

NEWS

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letter



HPS
HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

Gardening with hardy perennials

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- **Front cover photo:** *Helonium 'Mardi Gras'* by Marian Goody, a Shropshire HPS member. Readers are invited to submit their photographs for consideration as future front covers of the newsletter. Please send hi-res jpg files with plant names to **newsletter@hardy-plant.org.uk**



It's summer, the solstice is past and I'm loving my garden – all of a sudden, it feels like normal again. As evidence, may I cite this year's AGM – arrangements are now in place for our first face-to-face AGM in three years – this year in Somerset in September?

Our special interest groups are having real AGMs again and real meetings are now the norm across the country. Newsletters from local groups are again listing real speakers and real events – even into next year.

It's all such a glorious change. I was lucky enough to join the Shade and Woodland Group's AGM in the Lincolnshire Wolds and what a wonderful day it turned out to be. I'm already looking forward to next year.

We're trying to reflect a bit of that in this issue. Behind all this activity is our brigade of invisible volunteers who run, fetch, carry and organise everything. I've tried to identify and report on a few individuals who embody this aspect of membership.

For example, there's Sue Gray, not the partygate investigator but the former West Yorkshire group chair for 11 years who's won the RHS Harlow Carr Medal for her contribution to horticulture in the North of England. And, because it's that time of year, we've details of members' achievements at this year's flower shows – including Chelsea. It needs to be said more often. Thank you all, very much.

Mick Dunstan, Newsletter editor

NEWS

inside

Meet our new queries quartet!

Our Horticultural Advisory Service has become our Horticultural Advisory Team. Meet the new faces on hand to answer your gardening questions... **page 32**



The AGM line-up

Come and join us at the society's AGM – being held this year in Taunton on Saturday, September 10. A good day lies in prospect. **page 9**



Shows business...

How we did at Malvern and West Yorkshire – and how one member lent a hand with a Chelsea gold exhibit **Page 15**



Plus...

- How we're doing financially... **page 6**
- Our new Publicity Coordinator **page 13**
- Win £125 worth of spring bulbs **page 20**
- Group's 35th anniversary... **page 31**

WANTED...

We're looking for a friendly taxonomist or other suitably qualified plant lover to take on the job of proof reading the newsletter page. The aim is ensure all plants mentioned in text are accurate – after a complaint from a reader that the last issue contained an error despite our best efforts to ensure all were correct. The role would mean reading the three newsletters produced each year – but just for plant names, not every article. We suspect it would take only an hour, maybe two at the most, each issue. If the role interests you, please contact editor Mick Dunstan at the address on **page 2**

NEWS

update

Society chair **Pamela Clark** plays the name game...



We are often intrigued by and curious about plants named after people. You may have read, earlier this year, about the tree, *Uvariopsis dicaprio*, named after the actor Leonardo DiCaprio due to his love of the environment. A tropical tree from the renowned, biodiverse, Cameroon forest, *Uvariopsis dicaprio* was discovered by researchers from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and is Kew's first new named plant species of 2022.

Scientists are reported to have been finding around 2,000 new plant species a year over the last 10 years, but with the effects of climate change and commercial exploitation of natural resources fewer discoveries may be

possible in future. Many of the new plants we see in the UK are the results of intensive plant breeding programmes rather than discoveries made in the wild. Those of you who attended the Chelsea Flower Show this year or watched the BBC TV

coverage will have seen the entries for, and the winner of Plant of the Year. A succulent, *x Semporium* 'Destiny', created by Surreal Succulents based in Cornwall was the winning entry. There were 19 plants on the shortlist: second was *Armeria pseudomarmeria* 'Dreamland' from

Stonebarn Landscapes, and third was *Salvia* 'Pink Amistad' from Middleton Nurseries Ltd. No doubt these three, and the other contenders will be available commercially in the very near future.

But I begin talking about plants and people. Some personal names are thoroughly embedded in the plant name, such as *Galanthus elwesii*, named after the Victorian plant hunter Henry Elwes. More recent galanthophiles who have had a snowdrop named after them have been brought

together for the 'Immortals' lunches, originally inspired by the Academie Francaise where 40 'Immortals' meet to keep the French language pure. Amongst our HPS founders, Alan Bloom was renowned for naming plants after members of his family or his staff, such as two

Kniphofia – 'Jenny Bloom' and 'Percy's Pride'. Some were also named after him – *Clematis tubulosa* 'Alan Bloom' (synonym *Clematis heracleifolia* 'Alan Bloom') and *Geranium sanguineum* 'Alan Bloom'. Other familiar plant names will refer to members of your Local or Specialist Group: locally, one of the

“Scientists are reported to have been finding around 2,000 new plant species a year over the last 10 years”

long-term members is celebrated in *Chrysanthemum* 'Mavis Smith': you will have your own plant celebrities.

I have been thinking about names for another reason.

Each year we see departures and arrivals of Trustees and Postholders. We are very sorry to lose Emma Reece, the Horticultural Advisory Service Postholder, who has had to step down due to work commitments. Emma wrote about her role in a recent Newsletter and her excellent article encouraged four (yes FOUR!) members to apply to become her replacement.

So now we have a new Horticultural Advisory Team and you can read about them further on in this Newsletter. One of the new 'HAT' team, Saul Walker – well-known to many of you in the southwest and nationwide through his podcasts and social media - also volunteered to become a Trustee.

At the upcoming AGM we say goodbye to one of our Hon Secretaries, Helen Curtis. Helen has womanfully overseen the HPS Office and been part of the office systems upgrade team, all the while managing the Trustees' and Postholders' meetings. Helen's current role involves the oversight of the Office, with the management of the Trustees' and Postholders' meetings being undertaken by the Hon Secretary (Trustees), Linda Hall, who was co-opted to the Board in November last year. Information on Helen's role and other upcoming vacancies can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the 'in-person' AGM/ Annual Lecture Day in Somerset in September. Until then, I wish you a wonderful gardening summer. Vivat crescat floreat!

JOIN THE TEAM

Members are being invited to work on an HPS strategy on biodiversity.

A few months ago the Monmouthshire Group of The Hardy Plant Society organised a Zoom talk by Professor Nicola Spence, the UK's Chief Plant Health Officer at Defra and Head of the National Plant Protection Organisation for the UK.

After that, our Trustees agreed to invite society members to work as a project team to devise a biodiversity strategy appropriate to the Hardy Plant Society and its members. The intention would be to help members with the problem of invasive species and other biosecurity concerns.

In the course of this work we shall have the support of both Defra and the RHS, both in an advisory capacity. An initial task would be to evaluate whether the existing policy advice given by both organisations might be repurposed for the use of HPS members, or whether a more bespoke policy would need to be formulated. Our timing is just right for this project as Defra will publish a new plant biosecurity strategy in July.

If you wish to read more on this topic other sources of information and guidance can be found at:

- ▶ **RHS** <https://www.rhs.org.uk/about-the-rhs/policies/plant-health-principles>
- ▶ **Arboricultural Association** <https://www.trees.org.uk/Help-Advice/Biosecurity-Guidance>
- ▶ **Landscapes Institute** <https://www.landscapelinstitute.org/technical/plant-biosecurity-group/>
- ▶ **Plant Healthy** <https://planthealthy.org.uk/>
- ▶ **Defra** <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/plant-biosecurity-strategy-for-great-britain>

If you would like to take part in this project please contact chairman Pamela Clark at chairman@hardy-plant.org.uk in the first instance.

SPEAKERS' LIST

The society's speakers' list is being updated in the aftermath of Covid.

Four group secretaries – Tricia Fraser, Kate Brown, Diana Garner and Pat Hunter – are sharing the task, taking a section each. The old list has been removed from the website – and visitors are asked to email speakers@hardy-plant.com.

Honorary Treasurer **Stuart Senior** guides us through this year's figures...

NEWS

finance

HPS FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2020	REVENUE ACCOUNT	2021
£		£
SURPLUS		
83,436	Subscriptions	74,734
25,110	Net Gain on investments	30,062
10,985	Gift Aid	9,592
6,764	Investment income	4,940
968	Donations	3,880
598	Advertising	3,060
4,272	Booklet sales	2,561
470	Cornucopia	2,269
52	Enamel badges	27
132,655		131,125
DEFICIT		
18,333	Journal	20,524
19,969	Administration services	19,650
12,906	Newsletter	12,426
7,320	Office rent, heat & light	7,390
8,960	Bursaries	4,750
3,495	Insurance	3,875
4,827	Printing, postage & telephone	3,626
665	AGM/ALD	3,351
3,662	Software & IT support	2,710
544	Booklet costs	2,669
3,004	Legal & professional	2,609
1,912	Seed distribution	1,264
2,564	New Systems Project	1,236



- ▶ Last year was very much like 2020 from a financial point of view with the pandemic again limiting our normal discretionary expenditure: the shows and bursaries budgets were again significantly underspent. But the extensive use of Zoom meant that travel costs associated with our normal round of Trustee, Postholder and Group Secretaries meetings continued to be reduced. The Conservation Group managed one face-to-face meeting in the year.
- ▶ The fall in subscription income by five per cent in 2020 was followed in 2021 by a further decline of 10 per cent: this continues to be a matter of concern. As the 2020 report suggested, received wisdom was that people spent more time in their gardens during lockdown and enjoyed the physical and mental health benefits of so doing and therefore, an increase, rather than a decline, in membership might have been expected. The lack of events, both nationally and locally, may have been a contributing factor. Work will be done in 2022 to assess the impact of the pandemic on membership.

2020**£ DEFICIT (continued)**

50	Conservation
912	Website
781	Bank charges
775	Independent examination
0	Process modelling
306	Photo competition prizes
787	Sundry expenses
116	Depreciation of equipment
138	Meetings
1,464	Trustee meetings
2,675	Historic seed expenses adjustment
2,105	Publicity
108	Banners
72	Shows & Events
50	Group support

98,500**34,155 NET SURPLUS****2020 BALANCE SHEET****£**

As at 31 March
517,183 Balance at beginning of year
34,155 Plus surplus for year
551,338 Balance at the end of year

Represented by:

274,029	Bank balances
284,773	Investments at cost
5,329	Booklet stock
348	Fixed assets
6,948	Debtors & prepayments
-20,089	Creditors

551,338**2021****£**

1,233
948
867
800
452
293
251
87
66
40
0
0
0
0
0
0

91,117**40,008****2021****£**

551,338
40,008
591,346

290,980

314,834

6,621

261

7,227

-28,577

591,346

Like last year, we benefitted from a buoyant stock market. Our overall surplus was £40,008 of which £30,062 was due to the gain in the value of our investments. The technology stock sell-off in January 2022, coupled with the war in Ukraine, has meant that equity markets have since tumbled. I anticipate showing a loss on our investments in 2022.

So, pandemic notwithstanding, the Society remains in sound financial shape and we look forward to spending our money on our charitable objects as soon as the 'new normal' allows in 2022.

PS The full 2021 Report & Accounts may be downloaded from the website (see the For Members/Official tab).

Could you help?

We are on the lookout for an Honorary Secretary to provide a link between the Trustees and the HPS office. The Society has two Honorary Secretary posts and this vacancy focuses on supporting the office and the membership. We would particularly welcome someone with either a Human Resources or an Information Technology background but this is not essential.

Although the Office is in Worcestershire, the location is irrelevant as all meetings are held online and regular contact is maintained by phone or email. There is an opportunity to improve the way we communicate with members and support our Administrator to further enhance our office systems.

As an Officer to the Society you will, along with Trustees, have an opportunity to influence the future direction of the Society. This is a voluntary role with all expenses reimbursed.

If you would like further information, please contact Helen Curtis hchonsec.hps@gmail.com or call 07768567685.

Volunteering opportunities

Hon Secretary (Office and Administration)

Helen Curtis has decided to step down as the Hon Secretary (Office and Administration). She took on what was a single Hon Secretary role at the start of the pandemic and has more than successfully steered Trustees and Postholders through a series of Zoom meetings and e-votes to ensure that the work of the Society continued uninterrupted. After a job split at the end of last year, Helen has been involved with overseeing the work of the Office and its associated administration functions, working in close contact with Clare Powell, the Office Manager.

This Officer post can be carried out anywhere in the country with regular contact with the office via Zoom, telephone and email. Occasional office visits would be an advantage.

Please contact Helen to discuss what her role involves if you are interested in this Officer position. Helen Curtis at hchonsec.hps@gmail.com

Hon Treasurer

The current Hon Treasurer, Stuart Senior, is standing down at the AGM in September next year (2023). As the Society cannot function without this position being filled, you are encouraged to consider taking this on. Some financial experience is helpful but the role does not demand a qualified accountant. If you are interested, discuss the role informally with Stuart in the first instance at treasurer@hardy-plant.org.uk.

Trustees

There are a number of vacancies for Trustees as three of the existing Trustees finish their three-year term of office at the AGM. The Board of Trustees is the decision-making body of the Society, setting the agenda and the strategy for its future development. It is responsible for ensuring that the Society's strategy and activities are consistent with its charitable aims. The Chairman is particularly interested in hearing from members with skills in risk management, marketing, policy making and implementation, or the use of technology in user engagement within member organisations and with the wider public. Skills and experience in horticulture, plant science or botany,

garden curation and events are also welcome. Meetings are held three to four times a year via Zoom with an annual in-person meeting either in London or at the location of the AGM/Annual Lecture Day.

The chairman welcomes expressions of interest and informal discussions at chairman@hardy-plant.org.uk

Postholders

There are a number of opportunities for volunteers to take on one of the following:

- ▶ **Events & Shows:** this has been done previously as a job-share and could continue as such. This is an advisory role, working with Local and Specialist Groups on their events' and shows' timetables and on the budgeting, planning and implementation of major activities.
- ▶ **Website Manager:** Colin Doughty is standing down after a number of years managing the technical side of the Society's website.
- ▶ **Website Content Manager:** John Dyson plans to stand down in 2023.

If you would like to have an informal conversation about any of the above Trustees or Postholder opportunities please contact the current Postholder. Their details can be found towards the back of the Newsletter under Contact Information.

If you would like to apply for any of the above Trustee or Postholder roles, please contact the Chairman at chairman@hardy-plant.org.uk.

Memorial day

Newtown Garden Club has arranged a memorial day for Sydney Thomas, who was also a member of Shropshire Hardy Plant Society, a plantswoman of great repute who sadly died last year. Speakers are Bob Brown with Sixty Years On - Changing tastes in gardening since the 1950s and Christine Skelmersdale on The Year-Round Bulb Garden. The date is Saturday, September 24 in the luxury of Newtown's Hafren Theatre, SY16 4HU at 2pm until 6pm. Tickets are £10 in advance and include refreshments from newtown-garden-club.eventbrite.uk or Helen Anthony 07986 061051, email newtown.garden.club@gmail.com

AGM

update

- ▶ **How does a weekend in Somerset sound? The society's big annual event – its AGM and Annual Lecture Day – is being held in Taunton on September 10, the first face to face annual meeting since March 2019.**
- ▶ **Somerset Group is organising the associated ALD – and the AGM is part of the day. Here are full details and a booking form – with an invitation to join us for a thoroughly enjoyable day.**

INVITATION and NOTICE OF THE 65th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 65th Annual General Meeting of the Hardy Plant Society will be held at 1.30pm on Saturday 10th September 2022 at Tacci-Morris Art Centre, School Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 8PD.

The AGM will form part of the Society's Annual Lecture Day (ALD), but attendance at the ALD is not a condition of attendance at the AGM. If you wish to attend the AGM only there will be no charge. Members wishing to tender apologies for absence may do so via the Administrator or the Honorary Secretary.

Open Forum

Immediately after the AGM, there will be an opportunity for members to put forward suggestions or raise any issues for further consideration by the Trustees.

Nominations

Nominations are invited for Trustees and for all the Officers of the Society. The normal term of office for Trustees is four years; the Officers of the Society (the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretaries) are elected annually and become ex officio Trustees.

Nominations may be made by email, or alternatively by traditional nomination forms which can be obtained from the Administrator. The proposer must ensure that their nomination includes the names of the nominee, the proposer, and the seconder; the proposal must also include a statement which confirms the willingness of the nominee to stand. A brief statement of relevant experience of the nominee should also be included. This may include such things as committee/organisation and

business experience as well as garden and horticultural experience. Nominations must be received by the Hon. Secretary, Helen Curtis, no later than 29th July 2022. Email: hpshonsec@gmail.com

The Agenda for the AGM, including nominations will be published on the HPS website on 19th August 2022. In the event of any position being contested, ballot papers will be mailed out to all members; the ballot will be entirely by post with all votes to reach the Administrator by close of business on 2nd September 2022.

Helen Curtis, Honorary Secretary

Agenda – in outline

Please note that the full and final agenda, including names of nominees, will be published on the website from August 18, 2022 or by request from the Administrator

- ▶ To receive apologies for absence
- ▶ To approve the minutes of the 64th Annual General Meeting (as printed in the November 2021 edition of the Newsletter as a correct record.
- ▶ To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the 2021 AGM.
- ▶ To receive and adopt the Chairman's Annual Report.
- ▶ To receive and adopt the Treasurer's Financial Report.
- ▶ To elect or re-elect nominated Officers and Trustees

HPS ANNUAL LECTURE DAY AND AGM

September 10, 2022 – hosted by HPS Somerset Group

► **VENUE:** Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre, School Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 8PD.

The centre is a multi-purpose space that provides arts activities for the whole community. Completed in 2000 through a £1 million donation from the Tacchi-Morris Trust, together with a £2.1 million grant from National Lottery Funds, the centre holds state-of-the-art facilities and aims to inspire all the community to get involved in the arts, be it coming to watch a show – or taking part yourself!

► TICKET PRICES

- Ticket and buffet lunch £25
- Ticket only £20
Welcome refreshments, tea after lunch and mid-afternoon are included.
- Attendance for AGM only. 1:30 – 2:40 pm free of charge but a ticket is needed to reserve a place.

► PROGRAMME

- 9.15am** Doors open, registration, tea and coffee
- 10.45am** Welcome and introductions
- 11am** Speaker: KEITH WILEY
'Gardening on the Edge'
- 12 noon** Question and answer session – time approx.
- 12.30pm** Lunch, plant sales, tea and coffee
- 1.30pm** Annual General Meeting
- 2.40pm** Tea/coffee break
- 3.10pm** Speaker: ROSY HARDY
'Autumn Flowering Perennials'
- 4.10pm** Question and answer session
- 4:30pm** Closing remarks by Group and National Chairmen – and last chance for plant sales

► BOOKING

Booking closes August 26, 2022.

► SPEAKERS

Keith Wiley from Wildside
'Gardening on the Edge'
Rosy Hardy from Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants
'Autumn Flowering Perennials'

► STANDS

Members' Plant stall
HPS Booklets and Sundries
HPS Conservation Group

HPS Shade and Woodland Group
HPS Hardy Geranium Group
HPS Galanthus Group
HPS Peony Group
HPS Variegated Plant Group

► GARDENS OF INTEREST NEARBY

Hestercombe www.hestercombe.com/
The formal garden is a fine example of the collaboration between Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens.

Cannington Walled Garden near Bridgwater.
The Newt in Somerset, Bruton, Somerset BA7 7NG
Hauser & Wirth Bruton, BA10 ONL
National Trust gardens

NGS Open gardens – Sunday 11 September
Babbs Farm, Highbridge, TA9 4RF
Coleford House, Coleford, Radstock BA3 5LU
Dunkery View, Allerford, Minehead TA24 8HR
The Hayes, Newton St. Loe, Bath BA2 9BU
Yew Farm, Martock, TA12 6NF

► PLACES TO STAY

Various budget hotels in Taunton –
www.visitsomerset.co.uk/places-to-stay for local accommodation

► NURSERIES IN ATTENDANCE

Desert to Jungle www.deserttojungle.com/
Unique specialist plant nursery with "plants from the normal to outrageous"
Elworthy Cottage Plants Elworthy, TA4 3PX
Pre-orders available by email only:
mike@elworthy-cottage.co.uk, Jenny and Mike Spiller
Long Acre Plants, Charlton Musgrove, Somerset, BA9 8EX <https://www.plantsforshade.co.uk/>
E: info@plantsforshade.co.uk. Specialises in unusual woodland plants and plants for shade, by mail order.
Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants from 12:30pm
(Pre-order available – email or telephone – please give 7 days notice.
E: info@hardysplants.co.uk
T: 01256 896533 (lines staffed Mon-Fri 9am – 1.30pm)

► DIRECTIONS TO VENUE

Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre
School Road
Monkton Heathfield
Taunton, Somerset TA2 8PD

Travelling by car

Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre is situated just 10 minutes drive from Taunton town centre and five minutes from Junction 25 of the M5. If using a sat nav, please use postcode: TA2 8PD.

Parking

There is ample free parking available on-site in the Centre car park. Outside of school times, visitors can also park for free in the Heathfield Community School car park.

Public Transport

The nearest train station is Taunton 5 minutes drive from the arts centre.

Webber bus route 15 and First Group bus routes 21.

CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Clare Powell HPS Administrator: 01386 710317

Caroline Reeves, HPS Somerset Group:

carolineofcc@gmail.com

BOOKING FORM

Annual lecture day and AGM – September 10, 2022

Name (of person making the booking and address for tickets): _____ HPS no: _____

Address _____

Post code _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

	Price	Number of tickets	TOTAL
Lecture day with AGM and lunch	£25		£
Lecture day with AGM and bring your own lunch	£20		£
AGM only	No charge		
	Total tickets/cost		£

Please circle as required Vegetarian / vegan / gluten free / nut free

Names in capitals as they should appear on the badges

HPS Group

Cheques payable to 'The Hardy Plant Society'.

Please send your completed booking form with a cheque and stamped addressed A5 envelope to:
HPS Administrator, 3 Basepoint Business Centre, Crab Apple Way, Evesham, WR11 1GP.

PLEASE RETURN BY AUGUST 26, 2022

To book tickets online via Ticket Source please use this link: tinyurl.com/y76ddb79

The information sheets will be emailed to members booking online.

Any queries, tel: 01386 710317 or email: admin@hardy-plant.org.uk



AGM highlights... above, speaker Rosy Hardy, right, speaker Keith Wiley – and the front entrance of the Tacci-Morris Centre in Taunton, where the event is being held

Active and friendly...

Somerset's publicity officer Kay Savage tells us a bit about the group that's hosting this year's event.

"We are an active, friendly group with about 200 members. We hold Saturday morning lectures in West Monkton Village Hall, near Taunton, from September through to March on varied gardening subjects – including vineyards, complete with very acceptable tastings.

"During the summer, we have self-drive and coach trips to gardens and nurseries near and far. We hold a plant sale where members sell plants (plus a few nurseries), and help organise and run a couple of plant fairs with about 15 local nurseries attending.

"This year, we held a Spring Plant Fair at Yeo Valley Organic gardens and the weather was glorious, which helped everyone relax and enjoy the day. We also held a

Summer Plant Fair at the lovely cottage style garden, Lower Severalls. We are holding a plant swap with high tea later in the year. We publish two newsletters a year in January and June. We are looking forward to the AGM in September and meeting new gardening friends from around the country."

- ▶ Sissinghurst head gardener Troy Scott Smith is lined up by the group to deliver a special Zoom summer lecture on Wednesday, July 6. The topic is *The Delos Garden* – one of the garden's latest project and aims to recreate a Greek-style garden that Vita Sackville West and Harold Nicholson tried to establish at Sissinghurst. It's free to members and £5 to non-members – contact the group through their website somersettps.com to join the event.
- ▶ Meetings are free to members - apart from the annual plant sale when it's £1. Membership subs are £5 for single and £8 for joint membership.

It's important we celebrate who we are as a society

NEWS *profile*

Ann Franks, our new national Publicity Coordinator, introduces herself and the role she has taken on . . .

Isn't it funny how things happen? One minute I'm an active member of my local HPS group in Derbyshire with responsibility for publicity and the next I've volunteered to take on the national role.

I kept hoping that someone with lots of experience would take the job but they didn't - so I offered my help. Everyone has been very supportive and welcoming since I started in February, and it has been a great few months. If you are thinking of volunteering to help at either local or national level, don't hesitate to get involved.

So, I had better introduce myself. I am a lifelong amateur gardener, which means I focus on my plant passions and have fun experimenting in the garden but don't need to know everything. My background was in building conservation and a senior academic, which meant escaping into a green space at the end of a long day was very important. I have always loved hardy

perennials and am besotted by any white varieties because as the light fades, they glow creating an ethereal atmosphere. In fact, I run a small WhatsApp group for like-minded HPS members called 'The White Garden' (please contact me if you would like to join)

My husband and I are renovating a house in North Yorkshire and in the process of creating another garden – or rather refining and recreating the old ones. When Martyn's back is turned, I can be seen digging up the lawn for my growing plant collection. I post updates on the HPS Derbyshire Facebook page so my successes and failures are there for all to view. One day I want to start a garden blog.

My first task in my new role has been to develop a small number of generic HPS slides, accompanying notes and documents to support anyone asked to give a talk about the HPS. These are designed so that local or special interest groups can also add their own slides. The work's been done with a group of members with responsibilities for publicity and other postholders. It will shortly be available to any group that requires it.

In coming months, I hope to develop the role so that it supports and shares good practice in marketing and publicity across the whole society. It's important we celebrate who we are as a society which will mean we need to map and promote the expertise and knowledge of our members. Although Facebook and Twitter feeds are in place, I think that developing our social media profile further is important. This will help raise our profile so that we are, visibly, a go-to garden society.

I would like to work with as many people as possible so if you are involved with marketing or publicity for a local or special interest group, or have some experience, please let me know and we will invite you to the zoom Publicity Forum, which will meet twice a year. You can e mail me at publicity@hardy-plant.org.uk



A RIVER OF BULBS

Western Counties member Adrian James captured some beautiful plant images during a visit to John Massey's garden at Ashwood Nurseries – and shared them with colleagues in the group's newsletter.

His visit happened in February – primed by a talk the month before at the group's monthly meeting from Cotswold Garden Flowers' Bob Brown. While at Ashwood, Adrian bumped into John and they had "quite a chat", he says.

"It's fair to say there was nothing about the visit to John's garden that we didn't find exciting, but there were a couple of things that we found especially so. One was a striking combination of *Cornus alba* 'Kesselringii' with *Carex oshimensis* EVEREST 'Fiwhite' tight underneath. The other was a quite extraordinary river of cyclamen he has added to the Ruin Garden and Terrace, below – what a simple but effective way of growing any number of bulbs by things.

"So, a shared thought at an HPS Western Counties meeting and a garden visit on a February afternoon are all it took to transform mulling into a plan and to energise us to pick up the secateurs and get cracking!"



NEWS

brief

GARDEN TOURS

Derbyshire HPS is back to face-to-face meetings and held its annual plant sale in May. The annual garden tour in June was four days in Kent, including a visit to Sissinghurst, and a day trip is planned for July to Batsford Arboretum and Rockcliffe Gardens. HPS trustee Karen Gimson is the guest speaker on September 17 when she talks about her life as a garden designer.

ROSEMOOR STAND

Rosemoor Flower Show – at the RHS gardens from August 19-21 - will host a stand from the Devon HPS group, along with the Devon and Exeter branch of the Alpine Garden Society.

The aim is to publicise the society and attract new members - and volunteers to man the stand have been asked to sign up for daily three-hour slots. Chairman Saul Walker said "The branch's strength lies in its members and the more we have the better we are."

Garden curator Charles Chesshire kicks off the talks programme in September on the subject of The Art of Dishevelment with head gardener at The Bishop's Palace, Wells, James Cross, lined up to talk about the gardens at the November meeting. Another date to look forward to is next February 4, when Ken Thompson, former senior research fellow at Sheffield University, talks on No Nettles Required – the truth about wildlife gardening.

VEDDW VISIT

Four garden visits have been lined up for Monmouthshire group members over coming months.

On the list are Glebe House at Llanvair Kelgeddin, RGS Rosemoor, Mione in Llanvihangel Crucorney, Aberglasney in Carmarthenshire and Veddw House Garden, Devauden.

Also on the agenda is a stand at the Gardeners' Market in Usk in late June and a members' summer tea in late August. Talks resume in September.

JAN VAUGHAN WITH A FEW TALES OF MALVERN MOMENTS...

NEWS

events

The Royal thing

The Malvern Spring Festival was back this year after a two-year absence during Covid.

Applications were invited from specialist plant societies in January and I contacted the members of the team who had worked on the last display in 2019. We met via Zoom and agreed to go ahead using the design and materials that had worked well at both Malvern and Chatsworth Shows, providing we had the support of Bob and Ed Brown at Cotswold Garden Flowers.

The design for the stand is simple with three metre-square boxes to display plants adapted to shade, part-shade or full sun. This allows us to use the widest range of plants that are looking good in early May when spring weather can vary greatly from one year to the next. Spring perennials may be smaller than those appearing later in the season, often with delicate flowers and the staging lifts them closer to eye level.

The 'team' has come together from across the Midlands, Nicola Content has worked on the Malvern display for a number of years, Heather and Graham Farquhar have acquired a lot of experience at various shows, including Chelsea, and stay for the week on the campsite at the showground, while Helen Curtis, Stephanie Reader, Selwyn Lane and I all live locally. In past years, it has been easier to include more people in the build-up but we are now limited by the number of passes allocated and this makes it difficult to bring in those who will take on the challenge in the future; Mike Bentley joined us this year to see what was involved.

With the design agreed and the application accepted, there were just a few jobs to complete before visiting the nursery in the week before the show to pick the plants. This is an enjoyable task and CGF generously allow us a free hand to select plants, with Stephanie and husband Nigel taking the van to collect them.

The Three Counties Showground houses the plant societies in the Grow & Know marquee and builds the



Jan with HRH The Princess Royal at the show. Below, plants from the HPS stand, above Pimpinella major 'Roses', above right, Disporum cantoniense 'Night Heron' and, right, Anemone coronaria 'Lord Lieutenant' and Achillea 'Moonshine'

staging ready for the beginning of the week. We have Tuesday and some of Wednesday to finish our display before RHS judging takes place that afternoon - with the show running from Thursday to Sunday. The judges look at the quality of the plants on display and the information provided about the plants and the society. Display boards explained the theme and the definition of a hardy plant as well as showing some of the activities that fulfil our charitable aims such as the Bursary Scheme, Seed Distribution and Conservation.

Another aspect of planning is compiling the rota of HPS volunteers who will be on the stand to talk to the visitors. A show like this is an important way to publicise the Hardy Plant Society and tell people what it offers and why we enjoy being members. At meetings of both Worcestershire and Western Counties Groups, members were invited to volunteer for a few hours in return for a free ticket for the day. There was a lot of interest this year and, despite more than 30 people being involved this time, sadly not everyone could be included as only limited numbers of free tickets were available.

Our efforts were rewarded with RHS Silver Gilt award and the Best National Plant Society exhibit - and we were honoured with a visit from HRH The Princess Royal, Patron of the Royal Three Counties Show who was interested to hear about the society and knowledgeable about the need for a wide range of pollinating plants. The Show attracted an audience of around 100,000 visitors over the four days and we hope that this will help the HPS attract new members.

WEST YORKSHIRE MEMBER MARGARET FROSZTEGA LOOKS BACK ON A NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT BY HER GROUP...

Just amazing

I have many a time gazed at a stand and said 'Wow'. So when I heard that West Yorkshire HPS were putting one into the Harrogate Spring Flower Show, how could I not volunteer to help?

West Yorkshire HPS does have a bit of a track record in building stands, having showed at Chelsea and both the Spring and Autumn shows in Harrogate. And they have

Helping hands in Harrogate... from the left, members Pat Hunter, Carine Carson, Pat Inman and Joyce Kenn



won a few Gold Awards along the way. Who better to watch in action?

The lady who designs the stand was happy to do it again and a very organised committee member created the 'who has to do what when' spreadsheet. So, all we needed was plants. Luckily one member has a large poly-tunnel full of gorgeous plants, a local nursery helped source some, and members supplied an assortment of spring gems.

On the first day, a small but strong group transported all the plants, pond, stepping stones, pots and other paraphernalia to site. Club and society displays were in one marquee so we were between fuchsias, bonsai and daffodils. Our aim was a circular stand, with a pond just off centre, and stepping stones leading away.

Next day, a substantial crowd of volunteers arrived, bright and early. There were titivators, making sure each plant was at its best. And plant labellers, carefully making black labels on sticks. And go-fors, who would go find a... whatever the designer wanted. She had to work with the palette of plants provided - no pre-planning of how many tulips, euphorbias and

pulmonarias to bring. But soon the first plant was in place, followed by a quick succession of shade lovers, gathered around an acer.

There we seemed to hover for an age, moving this plant or that plant into place to see which looked better. Two inches to the left, that's better, or perhaps not. And gradually we moved from the shade into the sunshine, the palette of colours changed and the plants available dwindled. Where should we put that Viburnum with white flowers?

Of course, the really tricky bit is the last space. Do we have anything suitable to complete the circle? Can we fit in the Viburnum? Oh dear, we seem to have three grasses in a straight line and those pink flowers clash with that heuchera.

But eventually all the plants are in the right place and the fun started in earnest. Now, plants are in pots, and pots come in different sizes, even if members were asked to use 3-litre pots. To get everything to ground level, all plant pots had to be underpinned by empty pots or

pieces of wood, which means that big pots of plants were sitting on little pots and vice versa. It's definitely a recipe for disaster and a domino effect of plants falling over. Once that delicate task was done, spaces between were stuffed with scrunched newspaper and the whole lot topped off with compost, with a few bits of moss to edge the pond. The finished stand looked amazing.

Members manned the stand to talk to visitors about plants and about the HPS. Leaflets were given out and hopefully a few new members will result for West Yorkshire and other groups. And then finally, at the end of the last afternoon, the stand was broken down – a lot faster than putting it together. The challenge then was to return plants to the right owners, get that HPS banner to collapse down and back into its bag, and to sweep up the compost and the newspaper.

But you may ask, did we use the viburnum? Yes, we did and it looked splendid. As did the stand, which won a Premier Gold Award. Well done, everyone. It was a great experience.

BOB ARMSTRONG TELLS THE STORY OF HOW HE AND WIFE ANN WERE OFFERED A SPOT AT THIS YEAR'S CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

It came right out of the blue...

Back in the winter Ann and Bob Armstrong – from Woodlands Plants near Louth - received a plant order from a young designer named Charlie Hawkes, a recipient of an award from the HPS's Kenneth Black bursary scheme, who was making a Japanese forest garden at Chelsea Flower Show. This was his debut at this prestigious event.

Bob explained, "We eventually posted his order at the end of March. A few days later we were astounded to receive an email from him asking if we'd like to make a small arrangement of plants, displayed on a vintage, flat-bed cart, linked to his garden and sited in the Grand Marquee.

"I think we gave it about five seconds thought and accepted! Next day we had a long chat with a lady from the RHS who explained that they are trying to promote small nurseries who supply plants to designers and she suggested we bring plants linked in some way to Charlie's garden. That made it simpler for us so we

concentrated on, mainly, but not entirely, Japanese woodland plants.

"In a way, what to take was an easier decision than how to display them. We settled on a simple rectangle made from aged ship-lap boards held together by brass brackets and fixed by nuts and bolts. This could be transported easily and was simple to erect and dismantle on site. We had no van at our disposal and everything was going to have to be transported in one car.

"We calculated that there would be space for 60 square two or three litre pots of 2 and decided to restrict the number of plants to about 40. We found a lovely gnarled branch that provided a bit of forest floor feel to the display. We covered the entire surface with coarse bark to hide all the pots. In the end, we took 43 plants, each carefully wrapped in corrugated card, that mostly survived the journey intact. We were happy with our final design as we had a trial run the weekend before when we hosted the HPS Shade & Woodland Group AGM

Bob and Ann with their full display in their Lincolnshire garden and, right, the sell-off stampede at the end of the last day



on the Saturday and a NGS open garden day on the Sunday. The whole project had taken about six weeks since that first email.

“Finally, the big day arrived and we entered the showground around 9 a.m. on the Saturday before the show opened, with one of my sons who had offered to drive. We collected our passes and high vis jackets and joined the rest of the workmen in the Grand Marquee. The noise was deafening. We soon had our display built and planted which gave us a few hours to walk around the whole show. It didn't look as though it could possibly be ready by the end of the next day but nobody seemed too stressed. We were home by early evening, tired but satisfied we'd done our best.

“The excitement began to build during the week of the show ready for our full immersion the following Saturday. We decided to have a sell off to see if we could lighten our load a little, keep just a dozen plants and sell the rest.

“Ann, my two daughters-in-law and myself entered the show soon after it opened – giving us nearly a full day to explore. We were later joined by Ann's son, daughter and partner, who'd travelled by train from Devon. It was lovely to have most of our immediate family to share this wonderful day - plus we had seven pairs of hands to help later on! The four o'clock sell-off

came around and our team performed admirably. We sold off all but two of our plants – which we gave to a stall holder who specialised in shade plants - and we were able to carry everything off site in one go.

“We have so many lovely memories of our two days at Chelsea. Especially helpful were Helen and Mike at the RHS, who made every effort to make our time at the show run as smoothly as possible. It was good to meet and thank Charlie and we're pleased he was awarded Gold for his garden - and he won best in show in the All About Plants category.

“Several friends who had visited told us that our display looked lovely but the best comment came from the stall holder to whom we'd presented our final two plants. She'd described it as a Smorgasbord of plant treasures. We can't really better that.

“And to cap it all, there was our display, full frontal, in the Saturday and Sunday night Chelsea round-ups on the BBC.”



Take more plant pictures

NEWS

brief

Photo librarian Matthias Dejaegher says it looks like most of world is finally opening up again and many people will be starting to travel again after a gap of two years.

“I just came back from a business trip to beautiful Gdansk, Poland, myself and will be flying to Malaysia in July to visit family we haven’t seen for four years.

“Undoubtedly, many of you will be visiting gardens either in the UK or abroad. I’m certain that lots and lots of pictures will be taken of plants known and unknown. It would be great if you could send some of your pictures to the HPS.

“We always want more pictures of plants for the library! It really doesn’t matter if it’s common or rare. Sometimes it’s an angle we haven’t had before, some pictures in the library are quite small so could do with larger formats and to give you just one example, there are 127 plants catalogued under the *Polystichum* genus in the RHS database yet we only have seven pictures. So please do send your pictures to photos@hardy-plant.org.uk.

“And while you’re at it, why not add some entries for the photographic competition. It may seem like a long way off, but if you enter early then you don’t have to worry about it any longer or you can always update your entry later with better pictures. Don’t delay!”

Closing date for the competition is December 6 and the three categories are:

- Individual hardy perennial – a whole plant or close up
- Plant grouping, border, garden view or HPS events
- Photographs taken by members’

children or stepchildren / grandchildren or step-grandchildren or foster children (16 or under). Any gardening related subject.

“It would be great if we had bumper entry this year,” says Matthias. “Last year, we had lots of entries by children which was great but it would be good if more people could be sending their own pictures as well. It doesn’t cost anything and, who knows, you could win a prize! Send your entries to photo-comp@hardy-plant.org.uk.

“Note that email is starting to show its age as pictures are getting larger and larger and email tries to force you to use smaller formats as it wasn’t designed with sending large files in mind. For that reason, we recommend using ‘WeTransfer’ instead. It’s free to use and no registration is needed.

“So, to finish, a hint for people owning a reasonably recent Android phone. When you take a picture and open it up, at the bottom you will see the word ‘Lens’. If you press that, it will try to identify the plant for you (or anything else for that matter). It’s not perfect, but it seems to be doing a pretty good job to at least send you on your way.

“I look forward receiving lots of new pictures!”

SALES SURPLUS

West Midlands group raised more than £500 at its annual plant sale in May – with another £100 on top from the sale of refreshments. Chairman Alan Lang said “It was a magnificent effort from everyone who participated, from bringing plants, to manning the tables and baking those lovely cakes.”

Spring ahead to 2023

Bulbs galore are the prizes in our latest competition – with specialists Peter Nyssen offering two winners a bumper package of £125 worth of bulbs each.

Peter Nyssen has been brightening flower beds with their award-winning bulbs since 1958. A small, family business with roots in the Dutch bulb growing region, it has a huge variety of quality spring bulbs. Tulips pictured on this page will be part of the prize.

The firm was the first bulb company to switch to compostable packaging, saving around 6.5 tonnes of plastic to date, and its friendly band of gardening enthusiasts are on hand to supply expert advice. This green-fingered bunch even offers a 100 per cent money-back satisfaction guarantee.

If, after you've received your prize, you need any gardening advice you can call the company on 0161 747 4000 for help.

To win one of the prizes, here's what you have to do. We're asking you to write a maximum of 200 words on the subject of "What I love best about a spring garden..."

Please send your entries to [newsletter@hardy-plant.org.uk/](mailto:newsletter@hardy-plant.org.uk) or by post to NEWSLETTER COMPETITION, The

Hardy Plant Society, 3

Basepoint Business Centre, Crab Apple Way, Evesham WR11 1GP.



The deadline for receipt of entries is July 24, 2022.

If you're one of our winners, we'll be in touch to get your contact details to pass on to Peter Nyssen to arrange delivery to your home.

Good luck!

Peter Nyssen
Flower Bulbs & Plants

And here is last issue's winner...

Last issue's competition prize – a 15-bag mixed pallet of multi-purpose, seed and potting compost worth a total of £230 – was won by member Mike Brett.

Mike, from Maidstone in Kent, picked up his pen to send us 200 words on the best gardening tip he'd ever been given. His winning entry is printed below – focused on raised beds.

Mike, and wife Hazel, joined HPS national and Kent group in the early 90s and is also a member of the Alpine Garden Society, Scottish Rock, Plant Heritage and RHS – just to name a few!

They've opened their garden for the National Garden Scheme for about 20 years and says it's their main interest and way of life.

"I am a compulsive propagator and the compost prize will come in very handy," he says. "I've produced several articles for the Kent group's newsletter and I think one is in the course of being adopted for Cornucopia magazine."

Here's his entry...

"The best gardening advice that I was ever given was in connection with raised beds.

Gardening on heavy clay soils, where the ground remains soggy with puddles over winter or after heavy rain, means that many of the plants that I wished to grow either performed badly or failed altogether. Suggestions often promulgated to put sand or grit in the planting hole did no more than produce a sump that could be wetter than the surrounding earth.

Advice given by an elderly alpine nurseryman to use raised beds for many plant subjects, has stood the test of time. Beds raised by as little as 7.5cm make an enormous difference to drainage. Up to around 50cm is probably the ideal but anything more can lead to too dry conditions. Raised beds and rockeries can be filled with various composts to suit the plants but it is surprising how much this takes and how much it sinks with time.

Raised beds may not suit all plants but many bulbs, rockery plants, Osteospermum, Erodium, Pulsatilla,

Penstemon, Daphne, Iris and others seem to, perform much better and live for far longer. Roots still benefit from the deep clay nutrients."

Thanks, Mike, and to everyone else who entered last time. Now it's time to try this month's competition...



Mike with his prize – and his raised beds

A SUMMARY OF AGMs THAT OUR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS HAVE BEEN HOLDING

NEWS roundup

SHADE AND WOODLAND

Lincolnshire church hosts group's event

The Lincolnshire Wolds were the idyllic setting for this year's Shade and Woodland Group annual general meeting.

May blossom and cow parsley bulked up many of the area's B-roads on the way to the meeting's venue in the village of Fotherby, near Louth.

Group treasurer Wilma Keighley said "We were glad to be back to meeting personally again after a missed year in 2020 and a small gathering at our secretary's garden in 2021."

St Mary's Church was the venue where the ladies of the church plied around 50 group members with drinks and home-made biscuits on arrival.

"The AGM was conducted concisely

Pictures from Mike's talk... from the top *Anemone nemorosa* 'Yerda Ramusen', *Ficaria verna* 'Collarette' and *Hepatica acutiloba* 'Louise Koehler'



Drinks and plant sale in the churchyard



The chance to buy at the nursery

as usual – we don't waste time when we could be buying plants!" said Wilma.

And the rest of morning was taken up with a talk on *Woodland Wonders* from horticultural adviser at Craven College, North Yorkshire, Mike Myers. He was Young Horticulturist of the Year in 1991 and used to hold national collections of *Anemone nemorosa*, *Hepatica* and *Primula marginata*.

He took members on a trip through the year, kicking off with *Galanthus* – with a few thoughts on prices paid in recent times

– and progressing through around 20 more species in his hour-long slot, including Roscoea, Trillium, Ficaria, Heloniopsis, Cardamine and Ypsilandra.

His plant table was very popular – as were two members’ tables. Funds for the group were further boosted by a raffle and an auction of less common plants which hit a total of almost £150, including £35 paid for a *Hepatica* ‘Stained Glass’, donated by Ann and Bob Armstrong, and £15 for a *Polygonatum verticillatum* ‘Himalayan Giant’, donated by Mike Myers.

A picnic lunch was taken in glorious sunshine at the church or, a 15- minute walk away, at this year’s garden venue, Woodlands Nursery, home of Ann and Bob. Their fabulous garden rewarded members with many unusual plants used in interesting ways, and repaid second and third viewings. A majority of the nursery plants are propagated on site and many left with car boots full of fresh treasures after time was taken to sample cake and drinks, including tea served on trays in proper teapots!

- ▶ Planning for next year – the group’s ninth AGM - is underway, with Oxfordshire being a suggested location. In recent years, it has moved around England and Wales at venues including Wrexham, Pontypridd and Harrietsham in Kent. “We want to maximise the chance of members being able to attend the AGM but it will be hard to match this year in terms of fun, friendliness and plants. It’s great to be back,” said Wilma.
- ▶ The group has 170 members, with around 15 per cent being overseas. Fees are £5 single membership or £6 joint at same address for one year. Three-year membership is £14 single, or £17 joint. Overseas members pay £7 annually, via HPS head office. To join, contact Wilma at wilma.keighley@yahoo.co.uk

RANUNCULACEAE

Membership grows by 50 per cent

Etchingam, on the Kent/Sussex border is the location for the Ranunculaceae Special Interest Group’s AGM this year.

The day-long event is being held on June 25 – when the guest speaker is Colin Moat of Pineview Plants. He’s named his talk after a question he was once asked at a plant fair – Have You Any Moans? Anemones! The afternoon visit was to Merriments Nursery where a guided tour was arranged of the four-acre RHS partner garden.

Members heard the group has grown in size by 50 per cent since 2020, and now has 144 members. Several new members were attracted after group secretary Susie Mitchell’s article in the newsletter last November.

Proposals have been put forward to raise subscriptions. For single overseas members, it would mean a rise next year to £10, from £5, and for single UK members from £4 to £6 from 2024 (£6 to £8 for two members at the same address). Treasurer Vivienne McGhee, treasurer and membership secretary, will be standing down next year, having completed six years.

GALANTHUS

Zoom lectures are big success

The Hardy Plant Society’s Galanthus Group – is growing from strength to strength!

The group continues to thrive with now over 340 members including around 20 international members.

“Introducing Zoom lectures in 2021 has been an outstanding success,” says membership secretary Lyn Miles, “with seven Zoom lectures enabling many more members to be able to participate in our group who live in remote areas or who are unable to travel longer distances. We hope the Zoom programme will continue.

“In February, we were able to hold our Study Day and AGM and, of course, our famous members’ Snowdrop sale where much money changes hands in record time! Many thanks to our speakers, Eddie Roberts and Joe Sharman, who presented two excellent lectures for the more than 100 people who attended. They also offered their own snowdrops for sale as well. So much temptation!”

Lyn said, “The event took place near Salisbury and, for the first time, a ‘Snowdrop Supper’ was held the night before. It was an outstanding success with over 40 people attending. Sadly, in the afternoon of the day itself, torrential rain stopped many from visiting the two local gardens -one of them my own garden, Westcroft at Boscombe and Avon Cottage in the Woodford Valley, with many preferring to linger over scrummy tea and cake in the dry instead!”

- ▶ For membership or Zoom enquiries, please contact Lyn Miles (see contacts list)

PULMONARIA

Chairman post vacancy is filled

Sales tables were bulging with plants – including several rare varieties - at the AGM of the Pulmonaria Special Interest group in April.

It was a reunion meeting of the group – held at Hallows Village Hall, near

Worcester. Group secretary Barry Street said “We called it our ‘reunion’ meeting since we had not met face to face for three years. It was really nice to meet up with old friends again and a few new ones. There were 36 members present, which considering that some people were still reluctant to attend, because of Covid, was not too far short of our normal attendance.

The AGM still did not produce a volunteer for the vacant chairman’s post – but Jan Vaughan, former national chair, has agreed to take on the role.

“After the AGM we had two interesting talks – ‘A Short Journey among Pulmonarias’ by Gordon James, our Newsletter Editor, followed by Spring Flower’ by member and former nursery owner Robin Pearce.

After lunch we travelled to Robin’s garden close by, where among the collection of named Pulmonarias where a number of spectacular seedlings which we were urging Robin to propagate and name.

After an enjoyable garden visit, we returned to the hall for our traditional tea and cakes before heading for home.

Next year’s meeting will be in Norwell Village Hall with a talk by Andrew Ward and a visit to Norwell Nursery and garden in the afternoon.

PEONY

Chairman post vacancy is filled

For the first time in two years, the Peony Group was able to hold its AGM and Peony Day in person at the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens in Hampshire, writes secretary Caroline Stone.

“There was a good turn out and it was good to be able to mingle and talk to people. After the AGM the speaker was Dr

Richard Gormall, of the University of Leicester. His title, *Making sense of peonies: their biology and evolution*, prepared us to be educated and he delivered an extremely interesting talk that certainly made us think. The explanation of the genetics was clear and fascinating. Strangely for such a well-known plant group, there are many aspects that have not been studied. Dr Gormall pointed out that there were many areas of research that we, in our own gardens, could help with.

“The plant sales tables were well stocked and sales were brisk. A good range of peonies from species to Saunders’ hybrid were on offer as well as choice herbaceous plants.

“In the afternoon the Curator of the gardens, David Jewell, took us on a guided walk. We started at the peony beds and he nearly lost the entire group at that point – entirely predictably! The beds have a wide range of peonies, tree and herbaceous and are loosely arranged in order of date. But there are also other peonies to be seen up through the long Centenary border.

“The opposite side of the path to the peony beds is a collection of wisteria trained up posts forming columns which is an unusual way to see wisteria. There were many champion trees pointed out to us and we were exhorted to look up and look back to really see the riches of the gardens. We saw a lot of very beautiful irises, not to mention magnolias in full flower. There was much to enjoy. The arboretum covers 180 acres so it would take many visits to see it all but, in an hour and a half we had been shown a good selection. And, as we got back to the beginning of the circuit and were saying our thank yous, big, fat drops of rain began to fall – so we had timed it to perfection.”



Hampshire visit... Peony Group members during their afternoon visit with Paeonia 'Jan van Leeuwen' spotted en route

For services to horticulture



Sue with her award

The RHS Harlow Carr Medal is awarded annually to individuals who have made a significant contribution to horticulture in the North of England and one of the two winners this year was Sue Gray from The West Yorkshire Group of the Hardy Plant Society.

Sue retired as Chair of the group in January 2022 after holding the post for eleven years. The group itself is thriving, with a vibrant programme of speaker meetings, garden visits and a popular biennial conference ‘The Magic of Plants’.

During her tenure, says West Yorkshire member Peter Williams, the group put on successful displays at the Harrogate Spring and Autumn Flower Shows and, on behalf of the national society, they staged a silver-gilt winning, RHS Chelsea Show display in 2013. For these shows, she grows some of the plants herself and is usually responsible for the labelling of the plants.

For the past eight years, Sue has

organised the highly successful annual garden holidays for members of the group and for these she always pre-visits the gardens to check that the coach can actually reach the intended destination!

Her support for horticulture has not been limited to the Hardy Plant Society and she has generously supported a wide range of institutions, including the Yorkshire Arboretum and Burnby Hall Gardens. This support has been in the form of prodigious amounts of excellent baking for open garden refreshments as well as growing and donating significant numbers of plants for fundraising, or specimen plants for their collections.

Everything Sue does is performed quietly behind the scenes and without fuss or expectation of recognition. In fact, she always seems embarrassed if her efforts are noticed or mentioned, and says her contributions aren’t much, when in fact, they have meant so much to so many individuals.

TAKE A BREAK

Help for local groups looking to organise gardening holidays for the members is still on offer.

Dorset member Debbie Steel started the ball rolling last year – and has tried and tested itineraries lined up ready to go. They cover Cheshire to Kent and Norfolk to Devon. Since writing in the newsletter, support continues to grow, she says.

“Since my last update, in November, three more groups have been in contact – Derbyshire, Hampshire and Lincolnshire and I have Dorset and West Yorkshire itineraries for this year. If you would like to share your group holiday details, or draw on other groups’ knowledge, contact me via at debbie.steel@outlook.com or 07709 308002. There are now seven groups involved, with 34 different holidays.”

HELPING HANDS

Cheltenham plant lover David Simpson has had good news – after we carried details of his search for special *Tradescantia* plants in the last issue.

He started his national collection over two years ago and has 46 different cultivars so far – but wanted to fill a few gaps with rarer varieties – especially his top 10 priorities, all the Andersoniana Group.

He’s now been contacted by Kevin Vaughn, a notable breeder in Oregon, who read the piece on the last newsletter. “It turns out that he has been hybridising *Tradescantia* for more than 20 years and is responsible for 14 significant introductions to the US and European markets,” said David.

“He was excited to hear about the national collection and we are now conversing regularly by email. He may be able to help me find a partner nursery in Oregon that will prepare phytosanitary certificates for export to the UK. It’s a small world.”

He’s also been contacted by a Manchester member who offered a division of *Tradescantia* (Andersoniana Group) ‘Red Grape’. “It’s marvellous and shows the newsletter article really worked.”

LATE STORY TO COME...

NORTH EAST MEMBER MARGARET JACKSON SPELLS OUT A GARDENING PASSION...

Bin there, done that

"Would you like to see our compost heap?" is not the world's greatest chat up line, but it is one visitors to our garden hear because we just like making compost. Getting something good for the garden for free while using waste which would normally fill council bins seems a no-brainer.

We have three adjoining bins, each 5ft square, built by John with solid timber backs and sides and removable wooden slats at the front. They sit on earth to allow the worms (and less welcome moles) into the compost. We cover the compost with old carpet to allow some water in. Crucial to our composting is the shredder; a Viking (now Stihl) electric one which can chop both green and thin (1-2 cm) woody material. Just don't feed it alstroemeria bulbs or similar

items; you end up with a puree that blocks the blades and is tedious to remove. It is incredible just how quickly shredded herbaceous material heats up and rots. In summer we reckon 3-5 months from adding to the compost bin to taking it out ready to use. In the first bin we mix shredded material together with grass mowings and, if there is too much "green" material, we add wood chippings (plenty around just now from tree surgeons who will happily dump them in your drive if asked). The first bin fills up over 1-2 months then is forked into the middle bin. The extra aeration helps with composting and, at this stage, I often add some horse manure from the farm over the road to the mix to enrich the final result. When the first bin fills up again we move the middle bin contents to the third bin, again aerating it and removing any big pieces of woody material. After a month or so it's ready to use. I've just spread about 75 cubic feet of compost round the garden and it looks great, a rich dark brown mulch.

We also make leaf mould compost, a really great



substitute for peat. Old "dumpy bags" from builders' yards make excellent containers - porous to just the right amount of air and water. Since peat has become unethical we have increased production of leaf mould by sweeping leaves up from quiet streets (and, as many councils have stopped regular street sweeping, often get thanked by passers by for doing so). We then mix the leaves with a few grass cuttings (about 10% volume) to accelerate their decomposition before leaving the bags undisturbed for 18 months or so. This year we discovered another piece of machinery to help us with the final step of production - a rotating sieve. It saves us hours of exhausting hand sieving. They are not cheap but we bought the shredder and share it with good friends; they bought the electric sieve and share it with us. Not a bad mutual arrangement for facilitating compost mass production.



SEED DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR DIANE PUNCHEON SMOOTHS YOUR WAY TO HELPING OUR BIG, ANNUAL SEED SCHEME...

Now's the time for top seeds

I am pleased to announce the start of another seed distribution season. The scheme is an important part of the national society's offer to members and helps to fulfil its charitable objectives.

It's time to look in your gardens for seed to donate. If you are a new member, full details of the scheme and how to donate are on the website - or feel free to contact me on dianepuncheon@yahoo.com

The Receiving Team will welcome your donations at any time up to the closing date in late October and from now on there will be opportunities to collect seed. By sending at least five different packets of seed, you will be entitled to an extra 15 packets from the seed list when you send in your order.

Collect seed in paper bags or envelopes, dry it, then remove as much of the chaff as possible. Seed should be kept in a dry, cool environment such as a plastic container in the bottom of the fridge. Please help our seed receivers by listing your seed in alphabetical order, include your name and address, and e-mail address if you have one. If you can send your seed in batches, or singly, as soon as it is ready, this helps our seed receivers by minimising the huge rush

against the clock at the end of

October, as we work to get the seed list ready for the printers.

The seed section of the HPS website, www.hardy-plant.org.uk/seed has more advice on collecting

and cleaning seed. Please send seed to the seed receivers as follows;

▶ If the initial letter of your surname is from A to F, send your seed to: Sandra and Roy Mellor, 4 Welsford Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR4 6QF
mellor459@btinternet.com

▶ If the initial letter of your surname is from G to N, send your seed to: Linda Hall, Birchwood, Snow Street, Roydon, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 5SB
mjlchall@btinternet.com


▶ If the initial letter of your surname is from O to Z, send your seed to: Ray and Coral Mitchell, 'Magpies', Fen Street, Hopton, Nr Diss, IP22 2RF
crassula01@gmail.com

If you require a supply of small manila envelopes to send your seed to your receiver in, please send a large letter stamp with a request to your receiver – depending on your surname's initial letter – as set out above. Remember that even a very small quantity is welcome.

Please help our seed receivers by listing your seed in alphabetical order, include your name and address, and e-mail address if you have one. If you can send your seed in batches, or singly, as soon as it is ready, this helps our seed receivers by minimising the huge rush against the clock at the end of October, as we work to get the seed list ready for the printers.

Make sure you have the correct postage as receivers are not required to pay any surcharges. Closing date for donations, when all seed must be with the receivers, is October 28, 2022.





**ELSPETH DANDO,
TREASURER OF THE
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& BEDFORDSHIRE HPS
GROUP, OUTLINES HER
EXPERIENCE OF
OBTAINING AND USING
A CARD READER...**

Making my life a little easier

Firstly, I want to start with a quick note about the iZettle card reader. Since this company was taken over by Paypal, HPS groups no longer meet their criteria, I had this confirmed in a call with them.

I was advised by a fellow treasurer to set up an email account specifically for use with the card reader and not to use my personal email address and that proved to be very useful advice.

I decided to buy a sumup Air card reader and docking/charging station, the latter is not essential but operation is much easier with it. They are bought via the sumup website and together cost under £40. The card reader works with the free sumup app and connects to your smartphone or tablet via Bluetooth. I have an old iPhone 5 and this works very well, you don't need the latest model. The only cost once you have the system is a fee of 1.69 per cent for each transaction.

I used my laptop to register with sumup, set up the group account and link it with our bank account, as I prefer the larger screen for this type of work. Once the card reader arrived, I downloaded the app to my phone and linked it to the card reader – a straightforward process.

I then tested it by making the minimum payment of £1, contactless and then by inserting the card, both went smoothly and the transactions showed up almost immediately on the daily report.

The first real test was at our plant sale on May 25 this year - and I am happy to report that all went well. There were 61 card transactions (two of which were payments using phones), a total of £873.50. The transfer to our bank account, three to five working days later, was £858.77, the fees deducted £14.73. The reports produced by sumup are comprehensive and make a treasurer's life easy!

A final note, once I had ordered the card reader I received an email from sumup which stated that the card reader could not be used to take payment for membership fees, and was given the option to cancel my order. While this is a slight inconvenience a good proportion of our members now pay membership by bank transfer, and it was more important that our group is able to take card payments at events, so I went ahead.

I hope this will save some time for any other group thinking about investing in a card reader.

Group clocks up 35 years

It was third time lucky for the Norfolk and Suffolk group when their special lecture with guest speaker head gardener Fergus Garrett from Great Dixter finally went ahead in the group's 35th anniversary year.

Originally planned for 2020 it was rescheduled for the following year – and then rearranged for this year, in time for the anniversary celebrations.

Chairman Linda Hall said "It was well worth waiting for. Posters had been circulated to gardening groups and we had a great plug on BBC Radio Norfolk Garden Party. Eager attendees arrived at 1pm, despite doors not opening until 1.30pm. Fergus was due to talk at 2.30pm but three visiting nurseries meant there was plenty to keep people occupied. Refreshments on arrival and pre-booked mug of soup and roll added to the buzz in the hall."

"It was quite fortuitous that our Special Lecture coincided with this anniversary year," said Linda. "Our newsletter editor suggested an in-house special booklet – 35 favourite perennials, with 35 members selecting their special plant. Our members will each receive a copy. A special 35th anniversary cake is planned at the Summer Social."

Linda added, "We also launched *Eurybia sibirica* 'Len Speller', the first golden-yellow leaved 'aster' to be released to the gardening public. Len was a committee



The *Eurybia sibirica* 'Len Speller' launched for the anniversary

member of our group who sadly passed in 2016. He had also worked as a volunteer for Adrian Bloom at Bressingham Garden) and it was here that he selected a self-sown seedling of a plant brought to the UK some years earlier from Canada. He was chairman of the organising committee for the 60th anniversary AGM and Lecture Day but died three months before the event.

"Stallholders supported our raffle with a donation, as did Fergus. He generously gifted a Study Day at Great Dixter and, once I announced this, there was a queue for raffle tickets!"



Norfolk and Suffolk's innovative publication of 35 favourite plants chosen by members has just been published.

It celebrates the group's 35th anniversary – and includes the reasons why each has a special place in people's hearts.

Newsletter editor Irene Tibbenham said "The choice of plants is purely personal and is far from being intended as an exhaustive list; it could even be called eclectic. Each page reflects an individual or couple's uniqueness and individuality. The sentiments expressed by them are all very different."

The cover star picture is from Irene herself – an *Aquilegia vulgaris* (Vervaeana Group) seedling. Other plants featured include , *Persicaria virginianum* 'Painter's Palette' and *Libertia grandiflora*.

► Copies of the anniversary publication are for sale at £2 for a posted copy. To obtain a copy, contact membership secretary Susan Oglesby on oglesby.gers@gmail.com.

CHAIRMAN PAMELA CLARK
INTRODUCES THE FOUR-
STRONG HORTICULTURAL
ADVISORY TEAM

NEWS

background

Welcome to our new plant gurus!

It is always a sad moment when a postholder stands down from their role. So it was with some concern that the Trustees said 'Thank you' and 'Goodbye' to Emma Reece when she had to give up her work running the Horticultural Advisory Service.

However, there proved to be little reason to worry as a call for volunteers in the last newsletter resulted in four members coming forward to offer their knowledge and experience. The Service was renamed as the Horticultural Advisory Team - and what a team it has turned out to be.

The Trustees are pleased to welcome these four experts to answer your many plant id, taxonomy, plant problem, 'what's this beast on the leaf' questions that are the bread and butter of horticulture and gardening:

▶ **Saul Walker**, Head Gardener, Stonelands House, Dawlish. Saul is a Kew-trained horticulturalist, a former shows manager at RHS Chelsea, a BBC Gardeners World Plant Expert, and substitutes for Toby Buckland on BBC Radio Devon's Gardening Show.

▶ **Maggie Mason** is an experienced gardener and nurserywoman, having run her own nursery for about 25 years. She runs the seed exchange for the Cottage Garden Society and her own particular plant genus is the Salvia.

▶ **Sue Lander** will be well-known to HPS members as a previous Shows and Events Postholder. Sue is a members of many plant societies – Alpine Garden Society, Iris Society, Plant Heritage, the Mediterranean Society and the HPS Galanthus Group. Sue is trained to RHS Level 2 and has RHS Ornamental Horticulture qualifications.

▶ **Ruth Sands** is a keen plant researcher and has served as the HPS Conservation Scheme Postholder in the past. She has RHS qualifications, including a diploma in horticulture and has run her own nursery. As well as being an active member of the HPS in Derbyshire, she also runs a garden group for the u3a.

What a lot of knowledge and expertise is now on offer to members! The team can be contacted by email at advisory@hardy-plant.org.uk at any time and one of them will get back to you shortly thereafter.

The Horticultural Advisory Team is a great HPS member benefit and contributes towards one of our charitable aims, which is to provide facilities for giving advice on the culture of hardy plants.

First up, it's...

RUTH SANDS

Tell us a bit about yourself, Ruth... I live in a village near Ashbourne, Derbyshire. I retired many years ago after coming late to gardening. I have qualified with the RHS Level 2 and went on to do the Diploma in Horticulture. I ran a small nursery for a few years and took on a 10-acre garden until arthritis got the better of me. Whilst at college, I joined a team of students in making a large garden at Chelsea which was a fantastic experience. I have also had an allotment in the past and have a love of growing vegetables.

What's a typical day for you?... My day always starts with a tour of my garden and weekends are usually spent in the garden, as I seem to have made it high maintenance.

Have you been an HPS member for long?... I joined Derbyshire HPS group about 20 years ago. I have served on the committee, choosing speakers, and have served as conservation officer for the national group too, which was fun. I was asked to serve on the Plant Heritage committee whilst in office.

What attracted you to this new role?... I volunteered for the HAT team as it is something which involves gardening sitting down, and I enjoy researching plants and have a real interest in soil science. I am only too happy to be sharing this post with three others, as I'm sure that between us we can cover all queries.

Tell us about your garden?... I have a medium-sized garden now with a clay soil, but has been well worked, so not a problem. I enjoy gardening in shade so I have planted a few trees, a Rowan, Silver birch and an Acer Griseum. I have a herbaceous border in full sun, a wild life area, with a pond and some raised beds for



vegetables. My front garden is on a slope, so well drained, and it's my herb garden.

What one plant would you take if you were moving house?... An *Impatiens tinctoria*, a beautiful hardy plant, growing to 5ft high with large white flowers with a red throat. It's not easy to get hold of.

What's the best book you read in lockdown?... It was *Entangled Life* by Merlin Sheldrake. About fungi in all its shapes and forms, quite fascinating.

Recommend a garden not many people know about... It would be Norwell nursery and gardens in Nottinghamshire. The owner is extremely knowledgeable and his nursery is huge, with many unusual plants.

Your favourite three plants?... Roses, geraniums - and potatoes, which I love digging up every year and eating.

Which gardener would you like to take for lunch? I would probably choose Carol Klein as we would have a giggle.

What's the worst gardening job?... Pulling up nettles.

What's the best thing about gardening?... The peace and satisfaction it brings, sowing seeds and watching them mature into beautiful plants and giving a home to wildlife.

Next, it's...

MAGGIE MASON

... I qualified as an archaeologist in 1977 and worked in this field and as a garden historian and publisher's proof-reader for most of my 'official' working life. I started a part-time nursery with a friend in 1997 and by now have spent more hours in horticulture, for which I have no qualifications whatever, than on my profession.

... My home is in North-West Wales but I am currently living in Sussex with my 95-year-old father, since my mother died of Covid in 2020. I'm widowed and have a daughter who lives in Swindon; my son died of leukaemia aged 16 in 2009, shortly after my husband. In winter, 2010-11, I did a 500-mile sponsored walk and raised £11,000 for leukaemia research and £3,500 for WWF, my son's favourite charity.

... My typical day is looking after Dad, walking the dogs and gardening, except in autumn and winter when I spend a good deal of time on the CGS seed exchange. Weekends are no different from weekdays.

... I've been an HPS member for a long time, since about 1990, can't really remember. I've never been very active but used to belong to the now defunct Half-hardy Group and the Pulmonaria Group. I don't belong to a local group as there isn't one within reach of my home. I am, of course, in sympathy with HPS aims.

... I volunteered with the suggestion that a team would be better than one person because of the wider spread of expertise; I decided to volunteer when I saw the advert as I've been doing something similar informally for the CGS for a while and realise I have amassed quite a bit of knowledge over the years!

... My own garden has been completely neglected for more than 18 months and I



will have to start from scratch when I go back – I'm not looking forward to that. The garden here is enormous (1.5 acres plus woodland) and had got rather out of hand (my mum was 95 when she died) So, I am trying to restore it. It has far too much shade (38 mature trees and many smaller ones and huge shrubs) and too much wildlife with huge numbers of slugs/snails, deer, foxes, mice, rats, squirrels, pigeons, crows...so it is a losing battle!

... The plant I will take when I leave is a seedling *Geranium phaeum* which I have named 'Marcelle' after my mother.

... I don't read gardening books having become disillusioned years ago (totally unrealistic...)

... My recommended garden would be Grunard House, between Gairloch and Ullapool, in NW Scotland. It opens a couple of times most years; gorgeous, partly shaded walled garden by a river, right on the sea. Extremely pretty and full of delectable plants.

... The gardener(s) I'd take to lunch are my mum's, Sharon and Hilary, who I've inherited. They were known to my parents as 'the girls' although they're in their 50s and 60s respectively. They do half a day a week, without which I would be utterly sunk.

... My worst gardening job is weeding established borders

... And the best thing about gardening is just being out of doors.

Third in line is...

SUE LANDER

... I worked in investments in London for 13 years before having a family. My interest in gardening started when we moved and gained a garden in 1997. I knew absolutely nothing about plants but I became obsessed two years later. I worked for a small specialist nursery and a large commercial garden centre and then did an RHS module and then did an RHS level 2 at Writtle College and a full-time one-year course in Ornamental Horticulture at RHS Hyde Hall

... I live with my husband in Tolleshunt Knights, North Essex, one of the driest regions in the country, 35 mins away from the Beth Chatto Gardens. Both daughters have fled the nest. I worked part time for the RHS before taking on my own garden work and consultation.

... My typical week is gardening, researching plants and reading about gardening. There is no hope for me!

... I joined the Hardy Plant Society (Essex group) about 20 years ago and I'm a past chairman of the specialist Group Ranunculaceae and current chairman of the Shade and Woodland Group. I spent five years working with a colleague for the national HPS Shows and Event Team. I am a member of many horticulture groups and societies and was the Essex Plant Heritage Collections Co-ordinator for a number of years.

... I think it is important to volunteer for the society to keep it going! Where would it be without all the members taking on committee roles or volunteering their time. We need to keep raising its profile within the horticultural world, inspiring each generation with the beauty of plants and the importance of being with nature.

• My own garden is small but labour



intensive. It has an open sunny aspect at the front but quite shady in the back once the tree canopy closes. It's dry and has good sandy loam in places with heavy clay in others. I have improved the soil by annual mulching for 20 years. If I ever moved house I would probably take one of my treasured podophyllums..

... My favourite plants would have to include *Rosa x odorata* 'Mutabilis', *Podophyllum difforme* and *Philadelphus maculatus* 'Mexican Jewel' but this selection would change throughout the seasons!

... My last gardening book read is Jimi Blake's *A Beautiful Obsession*. I was lucky to visit his garden before lockdown. One of my favourite gardens is Dial Park. Olive Mason is an inspirational plantswoman and I was lucky to first visit her when doing my dissertation on winter gardens.

... My lunchtime date would be with Keith Wiley of Wildside (another favourite garden) as his vision and interpretation of different landscapes is truly breathtaking.

... My worst gardening job is tying in. My fingers have been described as sausage shaped and I find it increasingly difficult up a ladder all fingers and twine!

... The best thing about gardening is that it allows you to relax, unwind and to be artistic. I take great delight in combining plants and being creative.

And finally...

SAUL WALKER

... I've been a professional gardener for about 20 years, training with the National Trust at Antony House in Cornwall, then studying at Kew Gardens. I took a wee garden sabbatical then, becoming a show manager for the RHS Hampton Court and Chelsea Flower Shows. It didn't last long, as I wanted to move back to my native Devon where I am now head gardener at Stonelands House on the outskirts of Dawlish, a 12-acre country garden in the valley of the Dawlish Water.

... I do a lot of gardening daily, mostly at Stonelands. I am very much a hands-on head gardener - which is great as many of my peers get weighed down with office work! I have many plates spinning, from working with BBC Gardeners World Live, to sitting on other Trustee boards, and recording a weekly podcast, Talking Heads, with fellow head gardener Lucy Chamberlain about our lives as head gardeners.

... At weekends, I'm either trying to snatch a few moments calm or I'm gardening at home, visiting gardens, or travelling to a flower show or fair, usually returning with boot full of plants!

... I've been an HPS member for six years. I saw it as a great way of finding out about Devon's gardens and gardeners. Since 2020, I've been Devon branch chair, which I enjoy, especially with such a great branch committee. I also recently became a trustee of the society; I see myself as bringing a professional gardener's viewpoint to the board of trustees as well as my extensive gardening network and contacts.

... I have a great passion for communicating horticulture, and have been a member of advice services for many years, such as on local radio or at BBC Gardeners World Live. When I saw the horticultural advisor position I thought it was a natural fit. I am quite busy so knowing there are three other great horticulturists on the team does take the pressure off somewhat and also gives me a chance to learn from them as well.

... Technically, I have two gardens - the one I don't own, Stonelands, is a large English country garden with large herbaceous borders, mature woodland, a wonderful orchard and meadow and a rather lovely vegetable garden with an espaliered apple boundary. At home, it couldn't be more different. I have a passion for exotics and experimenting with tender plants, so it looks more like Panama than Plymouth - bananas, gingers, Brugmansia, Colocasia, lots of South African and Australian plants including Protea and Banksia - not really hardy at all!

... I'm sorry but choosing a single plant to take to a new garden is like choosing one child out of them all. I couldn't just take one - it would have to be all and, when I say all, I mean all 367 accessions. Yes! its more botanic garden than back garden.



... The best recent book is *The Jungle Garden* by Philip Oostenbrink, head gardener at Walmer Castle. He has a similar passion for exotics, and much of the reference photography was from gardens of good friends of mine – it was great to see a book dedicated to big leaves!

... Although it used to be a garden that was one of those local secrets, I think the word is now out. Wildside, just outside Yelverton, Devon, is a treat for any plantsperson.

Created by Keith Wiley, in the new naturalism style, it's absolutely fantastic at any time of year.

... I could name you 300 plant favourites but it changes every year. At the moment, I would say *Hedychium* 'Devon Cream', *Lecadendron argenteum* and *Brassiaopsis hispida*.

... A gardener who has inspired me lectures is Dan Hinkley. He created two of the planet's great gardens at Heronswood and Windcliff, both near Seattle in Washington State. I'd love to visit both when I get more time to myself.

... The worst gardening job of all is planting bulbs. I'm not talking a few in a pot, but 1000s in the ground. It's just not fun – but I guess worth it come spring time.

... The best thing about gardening is, trying to avoid sounding too grand, it's been my life's calling. I can't remember a time when I wasn't drawn to plants, natural spaces and gardens. Some people see gardening as a hobby or something to pass their time – for me it is my way of life!

From the Office

All enquiries concerning Hardy Plant Society matters and membership renewals should be addressed to the Administrator during office hours (Monday to Thursday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Friday 9.00am – 1.00pm), please note there is only one telephone line into the office, therefore, if I am already on the telephone your call will go straight to answerphone, so please leave a message and I will call you back as soon as possible: 01386 710317. You can also email: clare@hardy-plant.org.uk

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due by 1st January each year, however, renewals may be sent from 1st October, the annual subscription rates are £17.00 for single membership or £19.00 for two members at one address (joint membership), with an optional charge of £10.00 for overseas members outside Western Europe, who wish their mailings to

be sent by airmail. If you wish to subscribe to *Cornucopia* please add £3.50 UK, £5 Overseas. Subscriptions should be sent to The Administrator, 3 Basepoint Business Centre, Crab Apple Way, Evesham, WR11 1GP. To save on admin costs you are encouraged to pay your future subscriptions by Standing Order through your bank or building society. You can request a form from the Administrator, by email or post, or download it from the website (Join the HPS on the Home Page).

Please note as of June 2019 we are no longer able to accept telephone card payments.

HPS Booklets

Please order from the web: <http://www.hardy-plant.org.uk/publications/booklets> or use the order form in the newsletter.

Clare Powell, Administrator

Contact Information

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Vice-Chair: Position vacant

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Trustees

	End of Trustee Term
Karen Gimson	2022
Peter Howard	2022
Catherine Part	2022
Keith Scott	2023
Lynne Hackett	2023
Tricia Newton	2023
Sally Adams	2023
Graham Farquhar	2025
Heather Farquhar	2025

Officers

	End of Term
Pamela Clark	Annual re-election
Helen Curtis	Annual re-election
Stuart Senior	Annual re-election
Linda Hall	Annual re-election

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