

Dorset Group

Newsletter

January 2023

Contact email: dorsethps@gmail.com

www.dorsethps.org.uk



HPS

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

Gardening with hardy perennials

Hello everyone

A very quick hello... I mustn't chat.... too much to fit in this month 😊 Looking forward to seeing you all on the 28th Ed.

Saturday 28th January – ‘In the Not So Bleak Mid-Winter’

For our first talk of the year we're welcoming Timothy Walker who will be encouraging us to add more plants with winter interest to our gardens.

Timothy has had a varied career in horticulture including training at The Saville Garden, Windsor and at The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kent. Having worked at the University of Oxford Botanic Garden and Harcourt Arboretum between 1986 and 2014, and winning 4 Gold, 2 Silver Gilt and 1 Silver medal at Chelsea Flower Shows. Timothy is now a stipendiary lecturer in Plant Sciences at Somerville College Oxford, Pembroke College and Hertford College.

Timings:

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

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

4 pm approx. end of meeting

Your help to put chairs away is always much appreciated.

Plant Sales Table

Jane Norris will be selling snowdrops at this meeting, so if you have plants to sell, please bring them.

Membership for 2023

If you haven't already done so, remember to bring your completed Membership form and payment in an envelope and drop it in the box on the Reception table. The membership form is on our website... in the 'About Us/Membership' menu, payment instructions are in the form.

Refund for Nick Bailey Tickets

Some refunds for the Nick Bailey tickets were not collected at the last meeting. These will be available at the January meeting.

AGM next month 2pm start – talk to follow

Just to give you a little information about the AGM at next month's meeting. We always try to keep the AGM as brief – and as necessary – as possible, followed by the talk. As per our Constitution, Notices of the AGM will be sent to you at the beginning of February, plus the opportunity to nominate yourself or someone else to the committee.

New Committee Members needed ASAP

As mentioned last month, we are still looking for you to join us on the committee. At the AGM next month two committee members will be standing down. Please come and talk to us – you can join us without a specific role.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 28th January - talk

'In the not so Bleak Mid-Winter' with Timothy Walker talking about bringing winter interest to your garden.

Saturday 25th February – AGM

at 2pm followed by Nigel Hope's talk 'A Garden for all Seasons' about the garden of renowned plantsman John Massey

Saturday 25th March – talk

Julie Haylock helping us with 'Garden designs for the average garden - realistic and achievable'

Saturday 22nd April – talk

Andrew Humphris talking about 'Parham Walled Garden'

Saturday 13th May – 2.30 – 4.30

Our own Plant Fair

Committee Members

Group Secretary:

Gilly Baxter

email dorsethps@gmail.com

Membership Secretary:

Rowena Jecock

Treasurer:

Richard Cooke

Speaker Co-ordinator:

Helen McIlmurray

Events Co-ordinator:

Judy Spratley

Volunteers Co-ordinator:

Liz Underwood

Newsletter, Website &
Communications:

Viv East

'Hardy Bakers' and 'Hardy Helpers' Needed

We have divided our volunteer helpers list into two. The Hardy Bakers who, of course, bake those lovely home-made cakes we enjoy at our meetings, and the Hardy Helpers – who help us on the day of our meetings, on the reception table, selling raffle tickets, serving tea or cakes, on the plant stall etc.

The lists for signing up will be on clipboards at the January meeting, or speak to a committee member or just email us at the usual email address. At the meeting **Liz Underwood** (Volunteers Co-ordinator), will also be collecting names for either (or both) lists.

Please help. The more helpers we have on these two teams, the less often we have to ask for their help... do please pop your name down on one (or both) of the teams.

If you're not able to attend the meeting, please email and let us know you'd like to help, we'll get back to you very soon.

Map of Local Nurseries

We'd like to create a map of plant nurseries and garden centres we go to for our plants. We need to take advantage of **your** personal knowledge because some of these special places don't appear on Google, 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 that may be useful for all of us.

Day Trips

As previously mentioned – we're planning some days trips for the summer. Those provisionally planned are below... more details soon.

May – Kew Gardens; **June** – Bramdean House, and Woolbeding (National Trust); **July** – RHS Wisley;

September – Hambledon House, and Denmans

Judy Spratley our Events Co-ordinator is standing down at the AGM, so, again, if you like visiting gardens and would like to join others on the committee to share the load, we'll welcome you with open arms.

Other Events

Snowdrops Garden Open - Jane Norris will be opening her garden again in aid of the Air Ambulance, to show her display of snowdrops.

Dates are **7th to 9th and 15th to 19th February**

Time: 12noon – 4pm

Address: 10 Ryan Close, Ferndown BH22 9TP
(off Ameysford Road)

Entrance: by donation for Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance

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

'Propagating Plants for Selling' - 14th March – limited to 6.

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

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 £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

Events Table... for details and to book on day trips.

Volunteers... Liz Underwood (Committee) organises our volunteers to help run our meetings, or 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. 😊