



Rest in Peace Your Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
We offer our heartfelt thoughts and condolences to the entire Royal Family at this sad time.

Hello... and welcome to the first issue of our 'new' DHPS Newsletter. We have decided to separate our 'news' from the lovely articles Diana Guy writes and puts together in the Hardy Times. See below for more information.

We're looking forward to our speaker meetings starting again this month, and as we're now officially in autumn (!) this is the best time to plant and even move those plants you've realised all summer were in the wrong place! ☺ Keep them well watered though!

Looking forward to seeing you all next week.

Saturday 24th September – speaker meeting

We will be welcoming Tim Stretton, Head Gardener at Folly Farm, initially an Edward Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll collaboration, now lovingly restored. Tim has worked with Dan Pearson and the owners throughout the careful restoration to create a modern interpretation of a Jekyll Garden incorporating the wider landscape. For those fortunate to have seen it, it is a truly memorable garden.

Timings:

1.45pm. giving you 45 minutes to have refreshments and home-made cake, buy plants on the plant stall and raffle tickets prior to the talk

2.30pm..talk starts

3.15pm (approx) a comfort break of 15minutes

3.30pm (approx.) Tim Stretton Q&A followed by DHPS notices.

4.15pm (approx) end of meeting

Your help to put chairs away is always much appreciated.

Our Sustainability and your Tea/Coffee!

We now have a dishwasher in the kitchen so will be reverting to cups and saucers again. However, if you would like to help us save water and electricity, please feel free to bring your own mug or travel mug for us to fill (as long as it's not too large!)

Visitors and New Members

From our September meeting, we are pleased to be opening up to visitors again, entrance fee £4.

From October we will be opening up to new members, more about this next month.

Monitoring numbers will continue to ensure space in the hall is comfortable. If capacity is reached then membership may have to be closed again.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 24th September – talk
'Folly Farm' with Tim Stretton.

Saturday 22nd October - talk
'Crocsmia and Gladioli:
From breeding, getting a plant to market, and field judging for the RHS' with Paul Lewis.

**Saturday 26th November - our
Celebrity Speaker talk with
Nick Bailey** talking about
'365 Days of Colour'.
**Members only -
Entrance £6 by ticket**

Saturday 28th January - talk
'In the not so Bleak Mid-Winter'. Timothy Walker will be looking at opportunities for bringing winter interest to your garden.

Committee Members

Group Secretary:

Gilly Baxter

email dorsethps@gmail.com

Membership Secretary:

Ro Jecock

Treasurer:

Richard Cooke

Speaker Co-ordinator:

Helen McIlmurray

Events Co-ordinator:

Judy Spratley

Volunteers Co-ordinator:

Liz Underwood

Newsletter Editor, Website &
Communications:

Viv East

Celebrity Speaker Event – Sat 26th November

This year we're welcoming Nick Bailey as our Celebrity Speaker, and he will be talking about '365 Days of Colour'. **Currently for members only. Tickets (£6 each) will be available at the September meeting.**

'Newsletter' and the 'Hardy Times'

As mentioned above, from now on this 'Newsletter' will be the format for our 'news'. It will be sent to you approximate one week before our speaker meetings/key events, giving you latest information about those events as well as other important/time-related DHPS group news. It will (hopefully) be a maximum of 2 pages, (3 pages for this issue as there is so much to tell you).

The Hardy Times in future will be sent out quarterly – in line with the seasons - and as before contain articles from Diana and other members, about plants, gardens, and other gardening related items.

Contributing to the Newsletter or Hardy Times

Please feel free to contribute to either of these publications. If you know of a local gardening event or would like to write about a specific plant or plant group or garden you have visited that you'd like to recommend, or even a useful tip, then simply email our Group Secretary at dorsethps@gmail.com and we will do the rest – either forward it to our Newsletter Editor, or to Diana for the Hardy Times. (**Note:-** The text can be in an email or Word or other word processor. Pictures for inclusion should be clear and the highest quality possible – ie the largest file size possible)

New Committee Members needed!

DHPS Needs You!

As you can see from our committee list on page 1, we are a small group of only seven. One might say too small! We need more people on the committee to make the committee more sustainable considering we're supposed to stand down after 3years of serving.

If you're not backward in coming forward in voicing your thoughts to contribute ideas/help with decisions/assist with committee jobs then please consider joining us. We generally meet for 2 hrs a couple of weeks before each key event or speaker meeting. If you think you might be interested, then please talk to a committee member at the next meeting or email the Group Secretary.

Committee Members

On page 1 is the list of current committee members. At meetings they are easily distinguishable by their **RED** lanyards, (member lanyards are green). Feel free to say hello and ask questions if you have any.

Since Debbie Steel stood down at the AGM we have been without a Chair, so I'm sure you can understand we have been going through a period of regrouping – especially as Debbie did so much. We are getting there, please bear with us.

What Happens at our Meetings

The **Membership Year** runs from January to December

Speaker Meetings are normally January to April, and September to November. This leaves the summer clear for our gardening ventures, trips etc

Doors open at 1.45pm with the talk starting promptly at 2.30pm. This gives you time to look at the Plant sale table, the Events table and buy your raffle tickets. (Note: the AGM and Celebrity Speaker meetings may be slightly different so please check)

Tea/Coffee and cake is served before the talk starts. Costs are £1 for tea/coffee and £1 for a piece of home-made cake.

Raffle Tickets... £1 for a strip of five tickets

Plant Sales Table is at every speaker meeting, usually outside. You can donate your surplus plants or you can sell them for your chosen price, and pay us a little commission. More details about how it works and the presentation of your sale plants are on our website www.dorsethps.org.uk

Events Table... will have details and/or to book on day trips.

Volunteers... Liz Underwood (Committee) organises our volunteers to help with running our meetings, or even baking a cake! If you'd like to help just grab Liz at a meeting or email us. We do **NOT** ask for your help at every meeting. To show our appreciation for your help you get a strip of raffle tickets. ☺

Communicating with the Committee

Our email address dorsethps@gmail.com is used to communicate with you so you can easily recognise who the email is from. Please use the same email address as your main method for contacting us. Our Group Secretary, Gilly Baxter, manages our email Inbox and Gilly will either deal with your email herself, or forward it to the relevant member of the committee. This email address is also displayed on all our communications (eg at the top of this newsletter).

NB: This 'single point of contact' for you saves you having to decide who to email, and also means personal email addresses of the committee are not advertised and so are less likely to be 'spammed'.

Please do not email Debbie Steel with your queries even if you still have her email address as she is no longer on the committee and so it's extra work for her to pass on queries.

Membership Fee from January 2023

At the AGM back in February there was a consensus from those attending that our membership fee was 'too cheap' and should be increased in 2023.

However, after discussion in committee, and considering the cost of membership to the national HPS is mandatory for our members, we have decided not to increase our fee - but to simplify. The annual fee will be **£5 per person** - this means there will be NO 'Joint' membership category. Our method of communicating with you is primarily by email which helps to keep our costs down, (national HPS produce hard copy Newsletters etc which are posted to you). So this single membership category will also enable us to simplify our own administration of members.

NB: Membership renewals will start in October, Forms and procedure will be distributed with the October Newsletter.

2023 Holiday & Day Trips - Update

After a lot of research and deliberation, the Events Team have decided that we will **not** be organising a Dorset HPS Holiday in 2023.

The reasons for this decision are many and varied. In this post-covid world, the way people travel has changed and the booking process is now far more difficult. We do not yet know the impact that fuel increases will have on our pricing structure and some businesses will not commit to an advance booking because of the uncertainties surrounding fuel costs and staffing shortages.

So, we will be having a break (!) in 2023 and will review our plans next year with hopes of running a holiday in 2024. We would like to thank all those members who have supported and enjoyed the holidays over the last 12 years and we hope to see you on a holiday with us in the future.

We will be organising extra day trips throughout 2023 to help fill the void. Watch this space.