



GARDENER'S GAZETTE

Autumn 2010

Founded 1940

Affiliated to:

The Royal Horticultural Society

Royal National Rose Society

National Dahlia Society

National Chrysanthemum Society

National Vegetable Society

The Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies

The Daffodil Society

www.purbrookhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

SUMMER SHOW

SUNDAY 22ND AUGUST 2010

**Crookhorn College of Technology
Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville**

Doors Open To The Public at 2pm

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2010

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Life Vice-President: Peter Brooks JP: Maureen Kemp

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General Committee: Richard Knight, Wendy Hill, Brian Andrews, Betty Clark, Cliff Jones, Maureen Kemp, Jan Baxter, Charles Mobsby, Frances Leppard, Nick Carter, Lynda Piddington, Dave Cullen, Patricia Larcombe, Helen Twichen

Show Committee: Richard Knight, Lynda Piddington, Brian Andrews, Betty Clark, Cliff Jones, Maureen Kemp, Charles Mobsby, Nick Carter

Catering Committee: Betty Clark, Xanthia Sang

Allotment Representative: Nick Carter

Auditor: Mrs H Stock

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Apologies for later than usual appearance of the Autumn Gazette. This is down entirely to me – holidays etc. Well, that's my excuse!

Please don't forget the upcoming Summer Show which as always is the highlight of the Society year. The more entries the better – and don't be put off by the 'regulars' – there are novice classes to enter to gain experience and then you can have a go at the higher level once confidence is built up. Any advice will be freely and gladly given by any of the Committee and you'll find most entrants are more than happy to help with tips and advice.

So please do come along and have a look – bring the children or grandchildren – there is plenty to see and special classes for our younger members to take part in.

Wendy, our long-serving secretary has stepped down from her duties due to commitments elsewhere. She will stay on the General Committee. On behalf of the Committee and Members I would like to thank her for all her hard work in the past.

Our new Secretary i.e. Ms. Helen Twitchen (details on the inside page). Welcome and thank you for volunteering.

Here's to some fine weather and good gardening

Richard Knight

MEMBERSHIP 2011

Membership may be renewed for 2011 at the Summer Show but the 2011 Membership cards will not be available until later in the year and will be sent out with the Winter Gazette. Annual renewals for 2011 will commence at the Store/Evening Meetings from 4 November 2010, by which time the new cards will be printed.

The membership fee for 2011 remains unchanged at £5 per year per household (0% inflation!)

Graham

CLAY POTS SALE

We have now amassed a large number of clay pots at the store which are taking up some much needed space. They will be on sale at the Store during normal opening hours 09.30-11.30. No reasonable offer refused.

Graham

STORE NEWS

PEAT FREE COMPOST – New Horizon peat-free compost is now in stock at the Store. The experience to date of members who have used it has been encouraging with plants in pots making good healthy root growth. The compost is friable and easy to use. It doesn't seem to need any grit or perlite to improve drainage which some of the peat based composts need. It takes up water quite readily but does seem to dry out quite quickly on the surface of pots.

CHRISTMAS POTATOES – These are seed potatoes that have been held back in cold store so that when planted in July/August grow very rapidly to produce a crop of ‘new’ potatoes by November/December, which can be a welcome change on the plate at this time of the year. They do need to be protected from any early frosts and so quite often are planted in large pots (available at the Store) so that they can be moved or protected as necessary. The variety Charlotte proved popular last year and so has been ordered again and the quantity increased as we sold out quite quickly last year. They are, of course, more expensive than normal seed potatoes because of the cold storage costs.

SPRING BULBS – These are on order and the first delivery is planned to be in time to be on sale at the Summer Show. The bulbs chosen for the two special classes at the Spring Show are ‘Sir Winston Churchill’ for the pebbles and ‘Binkie’ for the pot.

Unfortunately, the very popular extra large Amaryllis that we have had for many years are not available this year, but we will be having the next size down which will still be larger than you will find at other outlets. Also this year we will have some of the more decorative types in gift boxes, complete with pot and compost, which should be ideal for Christmas presents. Delivery of the bulbs is usually September/October.

Brian Andrews

HELP

We urgently need more help at the Trading Store on Saturday mornings and would be most grateful if any member could spare a couple of hours from time-to-time, not necessarily every week. All our helpers are volunteers, the average age of the present team is 69+ and many are not fully fit so some younger, fitter help would be most welcome. It would also be much appreciated if those members who are able could assist the Store staff with the bagging of grit and chips and loading their cars.

PLANT AND PRODUCE DONATIONS

This is a plea for donations of plants and produce to sell at the Summer Show. It is an opportunity to share with others the fruits of your labour. The stall always attracts a lot of interest from members of the public, especially the runner beans!

Donations of plants accepted at the store on any Saturday morning.

Donations of produce accepted on Saturday 21st August at the Store or on Sunday morning at the show.

Thank you in advance for your support.

WANTED - SHOW SPONSORS

A sponsor supports our Shows by providing the prize money for the sponsored class. Sponsorship of most of the classes would only cost £4.20 with a few costing £7 though if you are feeling particularly generous, the floral

art classes and a handful of the more demanding classes would cost £15 while the two or three championship classes cost £50.

Many Show participants sponsor the class associated with a favourite flower, fruit, vegetable or craft but sponsorship also provides an opportunity for non participants to demonstrate their support for the Show and the Society. Each sponsorship donation is acknowledged by a card with the sponsors name on display alongside the class sponsored.

If you would like to sponsor a class, then enter your name and the class you would like to sponsor on the sponsorship list on display at the store and at the meeting preceding each show and pay the money to our treasurer Brian Andrews. If you are unable to attend the meeting or the store, then send your name, the class sponsored and a cheque to the Show Secretary. Details of the prize money for each class and the Show Secretary's address can be found in the schedule and the insert.

SUMMER SHOW CATERING

Once again we are looking for helpers at the show on the Saturday and Sunday. It could be as short as a couple of hours, we will fit you in. Please give your name at the membership desk in the store or the monthly meetings.

Each year the public and members come for a cake and a cup of tea, but it falls to a very small number to produce the refreshments. **So a very huge request please could you bake a cake or cakes to help with this very popular part of the show.**

In anticipation – Thank you

Betty Clark

TONY'S INTER SCHOOLS ANNUAL TROPHY 2010 **(SPONSORED BY TRANSIT MAN)**

THE RESULTS

Following a superb quality of entries to this year's competition and the generosity of members at the monthly meeting on 1st July who voted, the results are as follows:

Trophy winners in no particular order:-

Barncroft Infant School, Havant
Park Community School, Leigh Park
Saint Alban's C of E Primary School, West Leigh

But with a landslide victory the overall and therefore cup winner was
Saint Alban's C of E Primary School, West Leigh.

Who not only followed the brief to the letter but showed such enthusiasm that their hard work over the year really made their entry stand out.

Due to the generosity of voting members who placed a coin in front of their preferred entry, the number (not denomination) of coins were added and the overall winner received the total collected, £20, in order to purchase further gardening supplies as well as the Cup which they retain.

To all who participated, voted on, and encouraged a very big thank you and hope that next year the quantity as well as the quality of entries increases.

Lynda Piddington

NOTES FOR NOVICES – PART 2

This second note covers the final preparation of exhibits and some class specific advice on the arrangement of the exhibit.

GENERAL ADVICE ON PREPARATION OF EXHIBITS

Root vegetables should be carefully washed with a soft cloth and plenty of water to remove soil – brushing will damage the skin. Leaves should be trimmed to the length specified in the schedule and the ends tied neatly with undyed raffia or string.

Fruit (and fruit classified as vegetables i.e. beans, peas, tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes, aubergines, squash, pumpkins etc) should generally be picked by cutting the stalk cleanly either with scissors or a sharp knife and displayed with the stalk intact. – exceptions are apricots, nectarines and peaches – pick these without any attached stalk. Handle fruit only by the stalks and as little as possible to retain bloom.

Pick the flowers early in the morning or late in the evening. Cut stems as long as possible and slope the cut to assist water absorption – slit stems over the bottom 75mm for varieties known to be reluctant to absorb water.

Transport the flowers to the show either horizontally wrapped in paper, or, preferably vertically in securely held containers of water.

Remove any remaining side shoots, buds or immature flowers and the lower leaves and store in deep filled vases in the dark since stalks may well bend if the blooms turn to face the source of light.

TYPE SPECIFIC ADVICE ON EXHIBITING

Beans - Align parallel in a row with all stalks at one end. Credit is given for straight, tender snap specimens of good, uniform length with little outward signs of seeds.

Beetroot. - Wash extra carefully and gently as marks show up clearly when the skin dries. Ideally, round specimens 60-75mm in diameter, cylindrical about 150mm long. Credit given for smooth blemish free skins of good uniform colour and the presence of a single tap root. Small hair like side roots may be carefully removed provided the skin remains unmarked.

Cabbage - Trim off only a minimum of outer discoloured leaves so that outer colour is a good green. Display with about 50mm of stem, heads facing forward.

Carrots - Soak soil at time of lifting to minimize damage to the tip of the root.

Courgettes - Young, tender fruit of good uniform shape – length about 150mm, diameter about 35mm (round cultivars about 75mm in diameter)

Cucumbers - Fresh, large but young, matched fruit with stalk attached.

Lettuce - Pick late evening or early morning, Wash roots ensuring that soil does not collect between leaves. RHS suggest you wrap roots in very moist tissue and insert them into a small plastic bag and tie the open end so that the lettuce does not go limp. Our schedule allows roots to be placed in a dish of water. Remove minimum of outer leaves. Display with hearts facing forward.

Marrows - Tender young fruit of length less than 350mm (round varieties less than 500mm circumference). Gently wipe skins clean.

Onions and shallots - Remove loose skin but do not overskin as good uniform colour is required. Trim roots neatly back to basal plate. Tops should be tied or whipped with uncoloured raffia. Display onions on collars, shallots staged as separate bulbs not as clusters and arranged in a plate of sand.

Peppers - Fruit should be fully formed but may be either green or ripe (Ripe will get more credit)

Potatoes - Weight 175 – 225gm with shallow eyes. Clean carefully but thoroughly. Stage on plates with the “rose” end outward. Note: a mainly white potato with slightly pink or purple eyes is classified as “other than white”

Rhubarb - Fresh, tender, straight, pulled stalks. Tidy up pulled end and trim foliage to 75mm.

Sweetcorn - Display with silks. Trim stalk. Pull down (and if necessary remove some of the husks) to display about a quarter of the grains over the length of the cob. Cob should be filled with straight rows of tender plump grains and husk a fresh green.

Tomatoes - Show with calyx and some stalk. Display on a plate, calyx side uppermost.

Apples - Display with the eye uppermost but with stalk intact. Arrange in a circle with one apple in the middle – if desired raised on a cushion of white tissue.

Berries - Arrange stalk uppermost in two or three lines for ease of counting. Stalks should all point one way and credit is given for fresh green stalks and calyces. If raspberries are wet do not pick the fruit individually - cut the raspberry cane with required fruit, bring indoors and place cane in water and cut the raspberry stems when the fruit are dry.

Pears - Can be arranged round the perimeter of a plate with the stalks pointing towards the middle.

Plums - Arrange in a circle or in lines, stalk uppermost. Can arrange on a plate.

Grapes - Cut with a piece of the vine to form a “T” handle.

Delphiniums - Remove any side spikes from the main spike. The stem should be vertical with at least 10cm of stem showing and the packing disguised with delphinium foliage.

Gladioli - Ideally the bottom blossom of the spike should still be fresh.

Annuals and perennials - Either a single flower to a stem or if the variety simultaneously produces a head flower and nearly fully developed side flowers, a stem with predominately fully open and well developed blooms.

Pansy and Fuchsia blooms – 6 blooms are displayed singly in special society containers – pick with the maximum possible stalk. Fuchsia flowers should be about to show or show pollen on the anthers and the stigma should be fresh.

As I said in part 1, if you have any questions, do phone me or make contact at the monthly meetings. If I cannot answer your query, I will probably know someone who can.

Charles Mobsby – Show Secretary

A COURSE FOR ALL SEASONS

I love cooking and had always wanted to go on a cookery course, but after investigation thought the courses were a little over priced. I have also had a long standing love of herbs; there is nothing more pleasing than going into your garden and picking just the right amount of herbs you choose to enhance a dish. I watched

Gardeners World and also Rick Steins Food Heroes, when they featured Judith Hann and her herb garden, those of you old enough will recognize her name as a presenter of 'Tomorrow's World'. I looked on her website (www.hannsherbs.co.uk) and sent an email and the next thing I know I am on two of her courses, June and October. Judith holds herb courses 6-7 times a year.

It was a lovely day when I arrived at her farm set in the beautiful Gloucestershire countryside. There were 12 of us on the course so it was very friendly and personal. We learned about a variety of herbs, then Judith and her assistant Stella, a food lecturer, demonstrated various recipes which we sampled, (my preferred being wild rocket pesto) before going into the herb garden with Judith for a guided tour. After the tour we went back into the kitchen and made a few appetizers. Then into the formal garden for a pre-lunch drink and to sample our handiwork. We then had lunch cooked with herbs from Judith's garden which was delicious. There were herbs for sale and a few herb infused vinegars, oils and fruits (all in aid of the leukemia charity). We were then allowed to wander around the different gardens and the 'lake' before setting off with our purchases and great memories.

It has made me more determined to start my own herb garden. I have put into practice a few of the recipes which my family has thoroughly enjoyed. I can't wait until October for my next installment.

Patricia Larcombe

NEWS FROM THE WEST SIDE ALLOTMENTS

Well we wanted some hot weather but now the ground is so dry that you need a mallet to get a stick in the earth. Of course those well prepared would have their sticks in already. The black fly are 'a breedin' and the pigeons are 'a scoffin'. Fingers crossed that the peas will be a good crop and hopefully with a good dousing of rain later the runner beans. Still cannot understand why there are seemingly empty plots when there is a supposed to be a waiting list, it must be frustrating for genuine gardeners keen to have a go at an allotment.

I think I have got sink hole on my plot; the water just goes in and in ad infinitum. Have seen a lone rabbit with rather long ear – is it a hare? Pheasants are vocal and woodpecker's are pecking, it really is a lovely place to be, who cares if the produce sometimes fails (I do actually).

Frances Leppard

APOLOGY

In the previous Gazette I quoted incorrect prices for the cakes in my survey I do apologise and here are the correct prices:

Cake slices at Rosemore £2.75; Eden Project £2.85 and Hever Castle £3.00 (very large slices)

BEST BUY – PHS SUMMER SHOW 75p!!!!

Betty

PUMPKIN/QUIZ/SOCIAL EVENING

Due to the popularity of the event and the space involved for tables and chairs, we need to know in advance the numbers for the evening. It is proposed that the numbers be limited to 100 for these reasons.

There will be a charge of £1.00 per person to include the light supper. Exhibitors free.

Heaviest Pumpkin prize £25 (one prize only)

New England Pie variety of culinary pumpkin to be judged for its suitability for culinary use. One prize £15.

Squash to be judged. One prize £10.

Plants are available from the Store

Quiz 4 people to a team.

Prize – 1 bottle of wine per team member.

Tickets will be available at the store, at the meetings and at the Spring and Summer shows.

Phil Stock

PURBROOK FLORAL ART CLUB

The Floral Art Club is affiliated to The Purbrook Horticultural Society (PHS) and welcomes both beginners and experienced flower arrangers. New members can join for an annual subscription of £20 per year plus a £5 PHS membership, which includes entry to most demonstrations and workshops. Guests are always welcome at a cost of £4.50 per evening.

All meetings are held at the Deverell Hall, Purbrook (unless otherwise stated) on the second Thursday of the month. Doors open at 7pm and the meeting commences at 7.30pm. If you need to bring anything with you for the workshops, you will be advised at the previous meeting.

Tea and coffee are available. There is a raffle, sales table and a themed 'Bring and Buy' to raise money for the club and keep the subscription fees as low as possible.

PROGRAMME FOR 2010

12 th August	Demonstration <i>Angela Merryfield</i>	'Flowers & Music'
9 th September	Demonstration <i>Sue Flight</i>	'Seasonal Sensations'
14 th October	Work Shop <i>Jenny Withers</i>	To be Advised
11 th November	Demonstration <i>Pamela Bryant</i>	'Christmas at Home'

2nd December **PHS AGM** **All welcome**
 Deverell Hall

9th December **Christmas Party**

All enquiries please call one of the Committee Members:

Jenny Withers – Chairman – 023 9225 1721
Lorraine Plant – Secretary – 023 9264 3809
Diane Apps – Treasurer – 023 9232 1847

FLORAL ART CLASSES FOR THE PHS SUMMER SHOW 2010

- Summer Harvest - novice
 - Gardeners Delight
 - Foliage only
 - Still Life
- Black & White – Modern
 - Country Way – Petite
-

HEVER CASTLE TRIP 23RD MAY

Once again Anne managed to arrange the trip on a beautiful sunny day – no cardigan necessary! The gardens were alive with the happy voices both from our party, but mainly from the many families enjoying a picture England at it's best. The rose garden was still in bud, but they all looked very healthy and promised a magnificent display in a couple of weeks. The wisteria was in peak flower as were the roses and other climbers on the walls.

A few of our members managed to walk all the way round the lake and there were quite a number of small boats on it. A few managing to row in circles, all good entertainment for the watchers!

The house was extremely interesting, really well displayed with plenty of easy to read information.

A very happy , tired band arrived home in the evening, having had a great day out. For those of you who have not tried a trip, come and join us.

Betty Clark

FORTHCOMING TRIPS 2010

SUNDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER – DEPARTS 9AM

Ham House and Gardens N.T.

Adults £22, NT £14

Please Note: When booking a trip we will require a £10 non-returnable deposit. I have tried to keep trip prices to the minimum, but with fuel prices rising it is getting difficult. The cost of the coach hire and ticket prices are going up every year, hopefully the above prices won't have to go up.

Ann

SUNDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER **HAM HOUSE AND GARDENS** **(NATIONAL TRUST)** **DEPARTS 9AM**

Ham house is perhaps the most remarkable Stuart house in the country. A former home of the Duke and Duchess of Lauderdale; the house was the forefront of fashion and retains much of its interior decoration, textiles, furniture and paintings are shown in 26 rooms.

The garden is a survival of English formal gardening being restored to its former glory.
Disabled access: partial

ADVANCE NOTICE OF **MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR 2010**

Thursday 5th August

Dennis Bright 'Valley of the Barn Owls'.

Thursday 2nd September

Alan Martin 'Anecdotes from working and studying plants in Jerusalem'. Alan worked in Israel for his internship from Sparsholt College.

Thursday 7th October

Our regular Pumpkin & Quiz evening.

Thursday 4th November

Mrs Carol Watson 'South Africa in Bloom'.

Thursday 2nd December

AGM – All welcome, refreshments and light bites available.

The Fruits of Labour

That which one eats
As the fruit of his
own labour,
is properly
called food.

Magazine, 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.

Magazine

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 Wisley on Sundays
National Vegetable Society
Royal National Rose Society
National Chrysanthemum Society
National Dahlia Society

Equipment

Lawn Spreaders (2) £1 charge towards replacement costs
Leaf Vac/Blower (2)
Lawn Rakes and leads (4) £2 deposit, refundable on return

Anyone borrowing an item is required to return it within two weeks, so that other Members may have the opportunity to use it.

Folding Tables may also be borrowed (£1 per table)

Diary 2010

5 th Aug	Dennis Bright	'Valley of the Barn Owls'
2 nd Sept	Alan Martin	'Anecdotes from Jerusalem'
7 th Oct	Pumpkin Night	Tickets available from the Store
4 th Nov	Mrs Carol Watson	'South Africa in Bloom'
2 nd Dec	AGM	

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 & June. Doors open at 7pm and the meeting commences at 7.30pm. Illustrated talks are presented by well-known 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 or tea and biscuits are served (at no charge). This is then followed by the drawing of the Raffle. The speaker then concludes the evening talk and the meeting closes at about 9.45pm.

Do come and join us, you will be made most welcome. In addition to enjoying the talk you can view the Show Table, buy plants from the Plant Stall, book a seat on one our outings, pay your Membership Fees and meet the other members and officers of the Society.

TRADING STORE OPENING HOURS

Every Saturday 9.30am to 11.30am

The Trading Store is situated on the London Road, Widley,
adjacent to 'The Old Vicarage'

Items for inclusion in the Winter 2010 issue, distributed at the start of November should be with the Editor by the first Saturday in October.