

# Dorset Group

## Newsletter

February 2023

Group Secretary email: dorsethps@gmail.com

www.dorsethps.org.uk



# HPS

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

Gardening with hardy perennials

*Hello everyone...*

*What a great talk we had in January – I know many of us were scribbling down plant names as Timothy Walker reeled them off... so you'll be pleased to see the promised plant list attached to the email with this newsletter. He was certainly entertaining too – lots of laughter in the hall which was a great way to start the year.*

*Before the talk next Saturday we have our AGM, please see below for the adjusted timings for the meeting, and note that refreshments will also be complimentary.*

*Looking forward to seeing you all next Saturday ..... Ed.*

### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February

#### AGM - 2pm start - talk to follow

Please note different timings. We always try to keep the AGM itself as brief – and as necessary – as possible, followed by the talk. As per our Constitution, Notices of the AGM have been sent to you, plus the opportunity to nominate yourself or someone else to the committee.

#### Timings:

**1.15pm** gate opens, remember to bring membership forms in an envelope please & drop into the box on the reception table

**2.00pm** AGM followed by a short break with refreshments

**3.00pm** Start of talk, followed by Q&A's, and DHPS Notices

**4.30pm approx.** end of meeting

**Refreshments:** drinks and cake will be complimentary this meeting

*Your help to put chairs away is always much appreciated.*

### Talk After the AGM

#### Nigel Hopes with 'A Garden for All Seasons'

We're welcoming Nigel Hopes, Head Gardener at 'John's Garden' Ashwood Nurseries, talking about 'A Garden for all Seasons' the garden of renowned plantsman John Massey VMH.

Apparently, Nigel is bringing some 'cards' with him for sale – but we have no idea what sort of card... perhaps be prepared with cash?

After qualifying in horticulture and working at Birmingham Botanical gardens for 10 years, in 2018 Nigel became Head Gardener for Chelsea gold medallist John Massey VMH in his private garden, John's Garden at Ashwood Nurseries. This wonderful 3 acre site, visited on our Cheshire holiday in 2021, is regarded as one of the finest private gardens in the UK, with magnificent collections of trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials and conifers adding to year round interest.

### Dates for your Diary

#### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February – AGM

**at 2pm** followed by Nigel Hopes, Head Gardener at Ashwood Nurseries talking about 'A Garden for all Seasons', the garden of renowned plantsman John Massey VMH

#### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March – talk

Julie Haylock helping us with 'Garden Designs for the Average Garden - Realistic and Achievable'

#### Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – talk

Andrew Humphris talking about 'Parham Walled Garden'

#### Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May – 2.30 – 4.30

##### Our own Plant Fair

(see notes opposite to book a table to sell your own plants)

#### Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

TBC

#### Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October

Terry Baker and 'Terry and Mary's Favourites: Peonies, Hollyhocks and Foxgloves'.

#### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November

##### Celebrity Speaker Event by Ticket Only

with Tom Hart Dyke talking about 'Developing the World Garden'.

## Plant Sales Table at this meeting

Your donations to the plant sales table are very welcome, including those you'd like to sell with the double ticketing system.

## Membership for 2023

Thanks to all who have renewed subscriptions for 2023, and thankfully, most of you remembered to cancel your standing orders!

If you have paid but not yet given us your completed Dorset membership form for 2023, please remember to bring it with you to our meeting next Saturday. There will be some hard copy forms available for people who need them. Also please ensure you have renewed your national membership and have your membership number to hand when completing your Dorset membership form.

If you haven't yet renewed, 25th February is our 'cut-off' date for renewals. After that date you can of course re-join but we will start the process of removing non-members' details from our databases in line with our Privacy Policy.

Please remember to renew if you don't want to lose contact with us!

## Village Hall Car Park

The Village Hall has a new set of gates, giving a pedestrian gate and a vehicle gate. As people will be walking around, parking in the Village Hall car park is reserved for speakers and those unloading equipment etc who enter early before members start arriving. If you have mobility issues please email us before the meeting so we can work out the best way to help you.

## Refund for Nick Bailey Tickets

There are still a few refunds not yet collected for the Nick Bailey tickets. These will be available at the meeting next Saturday.

## Fire Safety Procedures at Meetings

Please ensure you sign in at every meeting - this applies to helpers and visitors too.

In the event of fire evacuation, an accurate list will be essential to confirm that everyone is out of the building. We will be reminding you of the evacuation procedure at meetings. Everyone should congregate at the muster point in front of the school nearby (turn right out of the Village Hall gate). Do not congregate in the Village Hall car park as emergency vehicles will need access.

## First Aiders

For your information, two of our committee have recently attended a First Aiders course, and passed with flying colours. Hopefully we won't need them! (They are Gilly Baxter and Viv East)

## Articles for the Spring issue of the Hardy Times

If you have any contributions for the Hardy Times please get them to us as soon as possible, by the end of February would be great. Articles can be anything garden and/or plant related, Tips and Hints etc etc.

## 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. Giving time to look at the Plant Sales table, the Events table and buy your raffle tickets. (**NB:** the AGM and Celebrity Speaker meetings may be slightly different so please check)

**Tea/Coffee and cake** £1 for tea/coffee & £1 for a piece of home-made cake. To help us use less electricity, bring your own mug or travel mug.

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

**Plant Sales Table** is at most speaker meeting (except the Celebrity 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](http://www.dorsethps.org.uk)

**Volunteers...** The more volunteers we have the less often we ask for your help. If you'd like to help on the day of a meeting, and/or enjoy baking a cake, just grab a committee member at any 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. 😊

## Our Plant Fair – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May – 2.30 to 4.30pm

We had a very successful and gorgeous sunny day last year for our annual Plant Fair. This event is open to the public as well as our members. Last year's set up will be repeated with plant sale tables in the car park, while refreshments can be bought in the hall.

If you're a keen propagator and/or have split your perennials then for just £10 you can have your own sales table and sell your own plants with no further payment to us. Or perhaps share a table with a friend. You can sell anything you like – not just perennials. May is an ideal time for vegetables, and annuals and all sorts. Please just ensure they are well rooted in their pots ie not potted within days.

Alternatively, you can donate your plants to us for our 'Donations Table' where funds raised go into DHPS funds towards events and speakers.

**To book** a 6ft table (or space if you have your own table) please email the Group Secretary on [dorsethps@gmail.com](mailto:dorsethps@gmail.com) giving us your telephone number so we can contact you. We will also have a clipboard at the meeting next week where you can add your details.

## Day Trips this Year

We were hoping to run 3 or 4 day trips this year – however, with a small committee we have to be practical, and are very conscious of overstressing ourselves.

So, we're going to start with one trip – to **Kew Gardens** – it will be special as we haven't been there for several years. More details and a booking form will be sent to you with the Spring edition of the Hardy Times at the beginning of March.

If we get volunteers willing to help us organise trips we may be able to run more.

## Your Nurseries for our Nurseries Map for members

Many thanks to those who have emailed us with your favourite lesser known nurseries... we hope to hear from more of you.

We need to take advantage of **your** personal knowledge because some of these special places don't appear on Google at all, some say they're wholesale only – but do have 'Open Days' a few times during the season, or will open up for a group – ideal for a DHPS evening visit perhaps. No defined area at the moment - some of us travel miles, don't we?

So, please email us with ANY that you know of with as much information as you can. Name and contact number, and address. If you'd like to add a comment eg unusual varieties, great knowledge, tea-room (!?) – you know what we gardeners want – it will be very well received. Then we'll have a go at producing something (hopefully for Easter) that may be useful for all of us.

## Workshops

Jane Norris will run these at her home in Ferndown. Please email the Group Secretary to register your interest and for more details.

'Propagating Plants for Selling' - 14<sup>th</sup> March – fully booked

'Propagating Snowdrops via Twin-scaling' – June/July.