



HPS

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

Gardening with hardy perennials

Dorset Group *Hardy Times*

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SATURDAY, 26th JANUARY 2019

AGM

Our AGM will precede the January speaker and will start at 2 pm, and so doors will open at 1.30 pm. Please note that no further admittance will be allowed whilst the AGM is in progress.

January's speaker is Lyn Miles (one of our own members) with a talk entitled '**For the Love of Snowdrops**'. Lyn has been acquiring snowdrops for many years and now has a collection of almost 400 named varieties, plus drifts of singles and doubles throughout her garden, which she opens every year for other galanthophiles. For those who favour Pulmonarias, she has 100 varieties of those!



She will open for the NGS (£3 entrance) every Thursday from 17th January to 7th March, 11-4pm, plus on 8th & 15th February, from 1-4pm and 17th, 23rd and 24th February from 11-4pm. Home-made soups, tea/coffee and cakes!

Westcroft, Boscombe Village, Salisbury, SP4 0AB.
www.westcroftgarden.co.uk

Surplus Funds

We have received 5 nominations for local charities and would like our members to vote for the charity that they would like to receive a donation from us. Votes may be cast by any member at the AGM. The

Treasurer will then count the votes and apportion the donation made to each charity, dependant on how many votes each charity gets. The results will be announced at the February Speaker Meeting.

A description of what each of the charities do is available in advance and will be available at the AGM-see our website or please contact us.

February 23rd speaker – Rosy Hardy 'Seasonal Plants'

Rosy needs no introduction – two coach-loads of us visited her nursery, Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants, last Spring. Her displays in Chelsea's Great Pavilion showcase some of her favourite varieties as well as her new introductions, all planted with such artistry that the Hardys have won 20 Chelsea Gold Medals. She will of course be bringing plants for sale.

Anne and Guy Trehane will once again open their garden at Manor Farm, Hampreston, on the same day, 23rd February, from 10am to 1pm, for their **annual hellebore weekend** (an NGS event) – so you can make a day of your visit to Wimborne! Dorset Perennial Plants will be there selling hellebores and other spring flowering plants. The garden will be open again on the following day, Sunday 24th, from 1-5pm. Hot soup, chocolate and refreshments will be served on both days by Dorset Lupus.

TAKE NOTE!!

Please renew your 2019 subscriptions by the end of January. If not, you will be considered to be a visitor to future meetings and will be charged an admission fee of £3.50. As the Membership table will be busy, Janet will be dealing only with new memberships or queries. For straightforward membership renewals there will be a Post Box, with envelopes and a slip to complete, for your subscription (cheque or cash). The post box will be on the Membership table. For those of you who have paid by standing order, (please consider this if you haven't already, it makes it easier for us), your new membership card will be given out with your lanyard. **Local membership remains the same this year - £5 single, £8 joint.**

New RHS Partner Garden

Knoll Gardens has been an RHS Partner Garden for years. Many of our members volunteer there on Fridays and help create the most stunning garden, always something new to see and worth visiting as often as possible for inspiration.

New for this year though is Burrow Farm Gardens, created by Mary Benger who came to speak to us about its formation several years ago. She was Chair of HPS Somerset. It's close to Axminster: 13 acres "blending the formal and informal with vistas that bring in the surrounding rural landscape". Plus a delightful refreshment area and a nursery!

Winter Gardens

Hilliers near Romsey has a wonderful winter garden and if you are an RHS member, you get in free during January and February. Kingston Lacy's snowdrops are also hard to beat, and Anglesey Abbey is splendid, if you happen to be in the Cambridge area.



Ruth Royse

It is with great sadness that we must announce that Ruth died on 12th January. Most of you will recognise her from manning the Raffle Table over many years, always cheerful and ready for a chat. She travelled extensively and would

regularly enjoy our trips and holidays. Having moved down here 30 years ago, from Lancashire, she enjoyed flower arranging and art. Her daughter lives in Canada and Ruth visited her regularly.

Book Now!

The 2019 holiday is already fully booked, but bookings will be taken at the January meeting for the two coach outings: on Saturday, 18th May to Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park, and on Tuesday, 3rd September to Prospect House and High Garden Nursery – for all you salvia addicts– cheques to be made out to HPS Dorset Group No.2 Account. These trips can also be booked via our website.

Sunday, 27th January

Pennard Plants' Potato Day (organised by Blandford Museum Victorian Garden Club) is a regular event for those of us who grow a few vegetables, in the flower beds or elsewhere, they certainly do well in pots. Once again – its 8th year! - it will be held in Pimperne Village Hall, DT11 8UZ, from 10.30 am until 1.30 pm,

this time on Sunday 27th, the day after our January meeting. They will have numerous varieties of planting potato for sale by the single tuber, onion sets, shallots, garlic, Heritage seeds, fruit trees and soft fruit, and lots, lots more. Entry 50p – and soup and refreshments for sale. NB no debit/credit card facilities available so CASH ONLY. The venue will be well signed from all the access roads around Blandford and through Pimperne to the Village Hall, where there is ample free parking.

Plant Fayre, 11th May

Please consider this year's Plant Fayre. All the plant sales we hold help boost our finances and hence the quality of our speakers. We would be grateful if you could help us out by potting up the various plants you dig up or divide in the next few months. If you could offer help on May 11th by selling plants or serving teas, please talk to Jane or Barbara. Even better, if you propagate your own plants, you could have your own table to sell them, giving HPS just 20% of your earnings. Please email Jane (dorsethps@gmail.com).

We also provide a plant stall for the NGS openings at Hampreston and, this year, in addition, we have three NGS openings at Old Down House in Horton. So we will need masses of plants!

Topical Tips from our Experts

- *While the garden is still in its winter state it is easy to see troublesome weeds such as brambles, docks and tree seedlings. Seek and destroy now! After March new root growth will make them harder to remove.
- *Prune Wisteria, apples and pears.
- *Climbing roses need pruning - all side shoots should be cut back to within three buds and last season's strong new stems need tying in.
- *Check through your seed collection to see what needs sowing first.
- *Keep feeding the birds.
- *Check for vine weevil and use Provado if you see the little horrors.
- *Tidy greenhouse, clean pots and seed boxes.
- *Weed vegetable patches.
- *Dig a trench in readiness for beans and fill with kitchen refuse compost and/or manure.
- *Cut down your autumn-fruiting raspberries.
- *Jet spray evergreen shrubs to wash off harmful larvae
- *Still not too late to sow sweet peas
- *Mulch, mulch, mulch!

New Year's Day Flower Count

Elaine has improved on her impressive count last year- 31 plants in flower (excluding weeds!) on 1st January. Astonishing. Is it climate change or the advantage of a walled garden in town? Eric was a close second with 26.