



GARDENER'S GAZETTE

Summer 2024

SUMMER SHOW
Sunday
18th August 2024

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

Officers and Committee Members 2024

President: Wendy Wright

Vice-President: Richard Knight

Life Vice-President: Maureen Kemp

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General Committee: Lynda Piddington, Brian Andrews, Phil Stock, Jan Baxter, Frances Leppard, Charles Mobsby, Richard Knight, Garry White, Carole Rowland, Wendy Wright, Ann Richardson, Tanya Barker.

Show Committee: Brian Andrews, Charles Mobsby, Lynda Piddington, Mark Ward, Eddie Horrell.

The Chair Chats!

Congratulations one and all! So lovely to see so many of you support the Spring Show and even better that newer members 'had a go' at putting in exhibits and being successful. It takes many hours of preparation by a small band of volunteers to organise and set up Shows as well as the expense to the Society, but, and this is a big but, this is easily offset by the generosity of members donating cakes, coming along and encouraging others, and the wonderful friendly atmosphere commented on by many.

So, now on to the Summer and also initial planning on Spring 2025 so any of you willing to help in any capacity please speak to a committee member (all contact details are on inside cover of every Gazette).

With the better (?) weather on the horizon, we also have the start of the trips, so dig out your thermos flask, sandwich boxes and sunhats as Ann only books sunny days!

The latest meetings have all been extremely well attended and received with the Tuppenny Barn being of particular interest, prompting many of you to plan a visit which, as it is a charitable organisation, will help boost their funds. Our facebook page for members only is attracting more requests to join, meaning reminders for meetings and availability of trips are updated frequently. This is your group so please feel free to post enquiries on any Horticultural topic; share photo's of gardens visited or even your own and request garden items you wish to acquire or offer those you wish to dispose of. If you do have surplus plants or seedlings please do consider donating them to the Store for sale as this is one of the streams of revenue that enabled us to reduce the membership fee to £5.

So with the clocks forward an hour and brighter days and evenings on the way we can all look forward to time in our little patch of serenity and hopefully put away the wellies!

Lynda

Monthly Meetings

Thursday 6th June

Darren Everest is a specialist on Sweet Peas and Dahlias. He has been growing dahlias for 35 years, since he was a young lad helping his grandad on his allotment. At 15 he was growing about 300 plants on his own allotment. In the last 10 years Darren has won six National Championship Classes at shows, and in 2021 he was awarded 'Personality of the Year Award' by the National Dahlia Society. As you can gather from this, he is very fond of dahlias, and will talk to us about the successful growing of these colourful and stunning plants. Darren lives on the Isle of Wight.

Thursday 4th July

Benjamin Pope is Head Gardener in a private garden in West Sussex. He has many gardening qualifications and experience in both practical projects and design. He lectures at Chelsea Physics Garden and also at West Dean College. In 2019 he realized a dream and bought a 5.5-acre site in West Sussex to develop eventually as a market garden. Benjamin will give a talk entitled 'Treading gently through the borders' which sounds romantic and will explore both traditional and more contemporary ideas about herbaceous perennials.

Thursday 1st August

TBC

Thursday 5th September

Wendy Gilbert, who is one of our members and supplies us with excellent honey to sell in our Store, will tell us all about beekeeping. If you are interested in this worthwhile hobby come along and get inspired.

Thursday 3rd October

Mike Read has been to us before and is a superb photographer. He will be taking us through the 'Wildlife of the Scottish Highlands'.

Frances

TRIPS 2024

Sunday 9th June 9am £36 Penshurst Place and Gardens

Once the home of Henry VIII, left to his son, King Edward VI and granted to Viscount De L'Isle, forebear Sir William Sidney in 1552. The Sidney family have been occupants for more than 460 years. It is still a family home and welcomes visitors to discover the charm of Penshurst.

Hot meals are available and light snacks. Gardens open 10am-5pm. House open 11.30am - 3.30pm. Gift Shop and Plant Centre 9am - 5pm. Café 9am -5pm.

Sunday 21st July 9am £20 Wisley Gardens

Hopefully we will see the gardens in their full glory.

Sunday 8th September 9am £36 (tbc) Abbotsbury Sub-tropical Garden

The garden originates from 1765 when the Countess of Ilchester built a castle on the site overlooking Lyme Bay. A wall was built for a sheltered kitchen garden. This walled garden is now the heart of the gardens. The range of plants was increased by the 4th Earl, who was a botanist. The garden trebled in size by the 19th century. The castle burnt down in 1915. The garden was restored in the 1960s.

Cashless payment. Tearoom open 10am - 4.30pm.

Proper Cornish pasties and homemade light snacks, available from 12 noon to 2pm.

I am sorry to say that the cost of hiring a coach for the day has risen by 25%-30%.

Deposits will therefore have to be £20 per trip. This secures your seat.

Each trip price includes your seat and a tip for the driver.

I am in the Store every Saturday and at monthly meetings. Cash or cheque only.

My telephone number is: 023 92 254 986.

Address: 16 Fir Copse Road, Waterlooville PO7 5JA.

Cheques to be made payable to: PHS.

Thank you for your support this year.

Ann Richardson

I cannot believe the response I've had this year. Three trips filled within a couple of weeks! Let's hope the weather is kind to us! This year the trips are as above. I may be able to arrange a Christmas visit somewhere in November/December. It is difficult since Covid, with timed entry and ridiculous prices at some. If you have any suggestions please let me know. I am thinking of Bowood, Forde Abbey and Waterperry. A lot of NT places do not allow groups on Sunday.

Floral Art Meetings

Deverell Hall. 1.30pm for 2pm start to 4pm

Thursday 16th May

Workshop. In House.

Thursday 20th June

Demonstration by Carole Stables. 'As If by Magic'

Thursday 18th July

Garden Party/Social. Tickets available from our April Meeting.

Thursday 15th August

Demonstration by Angela Woodley. 'Traveller's Tales'.

Thursday 19th September

Demonstration by Nina Tucknott. 'Green Inspiration'.

Thursday 17th October

Workshop by Liz Pelly. 'Vertical Design using 10/12" Oasis ring.

Thursday 21st November

Demonstration by Steven McDonnell-Daley. 'Paint the Sky with Stars'.

Thursday 19th December

Christmas Lunch. Details and venue to be confirmed as soon as we can.

Subscription is £40 per year. Guest Attendance is £8.

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Shows

I would like to thank everyone who was generous enough to bake a cake or two for the Spring Show. They were enjoyed and complimented upon. I'm hoping your generosity will extend to the Summer Show on 18th August. Also, if anyone can spare a couple of hours in the afternoon of that day to help serve the cakes or clear the tables please let me know.

Ann - Lady Convenor

Philip Hill

As many of you may be aware, we lost a valued friend and long-standing member of our Society at PHS recently.

Our sincere condolences go to his wife Wendy,
and all his family members.

The Commemorative Service held at the Cathedral
was attended by PHS members.

Spring Show Bulbs

The bulbs that we ordered in for Classes 13 and 14 of this year's show were, unfortunately, very disappointing. The 'Sacajawea' for the 6 in a pot either rotted away or flowered too early resulting in no entries, and the 'Bridal Crown' bulbs for the pebbles and water produced weak growth with few flowers. We think the problem was due to poor growing conditions in Holland the year before because some other varieties were also not up to the usual standard. So, we hope that the bulbs for 2025 will be of much better quality as in previous years. We have chosen 'Flower Record' for the pot class and 'Yellow Cheerfulness' for the pebbles. These should be available in late August, along with various other varieties. Below is a guide to which classes the bulbs on order would be suitable for.

Classes 2 & 8 - Trumpet, any colour combination. (Div. 1)

Mount Hood

Classes 3 & 9 - Large Cup. (Div. 2)

Flower Record

Sealing Wax

Classes 4 & 10 - Small Cup. (Div. 3)

Kimmeridge

Classes 5 & 11 - Double. (Div. 4)

Tahiti

Classes 6 & 12 - Any Other.

Sunny Girlfriend

Yellow Cheerfulness

Silver Chimes

Golden Echo

Jetfire

Tete-A-Tete

Class 13 - Pot of 6.

Flower Record

Class 14 - Pebbles.

Yellow Cheerfulness

Class 15 - Pot (not as 13 or 14).

Any

Class 16 - Pot of Dwarf Daffodils.

Tete-A-Tete

Jetfire

Canaliculatus

Visit to Hever Castle

Hever Castle in Kent was the childhood home of Anne Boleyn (beheaded) second wife of Henry VIII and mother of Elizabeth 1.

In later years it was bought by an American, William Wardorf Astor who spent a lot of money restoring it. There is still an Astor in the House of Lords today, William Waldorf Astor the Third.

Back to the trip. It was a bit chilly, but dry, and we made good time. Brian had to wait while they printed out 50-odd tickets and a lady waiting in the queue remarked 'That's one tree gone'.

The tulips were on the wane, but there were still some to see, and some lovely camellias and rhododendrons. Must mention in despatches, Monica, who walked around the lake, no mean feat. Though we didn't try it out there was a water maze for children and adult children where if you stepped on the wrong slab you got splattered. Also an ordinary maze but we weren't brave enough for that either.

On the way out attached to the shop were some fabulous dolls houses and gardens. Exhibition pieces rather than toys. The details were amazing.

All in all a lovely day out and more inspirations for our gardens except for maybe the massive pots!

Frances

*Don't forget that we now have a website where you can read
current issues of the Gazette and Store information:
www.purbrookhorticulturalsociety.org.uk*

Technology- Friend or Foe?

We hear so often that AI is coming and we are all about to be replaced by robots and scammed by them pretending to be real people. However I am sure that when Television was first introduced, people were wary about that taking over our lives, so perhaps we should reconsider?

Technology can be great when used correctly. To be able to phone for assistance almost anywhere and anytime is a bonus; to learn at home using the internet is a bonus for those that cannot access libraries; to face time family and friends either far away or unable to visit is a bonus and so it goes on.

The PHS facebook group page has proved invaluable recently, being able to inform members that the Speaker for May had unfortunately had to cancel and a replacement found by Frances at the last minute on a new topic; the new opening hours for the Trading Store for a trial period (from 8th May the Store will open on a Wednesday from 6.30pm -7.30pm, in addition to the usual Saturday opening) and of course to advertise Trips as they become available.

For all those wary of facebook, our group page is restricted to members only, in order to keep it advertisement free and relevant content only. It is a platform for members to share photos of their gardens; gardens they have visited; trips; Shows attended and offer of garden items for sale or request garden items.

So, technology can help and be a space as safe as possible to use when common sense and a little wariness is used.

After all we are now in the 21st century!

Lynda

I Challenge You!

Yes, I am throwing down the gauntlet (not throwing in the towel just yet!) to all new members and even those that are veteran members who have not done so yet, to put an entry in the Summer Show.

So if you are good at Handicrafts; Baking; Growing marvellous Fruit and Vegetables; taking brilliant Photographs or had a go at arranging flowers, then please do put in an entry and make this a bumper Show.

If you have children or grandchildren then get them interested as well - they enjoy seeing their creations on display and listening to the lovely comments made by visitors and even the possibility of winning a Trophy and prize money.

If you think you haven't got a chance just take note of the new members that entered the Spring Show. The experience gained and advice given by the more experienced and the joy of winning. Yes some members do win more than one prize, but, and it is a big but, they will gladly give advice and assistance in order to make your humble exhibit look better. After all they too were once novices.

So on Sunday 18th August at Crookhorn College, I hope to see the hall filled to the brim with entries. Word of advice when considering your entry - read the guidance notes in the schedule, then re-read the notes in the schedule, and then as you send in the entry form, just read through again!

Lynda



Congratulations!



Sincere congratulations are the order of the day!

One of our members, Peter Rogers, represented the Purbrook Horticultural Society at the Horticultural Society Championship Class for 12 varieties of Daffodil, covering four divisions, at Wisley.

He won the Class and the £30 first prize and also the Richardson Championship for 12 varieties.

Very many congratulations are due - this is no mean feat!

Photographs should be on our website as soon as we receive them from Peter.

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 Autumn Gazette 2024, should be with the Editor by 1st July 2024, for distribution at the start of August 2024.