethical. The Trust liaises with farmers and other groups including DEFRA, MOD and the Water Board, as these all have a part to play in the environment. They also work with the Royal Hort. Society. We can help in a small way by growing flowers that have pollen and providing shelter for insects and small mammals. Hazel reminded us how lucky we are in Hampshire with our chalk grasslands which provide good conditions for wildflowers and butterflies. The chalk rivers also support otters and our native crayfish.

One of the jobs which the Trust tackle is the eradicating of some invasive non-native plants such as the Giant Hogweed, the American Skunk Cabbage and the Himalayan Balsam. Also conifers have been overplanted in some areas and they do not sustain many insects and birds.

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Officers and Committee Members 2017

President:	David Parker	
Life Vice-Presidents:	Peter Brooks JP, Maureen Kemp	
Chairman:	Lynda Piddington 40 Westbrook Road, Purbrook PO7 5HX	023 9226 1149 lindapiddington@sky.com
Treasurer:	Brian Andrews 26 Kings Road, Cowplain PO8 8UR	023 9226 3731
Trading Manager:	Brian Andrews (as above)	
Secretary:	Chris Middleton 147 The Dale, Widley PO7 5JH	023 9238 0613
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
Membership Sec:	Peter Davis 48 Privett Road, Purbrook PO7 5JW	023 9226 2059
Catering Convenor:	Mavis Davis 48 Privett Road, Purbrook PO7 5JW	023 9226 2059
Floral Art Chair:	Carole Rowland	023 9225 5134
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, Mavis Davis, Peter Davis, Cliff Jones, Frances Leppard, Charles Mobsby, Betty Clarke, Wendy Wright, Carole Rowland, Richard Knight	
Show Committee:	Graeme MacFarlane, Brian Andrews, Ron Brumhill, Mavis Davis, Charles Mobsby, Lynda Piddington, Mark Ward	
Auditor:	Helen Stock	

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
The Rose
Chrysanthemum Society
National Vegetable Society
Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies - Monthly Bulletin

Cards:

RHS Reduced Garden Entry (+ 1 guest) - not Sundays at Wisley
National Vegetable Society
Royal National Rose 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 (4)
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.