

Dorset Group

Newsletter

January 2024

Group Secretary email: dorsethps@gmail.com

www.dorsethps.org.uk



HPS

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

Gardening with hardy perennials

Hello everyone... welcome to 2024... and here's hoping for a lovely and successful growing year with lots of sunshine – we need it after the grey and rain of the past few months!

*We have a fabulous programme of speakers for you this year see the list on the right, with **two** Celebrity speaker events... Sue Kent and Toby Buckland... more detail about each talk is on our website.*

*Our annual Plant Fair on Saturday 18th May is in the **morning 10am to 12noon**... book a table to sell your own plants - more below.*

*The Events team will soon be announcing some exciting garden visits and day trips for the summer, and we **WILL** have a Christmas Social event this year!*

Please read, and consider, Rowena's message about joining us on the committee – because of the 3 year term of service we need new committee members every year.... Ed.

Saturday 27th January - talk

'The Fair Maids of February' with Mickey Little from Avon Bulbs

Mickey Little is a professional horticulturist. Trained at Cannington, former nurseryman at Kelways, former Assistant head gardener Killerton, former head gardener at Castle Drogo, Hestercombe and Achamore. A wee bit of a plantsman who loves plants. Nurseryman and propagator at Avon Bulbs.

Mickey will be bringing plants and bulbs for sale, so bring your pennies.

Timings:

1.45pm - gate opens, buy raffle tickets;
refreshments **Tea/Coffee £1, Cake £1** – no increase

2.30pm – talk starts, followed by Q&A and Notices

4.15pm approx. end of meeting

Your help to put chairs away is always much appreciated

New Committee Members Wanted

As you know, we have an active committee organising speakers and events as well as general management. It is important that we have a few new members join us each year, bringing fresh ideas and to provide a succession of experience on the Committee. See the list of roles below – numbers 3 and 4 could be the same person.

Please consider whether you could contribute in 2024, by standing for a committee place at the AGM on 24th February.

Thank you..... Rowena Jecock - Chair

WE NEED YOU!



Dates for your Diary

Sat 27th January – talk

'The Fair Maids of February'
Mickey Little from Avon
Bulbs talking about
snowdrops

Sat 24th February -

AGM followed by talk

'For the Love of Roses' -
Gillian Taylor talking about
her passion for Roses

Sat 23rd March -talk

'Creating Beautiful Borders'
Wildgoose Nursery

Sat 27th April – talk

'Thugs and Wimps' with
Marina Christopher

Sat 18th May - 10am – 12noon

Our annual Plant Fair

(book a table to sell your
own plants – see main text)

Sat 28th September – talk

'Designing & Planting a Small
Garden' with Andy McIndoe

Celebrity Speakers

Ticket only (price TBC)

Sat 26th October – talk

'My Evolving Garden'
with Sue Kent, including her
journey to where she is
today

Sat 23rd November – talk

'Abundance' with
Toby Buckland, best varieties
and techniques for bumper
crops and flower borders

Sat 7th December -

Christmas Social

We need:

- 1. If anyone would like to take over from me as Chair in 2024, please let me know. As per our Constitution we have to have a Chairperson - it was something national HPS chased us about in 2022. I am happy to continue as Membership Secretary, but with commitments elsewhere I'd be grateful to pass on the mantle of Chair to an enthusiastic successor!*
- 2. Someone to take over the Treasurer role from Richard Cooke, who has done the job for 5 years. Managing the Group's finances is no different in principle to managing household accounts - something we all do all the time! If you are comfortable with using MS Excel that would be brilliant.*
- 3. Someone with familiarity with Microsoft Word to produce our monthly Newsletter and the quarterly Hardy Times. Information for the newsletter comes from members of the committee, and both documents have templates so are easy to populate! Handover with training will be available.*
- 4. Someone to send out our newsletters and other communications to members; and also keep the website up to date with information provided by the rest of the committee. We use MailChimp for the emailing, and Weebly for the website editing. Both are fairly straight forward to use and handover training will be available so you're not on your own.*
- 5. We would also like to have 2 more 'general' committee members to contribute ideas and help out generally. With no specific role this is an 'easy' entry into the committee if you're at all concerned about being thrown into a particular role.*

Rowena Jecock, Chair

2024 Membership Renewals

Thank you to all who have renewed your DHPS membership. If you have not yet done so, please renew as soon as possible. The Membership Form containing full instructions is attached with this newsletter, and payment can be cash or cheque paid at meetings, or bank transfer. Paper forms will also be available at the next meeting.

Your national HPS renewals: Quite a few people have told us of difficulties in renewing their national HPS membership with the new online system, please let Ro Jecock know and we will help you. Email membership.dorsethps@gmail.com or the Group Secretary by simply replying to this email.

Refreshments Prices at Speaker Meetings

Unlike of cost of living increases elsewhere we are keeping the charges for a drink (tea or coffee) at £1, and similarly a piece of cake is staying at £1. Enjoy ☺.

Remember, be 'eco' bring your own mug.

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 Information Table and buy your raffle tickets. (**NB:** the AGM and Celebrity Speaker meetings may be slightly different so please check)

Committee Members can be identified easily with their red lanyards.

Refreshments £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 meetings (except the Celebrity meeting). Please donate your plants to help DHPS funds. If you are a keen propagator you can sell your plants for your chosen price. Check our website for how the 'double-ticketing' system works and guidance on plant presentation.

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 check the Information Board table for the sign-up sheet, or email us. To show our appreciation for your help you get a strip of raffle tickets. ☺

Plant Fair – Sat 18th May. 10am to 12noon

We were lucky again with the weather last year so we're keeping fingers crossed it will be repeated for this year's fair!

Please note that the sale will be in the morning 10am to 12noon.

The DHPS Plant Fair is open to the public to come and buy as well as our members. Last year's layout will be repeated with plant sale tables in the car park, and refreshments will be on sale in the hall.

If you're a keen propagator and/or have spare plants from splitting your perennials then for £10 you can have your own sales table and sell your 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, 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 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) email the Group Secretary on dorsethps@gmail.com giving us your telephone number so we can contact you.

****You can also sign up for a table/space using the Plant Fair form on the Information Table at the meeting next week.**

Recycle your Gardening Magazines

Keep bringing those gardening related magazines you've finished with - and help yourself to another one or two. There are still a few of the old HPS specific genus booklets – please ignore the £1 sticky ticket on them – they are all free (as new updated versions are now available).

Your Feedback on Talks

We're continuing with asking for your feedback on the talk you've just heard. As you leave the hall please pop your badge (minus the lanyard) into one of the two boxes on the reception table in the lobby, marked with a happy face 😊 and an unhappy face ☹️

Snowdrops – Jane Norris' Open Garden dates

Jane Norris is again opening her Ferndown garden in February for snowdrop lovers. She has over 130 named varieties and there will be a limited number of bulbs for sale too.

Dates are:- 8th to 11th Feb, & 15th to 18th February

Time: 12noon – 4pm

Entrance: by donation for Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance

Address: 10 Ryan Close, Ferndown BH22 9TP

(off Ameysford Road)

Soup, drinks and cake will be available.