

The Peony Group

of the Hardy Plant Society



Newsletter

Autumn 2015



Paeonia decomposita



Paeonia peregrina



Paeonia tenuifolia

In Tom Mitchell's poly tunnel

Editorial

John Hudson

In this issue we have, as well as reports from the officers and an account of the 2015 Peony Day, two welcome articles from new members. Sue Hough and Sue Lander are both active in the Ranunculaceae group of the HPS. There is quite a strong common membership with our group; several of us attended both group meetings, which were on successive days, this year. The peonies were in the Ranunculaceae once (indeed, still are in one well-known catalogue) : to many of us peonies look more like hellebores than aquilegias do. Sue Hough's article also promoted interest in the *P. obovata* group as the succeeding article shows. We also have the latest of Judy Templar's reports on peonies in the wild. At the other end of the peony spectrum, Itoh hybrids are becoming well known, as many of us saw on the Peony Day and as we shall see at Claire Austin's nursery in 2016. Irene Tibbenham drew my attention to the promotion of a new race of "Patio Peonies" for growing in pots in small gardens; see <https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/plants-blogs/plants/november-2014/patio-peonies>. It remains to be seen if these catch on. They are unlikely to usurp the place of Lactiflora peonies, those most sumptuous of early summer flowers, which are the theme of our next Peony Day. Thanks to Sandra Hartley for her account of this year's peony day. and the accompanying photographs.

This is the last autumn newsletter I shall edit, after 8 years in the job. I'm sure a successor can be found who will bring new ideas and emphases to the task. I would like to thank all the contributors, and especially Judy Templar, not only for her articles but also for much help in producing the newsletter over the years. I have indulged myself by putting my all-time favourite plant, *P. mlokosewitschii*, or 'Molly', on the cover. Her hybrid grand daughter set seed in Judy's garden this year, which she had never done in many years with me: see the seed list and 'The Hardy Plant' for spring 2014.

From the Chair

Vivienne McGhee

Thank you for electing me as Chairman of the Peony Group and I look forward meeting you at our annual meetings. Please do contact me if you are not able to attend those but wish to ask any questions about the work of the Group or if you have any suggestions as to how we might improve what we do. My telephone number is 01386 830789 and e mail address v.m.mcgee@btinternet.com

On your behalf I would like to thank Judy for her Chairmanship of the Group over recent years. We have all learnt from her extensive knowledge of peonies and will miss her.

As you will see from the notes from the AGM, John Hudson has decided, Because of deteriorating eyesight, to give up the splendid job he does in editing our newsletters. It is essential that we find another volunteer very, very soon. We have a volunteer to take over the physical production and another to take over the editing in "a few years time" so please, please someone come forward to take on the role. It does not have to be a long term commitment given the interest we have already received. Please contact John or me if you are not sure and want to know more before volunteering.

The arrangements for next year's meeting are in place. It will be at Claire Austin's Nursery at Sarn in Powys on Sunday 19th June 2016. (Please note the change of date.) The morning talk will be by Gail Harland. I visited Claire and Ric earlier this year and was impressed by the fields of peonies and iris, lovely garden and nursery all set in a peaceful valley. It promises to be an interesting and enjoyable day. There will be a members' donated plant sales table only. No other nursery or commercial producer may sell plants on that day --- Claire and Ric have been very generous in not charging us for the visit. Please make a note of the date. Booking arrangements will be in the Spring Newsletter and on the HPS National Website.

Kath, Irene and I met in August at the home of the HPS National Groups' Co-ordinator Ruth Plant. We discussed the Group in general terms and in particular the make-up of the Committee. At that time Judy had decided that she could no longer continue as a Committee member so we co-opted Mavis Smith to the Committee with a view to her formal election next year. Mavis is an experienced grower of peonies and is interested in helping with the planning for and organisation of our annual events.

Enough of administrative matters and back to peonies. At the moment I am enjoying the autumn foliage of some of the peonies in our garden. In particular I keep returning to the 'lightbulb' attraction of *P. lactiflora* 'Inspecteur Lavergne'.

Vivienne

Impressions of the 2015 Peony Day

Sandra Hartley

On Saturday 26 April the second Peony Study Day took place at South Wraxall in Wiltshire. Several of us had travelled up after the Ranunculaceae Group Annual Day in Surrey the previous day, and spent the night in the vicinity in order to avoid too long a journey early in the morning. As usual, when we arrived some joined the queue for tea or coffee and others headed straight to the Plant Sales. The Village Hall was very convenient for our later visit to Evolution Plants but it had a few idiosyncrasies: an unexpected step from the corridor down into the hall necessitated the posting of a guard at this point to warn visitors; and the only way to get the heating to function was to feed coins into the electricity meter. As this was impractical, the hall remained distinctly chilly till the day finally warmed up.

During the AGM, John Hudson pleaded for someone to take over as Newsletter Editor – a post he had held for 8 years – and it was revealed that Vivienne McGhee had agreed to take over the post of Chairman from Judy Templar. After the AGM, Judy added an extra item to the programme – a brief presentation on her problems with the identification and naming of forms of *Paeonia daurica*. It was proposed that the Peony Group should consider providing sponsorship for a DNA study. Vivienne reminded us that the Society also had money available from the Kenneth Black Fund for such a project.

The first talk was from David Victor. He entertained us with the story of his experiences when transferring from a 5-acre garden in Bedfordshire to half an acre in Somerset. He had hoped that he would need storage for only a few months to house his vast collection of plants, including geraniums as well as peonies, but in the end it took two years to sell the house and the plants had to be cared for over all that time. When they

finally moved in, they lived in half the house at a time, while the builders were working on the other half – a process that lasted five years in all.

Tom Mitchell gave the second talk. Announcing that he knew nothing about peonies – a statement somewhat belied by the stock at his nursery – he spoke instead about the Convention on Biological Diversity, recently extended by the Nagoya Protocol. which sounded as if it would be a good thing until he explained that it would result in the end of private plant collection. We were urged to lobby everyone we could on the subject, including the RHS, and he suggested that the HPS should take up the cause.

The afternoon was devoted to a visit to Evolution Plants, Tom's nursery nearby. After an introductory talk from Tom, relating the history of the acquisition of the land and development of the nursery, we all repaired to the polytunnel where he houses the collection of peonies he acquired from Jim Archibald. Unfortunately, Jim died before arrangements for the handover could be completed and many plant labels were missing, leaving the huge task of trying to identify them all. We spent a long, fascinating time in here, admiring the peonies and other plants, including irises and *Eremurus*. (see photographs on inside front cover). Afterwards we were allowed to wander into normally forbidden polytunnels full of treasures to select purchases, and people ended in the nursery, poring over the exciting range of intersectional hybrids that Tom has built up. Most cars departed well laden. The day ended with welcome tea and a large selection of delicious cakes back at the hall.

Although the event did not exactly constitute a Peony Study Day, it was interesting, informative and enjoyable, and everyone will be looking forward to next year's meeting on 19 June at Claire Austin's nursery.

Subsequent events (editor):

Judy Templar still intends to follow up her proposal about *P. daurica* but has been prevented by family circumstances from doing so at this time.

We were sorry to learn, soon after our meeting, that Evolution Plants is for sale. We are particularly concerned about the future of the Archibald collection.



Peony Day 2016

Focus on Lactiflora Peonies

The annual meeting of the Peony Group will be held on Sunday 19th June at Claire Austin's nursery:

White Hopton Farm, Wern Lane, Sarn, Newtown, Powys SY16 4EN

Registration and coffee/tea will be at 10 am, followed by the AGM.

There will be a plant stall for plants donated for group funds; no commercial sales.

The morning talk will be by Gail Harland, past secretary of the group, and author of the acclaimed HPS booklet 'Peonies'. Her subject is 'Lactiflora Peonies'.

After lunch, Claire will give a short introduction to her garden and nursery, including her fields of peonies and irises. Claire will be available to answer queries. The day will conclude with tea and cakes.

The costs for the day are £8 for peony group members, £9 for HPS members and £15 for visitors. This includes tea/coffee and cakes but not lunch: please bring your own.

Put the date in your diary now. Full booking arrangements will be on the HPS Peony Group website and in the spring newsletter.

**For enquiries contact the secretary, Kath Carey, at:
Thorncar, Windmill Lane, Appleton, Warrington,
WA4 5JN**

E-mail john.carey516@btinternet.com

The late Ellen Willmott of Warley Place in Essex and *Paeonia obovata* subsp. *willmottiae*.

Sue Hough

I am a very new member of the HPS Peony Group and I know very little about peonies, so I am feeling rather daunted writing about something of which I have very little knowledge.

I saw a programme on BBC Gardener's World in the 1990s, when they visited the garden of Ellen Willmott of Warley Place, Warley, Essex, which gave me the inspiration to find out more about her and her garden.

Gardening had been in the family's blood, her mother and father took great pride in the garden at Warley Place. Ellen's godmother, the Countess Tasker had always given Ellen a cheque of a £1000 on her birthday and in the 1800s, this was a considerable sum. On Ellen's twenty-first birthday, she asked her parents if she could use some of the money she had accrued over the years to construct an alpine garden and in 1882 work began.

She went on to create a magnificent garden and at its peak she employed over 104 gardeners. I am fortunate enough to have an ink print of the layout of the garden hanging in my living room. Unfortunately, Ellen was of an impulsive nature and with her parents now gone there was no one to keep check on her. She bought houses in Tresserve, France and Boccanegra, Italy, she lived well and mixed with high society, but the First World War and excessive spending took their toll and her life gradually went downhill, leaving her with one servant who stayed with her to the end and in 1934, at the age of seventy-six she died.

Having watched this programme and read Audrey Le Lievre's book, 'Miss Willmott of Warley Place', I found that I had formed a great affection for this amazing lady, who has not been given the publicity that her friend Gertrude Jekyll has received. So I decided to try and find as many plants she had grown or had been named after her or Warley.

One plant I managed to get was *Paeonia obovata* var *alba willmottiae*. I found out that the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh had got this peony, so I wrote and asked if there was any possibility of some seed. Well, to my surprise in the post came a small clump of the plant, I was so delighted but also terrified that it would die. I planted in the garden and it grew well and flowered, but unfortunately we had to move house, so I dug it up and planted in a large pot. The house we moved to need a lot of work and although my husband said, it would take 18 months, it actually took six years and so the peony remained in the pot until I was able to start on the garden. It was when I removed it from the pot and planted in my new garden that it started to decline, it gradually got weaker and weaker until it finally died. I was so disappointed that I had failed to keep it alive, especially as I had felt so honoured to have been given this plant by such a prestigious garden and I felt that I had let them down.

The description in Audrey's book regarding the *Paeonia willmottiae* says, that it was seed collected by E H Wilson in Hupeh in 1900. The seeds were sown in pans at Warley Place, when the seedlings appeared one was very different from the others. F C Stern in his monograph on the genus placed it as a variety of *P obovata*. The most recent monograph, by Hong De-yuan has it as a subspecies, *P. obovata* subsp. *willmottiae*. The

flowers were pure white with stamens bearing crimson filaments and anthers of golden-yellow above dark green foliage.

On reading the above description my peony had beautiful pure white flowers, but the foliage had a purple-red bloom to it, so I am wondering whether mine was the correct one after all?

See the next article! (editor)

Notes on *Paeonia obovata*, *P. obovata* subsp. *willmottiae* and *P. japonica*

John Hudson and Barbara Adam

We were inspired by Sue Hough's note on Miss Willmott's peony, surely one of the most beautiful of all peonies, to look further into its current status and to examine plants in our own gardens. We also consider plants grown as *P. japonica*. As usual with peony taxonomy, the situation is not straightforward.

The species in the wild

F. C. Stern's monograph (1940) is based on garden plants and herbarium specimens. As Stern was primarily a gardener as well as a botanist he gives helpful details that are not in strictly botanical descriptions. He regards *P. willmottiae* as a variety of *P. obovata*, and *P. japonica*, from Japan, as a separate species.

Page and Sinott wrote a detailed account of *P. japonica* in 2001, based on garden plants and herbarium specimens from Japan and illustrated with an excellent drawing. It is summarised in Martin Page's 2005 book, 'The Gardener's Peony'. They distinguish *P. japonica* from *P. obovata* mainly on the basis of its smaller stature and narrower leaflets.

The current, most detailed account is provided in the monograph by Hong (2010). As Hong is based in China he has extensive knowledge of the wild populations in eastern Asia, and Japan. *P. obovata* is widespread. It has broad leaves, broader towards the tip (obovate, hence its name). It has white or pink flowers with distinctive elongated carpels that are smooth (glabrous) and tipped by styles and prominent dark stigmas. The undersides of the leaves are also glabrous or with only a few hairs. *P. willmottiae* is regarded as a subspecies of *P. obovata*, having a more restricted distribution in western China. It differs from the type by having densely hairy (hispid) undersides to its leaves. It is always white flowered. Hong includes *P. japonica* as a synonym of *P. obovata*, maintaining that it falls within the range of variation seen in that species.

(The matter of chromosome number, not readily apparent to gardeners, has caused some confusion. In Hong's extensive survey, *P. obovata* was found to be nearly always diploid, while subsp. *willmottiae* is tetraploid This explains why it is bigger in all its parts)

In our gardens

P. obovata. Plants grown in British gardens are generally white flowered, referred to and sold as *P. obovata alba*. Stern stated that only the white form was in cultivation; however, pink forms are now available in this country. It is not clear how many of the plants in cultivation are subsp. *willmottiae*, but as it is a larger and more vigorous plant it seems likely that many are. This appears to be the case on our gardens. We both have plants with large obovate leaves that are bronze tinted in their upper surface, and



continue growing after the flowers have faded, an unusual feature noted by Stern. The flowers are pure white and cupped in shape, with glabrous carpels. Crucially, the undersurface of the leaves is densely hairy, so these plants are subsp. *willmottiae* according to Stern's and Hong's criteria.



A plant grown as *P. willmottiae* in Barbara's garden has bronze/brown, matt coloured leaves early in the season that turn a glossy deep green as the season progresses and buds develop. Every season it turns into a statuesque large plant of 100+cm in height and width, gently growing and expanding throughout the growing period. During particularly wet seasons it struggles and many of its promising shoots do not develop.

John has a plant of a pink form of *P. obovata*, bought at an AGS show. It is much smaller (so far) and has a glabrous leaf undersurface. This plant is therefore *P. obovata* subsp. *obovata*.

P. jicaaponica. A plant in John's garden, bought as *P. japonica*, flowered well initially but is sadly declining (he has now divided it in the hope of resurrection). It is much smaller in all its parts, with slender, pointed, not broad-obovate, green leaves, glabrous beneath. The flowers were white, deeply cupped, with slender green glabrous carpels with particularly prominent, almost black, stigmas. Whatever its botanical status, it is distinct from *P. obovata* as usually grown. It may be convenient, if botanically inaccurate, to use *P. japonica* to designate plants of this type in our gardens.

A plant i and regularly flowers a week to ten days earlier than *P. willmottiae*. It is around 50-60 cm in height and width, has obovate leaves and has none of the seasonal colour change in the leaves. Its carpels are elongated as expected, but they are densely hairy (tomentose). It therefore falls outside the accepted definition of either *P. obovata* or *P. japonica* as given by Stern, Page and Hong. However, Stern comments that tomentose carpels do infrequently occur in otherwise glabrous-carpelled species.



Perhaps Barbara has such a plant. Two further plants named *P japonica*, bought by Barbara at different plant sales, all show the same characteristics, including the slender tomentose carpels.

It would be interesting if members who grow any plants in this *P. obova* group could look at the undersides of their leaves and at their carpels, to see if our limited observations apply more widely.

All the photographs in this article were taken by Barbara Adam in her garden.

Some of my favourite things

Sue Lander

Peonies are indeed some of my favourite plants and here in East Anglia, where it is usually very dry in the summer months, my peonies have proved themselves to be outstanding garden worthy plants. I am no expert and a new member of the group to boot but I have found quite a few species peonies, which I grow in hot, dry, well-drained areas of my garden. They have needed no additional watering which is always a bonus.

Paeonia tenuifolia, (I took this to a gardening club talk I was doing on foliage) drew satisfied sounds from the audience, the majority of which had never seen it before and didn't recognise it as a peony with its finely divided leaves. *P. beresowskii*, bought on a Hardy Plant Holiday for just a few pounds some years ago and now has a tall bearded iris infiltrating it (not planned) has a metallic sheen to its surface, and what I bought as *P. daurica* from Binny's Plants emerges with amazing maroon/pink coloured stems and glaucous foliage. All grow in a gravel-topped bed over underlying clay, improved as much as possible with grit to open it up and drained by a nearby *Abies* whose roots navigate near the surface.

Paeonia x smouthii lives near an inherited conifer and flowers well. *P. wittmanniana*, given to me by the Suffolk Plant Heritage Group, is early to rise but it is its slightly faded flowers which I like the best, softening to a creamy white with a slight pink blush stripe which combines beautifully with the new leaves of *Hamamelis* 'Livia' nearby. Later an Itoh hybrid, 'Magical Mystery Tour', bought from Evolution Plants, sadly now closed, has beautiful mottled leaves with flowers of a creamy pink raspberry, with a vermilion centre, and 'Kopper Kettle' with its reddy yellow orange flower, very aptly named have proved to be a delight.

A new acquisition is *P. lactiflora* 'Black Beauty' with black stems and dark foliage. It hasn't flowered as yet but is purported to have almost black flowers. I love 'Coral Charm', early and true to its name. Another of Evolution purchases has been *P. clusii*. Any tips on how to grow this successfully would be very welcome!

I am looking forward immensely to next year's meeting, and as I can resist anything but temptation I am sure to come home with even more beauties.

Return to North Eastern Turkey in the Autumn

Judy Templar

In the Spring Newsletter 2011 I wrote about a trip I made to N.E. Turkey with the Alpine Garden Society and illustrated the peonies I had seen there. In September 2014 the opportunity to revisit N.E. Turkey, following much the same route as before, proved irresistible.

In particular I wished to see the two sites where *Paeonia arietina* grows. At the first site, a shallow dip in the ground not big enough to call a valley and damp with a few low growing light trees were several flourishing plants. These plants had lush soft foliage due, I think to the damp position. The second site, a steep stony scree-like slope could not be more different and the plants were shorter, tighter but still keyed out to *P. arietina* in my view. We were not able to verify the tuberous roots of course. I knew that the plants would, by this time, be somewhat shrivelled but I hoped to be able to make a further comparison. As we approached the first site we could see that the road had been rebuilt and was considerably wider. Using a GPS we located the precise spot

where the peony grew only to find the whole area buried under a mountain of spoil from the road building. Not one peony could be found.

Happily the second site remained intact with many peonies dotted over a large area. However, I was unable to make any comparison between the two.



The *Paeonia arietina* site, before and after

Later, I had the opportunity to explore the wooded slope where *Paeonia daurica* ssp *macrophylla* grows at a higher altitude. The area, covered with peony plants in the Spring now presented a totally different view. Beneath the trees huge overarching brambles rampaged through the slope, presenting an impenetrable barrier. The peonies were undoubtedly there but I could not find one plant. In the afternoon I went with a few friends to explore the village and have tea. Despondently I told them that even the plants I had seen before in the village gardens had been destroyed by rebuilding. At that point one friend suggested looking in the graveyard we could see from the café. What joy! There they were, planted in the deep grave stones. It must make quite a sight when they are in full flower in the spring.



P. daurica ssp. *macrophylla*, as seen in 2008, and plants growing in a cemetery

The last peonies (*Paeonia daurica* ssp *corrifolia*) we saw at the bullring were similarly hidden by competing vegetation but I managed to find a few seedlings so they are safe.

The saga of the grafts continues. To re-cap I did five grafts in September 2010. One died promptly and a second one collapsed when the nurse root took over. And then there were three. These were knocked out of their 10 litre pots two years ago and again last year. Two had grown some roots of their own but the third was still very much dependant on its herbaceous nurse. Of the two with some roots of their own the nurse root was removed and they have grown on well since. The third one was given a reprieve and repotted complete with its root stock in 2013. Last year it was again inspected and it had not made any merest attempt at making a root of its own. I then decided that it was do or die situation and cut out the support root. It was re-potted and covered with a large polythene bag and placed in a light but no direct sun part of the garden. Water has occasionally been thrown at the pot during the summer. It is still alive. Whether it is just taking a long time leaving this world or genuinely thinking of growing away I do not know as I have decided not to take it out of its pot and inspect for any roots. It does not look healthy but it will get another year to prove itself. Some years ago one of our members wrote about taking cuttings from tree peonies. I have decided to follow suit. So under a rigid plastic cloche I have three cuttings taken from my tree peonies, soft wood ones taken at the end of July. Watch this space!!

Seed Distribution**Judy Templar**

There are some additions to the list this year. ‘Jenny’ set a few seeds as has *P. lactiflora* ‘Whitleyi Major’. John Hudson’s attractive 2nd generation hybrid of *P. mlokosewitschii* set seed following a move to my garden. My young plant of *P. emodi* produced one seed! It will come as a ‘freeby’ to the first person to include it in their order. As usual I have very small numbers of some items listed here, in some cases only sufficient for one packet.

There are photographs of some of the parent plants on p. 18, but remember that seed may not come true from open pollinated garden plants. See also the photos of donations in the Autumn Newsletters 2013 and 2014. I am continuing to use Hong’s nomenclature with the ‘old’ names in brackets. The donations have been numbered which will make it easier for you to list your order.

Seed List 2015**HERBACEOUS**

- 1a ex. *P. anomala* Finnish form
- 1b ex. *P. anomala* ssp. *veitchii* (*P. veitchii* var. *alba*)
- 1c ex. *P. anomala* ssp. *veitchii* (*P. veitchii* var. *woodwardii*) pale pink, 75x110cm.
- 1d ex. *P. anomala* ssp. *veitchii* (*P. veitchii* var. *woodwardii*) dwarf, deep pink, red stems with finely cut foliage. 35x76cm
- 1e ex. *P. anomala* ssp. *veitchii* (*P. veitchii* var. *woodwardii*) deep pink
- 2 ex. *P. arietina*
- 3 ex. *P. cambessedesii* (small, dark leaf form)
- 4 ex. *P. corsica* (*P. russoi* var. *reverchonii*)

- 5 ex. *P. daurica* ssp. *daurica* (*P. mascula* ssp. *triternata*) leaves with typical upturned wavy margins.
- 6a ex. *P. daurica* ssp. *mlokosewitschii*, yellow, form in general cultivation.
- 6b ex. *P. daurica* ssp. *mlokosewitschii*, yellow (McLewin, wild pop. Lagodekhi, E. Georgia)
- 6c ex. *P. daurica* ssp. *mlokosewitschii*, cream with pink veining (McLewin, wild pop. Lagodekhi, E. Georgia)
- 7 ex. *P. daurica* ssp. *wittmanniana*
- 8 ex. *P. lactiflora* ‘Antwerpen’
- 9 ex. *P. lactiflora* ‘Lord Kitchener’
- 10 ex. *P. lactiflora* ‘Madam Gaudichau’ the emerging shoots and leaves remain a striking deep red until flowering time when they turn to a glossy green complimenting the dark red, semi double flowers. Good autumn colour.
- 11 ex. *P. lactiflora* ‘Red Rover’
- 12 ex. *P. lactiflora* ‘Whitleyi Major’ photo.
- 13a ex. *P. officinalis* ssp. *huthii*
- 13b ex. *P. officinalis* ‘mollis’
- 14a ex. *P. tenuifolia*
- 14b ex. *P. tenuifolia* (*P. biebersteiniana*) This plant is taller with less finely divided leaflets than the above plant. Both have bright red flowers.

Herbaceous hybrids

- 15 ex. *P.* ‘Archangel’ photo.
- 16a ex. *P.* ‘Chameleon’ pink
- 16b ex. *P.* ‘Chameleon’ white with pink flares.
- 17 ex. *P.* ‘Jenny’
- 18 ex. *P.* ‘Judy’s White Peony’
- 19 ex. *P.* ‘Judy’s Daughter’ white
- 20 ex. 2nd generation *P. mlokosewitschii* hybrid, pink. See ‘Serendipity in Peonies’ The Hardy Plant, Vol. 35 No 1 page 33

SHRUBBY

- 21a ex. *P. delavayi* very deep red
- 21b ex. *P. delavayi* (*P. potaninii* ‘Alba’) dwarf shrub 40x70cm in my garden, a dainty little charmer. White flowers 5-7cm. Hard to believe this is part of the same species as the above.
- 22 ex. *P. ostii* pale pink form.

Gansu group

- 23 ex. *P.* ‘Joseph Rock’ (Arnold Arboretum form)
- 24 ex. *P.* white (*rockii* lookalike McLewin code 1.1.4)
- 25 ex. *P.* lilac
- 26 ex. *P.* pink/purple single
- 27 ex. *P.* pink/purple double a bit blowsy for me, quite striking

Suffruticosa Group

- 28 ex. *P.* ‘Yachiyo-tsubaki’ (syn. ‘Eternal Camellias’)

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Addendum (seed from Barbara Adam)

HERBACEOUS

ex. *P. obovata* (*japonica*) see article & pictures by John Hudson and Barbara Adam, this 1515 issue

Other photos inside back cover:

ex. *P. lactiflora* 'Bowl of Beauty' (Hoogendoorn) photo

ex. *P. lactiflora* 'Carrara' (Bigger) photo

ex. *P. lactiflora* 'Hogarth' (Goos & Koenemann) photo

ex. *P. lactiflora* 'Holbein' (Goos & Koenemann) photo

ex. *P. lactiflora* 'Immaculee' (VanDer Valk / VanDer Zwet) photo

ex. *P. lactiflora* 'Red Velvet' (Auten)

ex. *P. lactiflora* 'Stellar Charm' (Hollingsworth)

Herbaceous hybrids

ex. *P. 'Geratal'* (*lactiflora x peregrine*) photo

ex. *P. mlokosewitschii* hybrid from Barbara Adam. Photo

SHRUBBY

Hybrids

ex. *P. 'Redon'* (*Daphnis lutea* hybrid. photo

The seeds cost 50p per packet. UK members should make cheques out to "The HPS Peony Group"; overseas members should add the amount to their renewal payment at the start of next year. I may not be able to supply all your requests so perhaps you should send a 'limit cheque', omitting the amount but writing at the bottom of the cheque 'not to exceed £x', 'x' being the maximum amount your request would cost. I can then complete the cheque for the cost of the seeds supplied.

Please write with a list of your requests, enclosing a self-addressed sticky label and a large letter stamp to:

Judy Templar, 117 Wood Road, King's Cliffe, Peterborough, PE8 6XR

We seem to have made a practice of having overcast days for our AGM this last few years. But overcast and cool was no deterrent to the group of 50 people gathered in the village hall of South Wraxall Wiltshire. The hall was buzzing quickly with plant sales taking place and a demand for warming cups of tea and coffee.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Gail Harland

Minutes of the 2014 AGM

These were taken as read as copies had been circulated previously and were available beforehand on the day. The minutes were accepted as accurate (proposed by Vivienne McGhee and seconded by Maurice Claridge).

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not covered by the agenda

Chairman's Report

Judy welcomed everyone and especially the visitors and new members. She has already put in place her plans for the AGM and Study Day in 2016. She stood in for the secretary at the annual secretaries meeting in Birmingham and again found it informative as regards the forward vision for the HPS. For her on a personal level it had been a busy year and she gave notice of her intention to stand down from the chairmanship of the group and the committee.

Secretary's Report

The scheme instigated last year for new membership subscriptions is working well. The secretary receives completed membership forms and subscriptions and pays them into a nearby Lloyds Bank. Our treasurer is notified by e-mail of the details of the each new member.

A Peony Group in Denmark contacted me about a proposed visit to the UK and wanted details of where to see species peonies. The week following the AGM they visited David Victor's garden in Somerset as part of their trip.

A new member who is setting up a nursery contacted me to see if she could bring along some plants. There were some lovely plants there on the day

Treasurer's Report

Membership is about 100 including overseas members. The accounts are done as actuals rather than as accruals. This works well as our membership is more or less static. The receipts for 2014 were substantially up on 2013 in large measure due to the success of the first Peony Study Day. The cost of printing and postage is our largest expense each year at approximately £475.00.

The closing bank balance for 2014 was £1916.98.

Our treasurer made two suggestions:

1 The Group should have a reserve of £750.00. This was proposed by Vivienne McGhee and seconded by Carol Woodhouse and accepted unanimously.

2 The Group should have a family membership for two people living at the same address.

The subscriptions for 2016 would therefore be

| single membership £5.00,

| family membership £6.00

| and overseas £6.50.

The above was proposed by Judy Templar and seconded by Sandra Hartley and accepted unanimously.

The signatories for the account were confirmed, two of Irene Tibbenham, John Hudson and Kath Carey.

Editor's Report

John had initially proposed that he would step down in 2015 but has agreed to continue for one more year but we would definitely need a replacement for June 2016. Keeping the newsletter to one coloured printed issue per year with an electronic copy works well and we will continue with this.

Election of the committee

The secretary, treasurer and editor agreed to stand for the following year. They were proposed by Peter Regan and seconded by Sue Dockerill and accepted unanimously.

Vivienne McGhee was proposed for chairman by Judy Templar and seconded by John Hudson. This was accepted unanimously.

Any other business

Vivienne McGhee mentioned for general interest that a new HPS booklet has been published. It is on geraniums and completely updates the previous publication.

Date and Venue for AGM and Study Day 2016

The AGM and Study day next year will be held at Clare Austen's Nursery in Newtown, Powys on Sunday, June 19th 2016 (please note this a change from the AGM when we thought we would be meeting on June 26th). The title of the study day is 'Focus on Lactiflora Peonies', with Gail Harland giving the key note talk (author of the HPS booklet on Peonies) and Claire Austen chatting about her new nursery and in particular her re-established peony field. We will have the opportunity to explore her nursery and garden.

After the AGM, we proceeded to talks given by Judy Templar, David Victor and Tom Mitchell. See page 4.

Treasurer's Report

Irene Tibbenham

At the 2016 AGM, it was agreed to hold annual subscriptions at £5 for UK members and £6.50 for overseas members. Additionally, we agreed to offer a 'family' membership for persons at one address (please note one newsletter will be sent, but discounts apply to each family member). This is £6.00.

If at all possible, please pay your subscriptions by 31st January 2016

Payment may be made in three ways:

1. Cheque – please send a cheque for £5 made payable to the Peony Group and send to the Treasurer with your membership renewal sheet.
2. Standing order – please do check that your standing order is for £5 (or applicable sub). If it is not, you will need to set-up a new SO but don't forget to cancel the existing one.
3. Online transfer - those with internet banking. Following are details to do this.
 - Make payment to HPS Peony Group
 - Account number: 00097592
 - Sort code: 30-92-06
 - Use your name as a reference in the payment
 - e-mail me at marktibbenham@btinternet.com to confirm payment has been made

If you are unsure, do feel free to contact me – details at the end of the newsletter.

Next year's Peony Day is already in the planning by – please note bookings/payment will be taken by our Secretary. See details elsewhere in the newsletter.

Following are the audited accounts agreed at the 2016 AGM for the financial year 1st January 2014 – 31st December 2016

Membership Secretary's Report

Irene Tibbenham

Welcome to our new members this year, Rosemary Dabbs, Sue Hough, Sue Lander, Annabel Church, Heather Hibberd, Margaret Montrose, Cheryl Sapcote, Charmian Odle, Susannah Applegate, Mrs J Williams.

Reminder to all members – if you would like to receive an updated copy of the HPS membership group, please email me. We encourage peony group members to interact outside of the AGM. (Those who have opted out are not on this list.)

Membership renewal sheet – if your details, eg address, e-mail etc have changed, please let me know, by e-mail (marktibbenham@btinternet.com), telephone (01379 678925) or by amending the renewal sheet and sending it to me in the post.

Officers of the Peony Group 2015 - 16

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Membership of the Peony Group is open to all members of the Hardy Plant Society by contacting the secretary at the above address.

Copy dates are 28 February for the spring newsletter and 30 September for the autumn newsletter.

Opinions expressed by authors are their personal views and are not necessarily endorsed by the HPS Peony Group. The editors reserve the right to edit contributions as necessary. Copyright of all contributions remains with their authors.P.



Archangel



Whitley major



Mme Gaudichau



Mloko. hybrid and close up



P. daurica daurica



Peonies yielding Barbara Adam's seed:

Top, Holbein and Immaculee

Middle, Geratal and Redon

Bottom, Mloko. hybrid, Carrara, and Hogarth



Tulips in my reony bed (John Hudson)