

Dorset Group

Newsletter

August 2023

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www.dorsethps.org.uk



HPS

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

Gardening with hardy perennials

Hello... no speaker meeting to talk about this month, however...

Our self-drive visit to the gardens of Edmondsham House had a really good turnout and everyone seemed to be enjoying the visit, and although having the sun would have been much nicer thankfully it didn't rain all the time and when it did it was quite light!! At least it wasn't cold. Many thanks to Andrew Haynes (Head Gardener at Edmondsham and also our DHPS President) who showed us around and answered lots of questions. He talked about his method of composting which was informative regardless of whether you were already 'a composter' or not. He also wow'ed us with how he 'puddles in' new plantings – have you tried it yet?

Coming up is our special invitation to Knoll Gardens – it's easy to take for granted a garden that's so close to us, so do come. It's opening only for Dorset HPS, (ie not open to the public) so you'll see familiar faces and hopefully start chatting... see below for booking details.

Hope to see you there Ed.

Tuesday 29th August – Special Invitation to Knoll Gardens - Self Drive

Neil Lucas has kindly invited Dorset HPS to visit especially on this date when the gardens are not open to the public. This is a gem right on our doorstep, and those of you familiar with Knoll will already know that late summer/early autumn is a great time to visit as many of the grasses and perennials are at their peak.

Entry: is free for Dorset HPS members with their non-member partner (or friend)

Timings: 10am – 1pm or 1pm – 4pm

Refreshments and home-made cake will be available to purchase

Plants: will be available to purchase

Booking: It is important for you to book so that we know how many are attending, and whether your preference is for a morning or afternoon visit. This is for 2 reasons:

- parking at Knoll is limited, so we would like to ensure that visits are spread reasonably evenly throughout the day.
- home-made cakes will be baked specially for us, so knowing how many people to expect will help the bakers cater for us.

So, if you'd like to come, please email me by **Wednesday 16th August** at the membership email address:-

membership.dorsethps@gmail.com OR leave a message on our DHPS number **07468 853009** and I will call you back.

I need the following information:

- name(s) of people coming
- preferred time of visit (before 1pm or after 1pm)

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 29th August – self-drive
garden visit to Knoll Gardens

Saturday 23rd September
'Coping with Climate Change in the Garden' with Sally Morgan

Saturday 28th October
'Terry & Mary's Favourites: Peonies, Hollyhocks and Foxgloves' with Terry Baker

Saturday 25th November
Celebrity Speaker Event
Ticket Only (details later)
with Tom Hart Dyke talking about 'Developing the World Garden' in his walled garden in Lullingstone, and also about his time in captivity in Colombia.

Saturday 9th December – new event – Christmas Social
Details etc to be confirmed in the September Newsletter

Other non-DHPS events

The websites of both the Dorset and Hampshire Federations of Horticultural Societies are useful to keep an eye on for events put on by local gardening clubs and horticultural societies. You can also find these and other links on our website on the 'Other Local Events' page.

<https://dorsetfederation.org.uk/events/>

<https://www.hampshirefedhortisoc.org.uk/new-calendar/>

Car-sharing: we know that not everyone has their own transport, so if you would like to come, but do not have access to transport, please let me know. If you have transport and would be willing to offer a lift to someone who lives near you, please also let me know, and I will do my best to try to link people together.

I hope to see many of you on 29th August. Keep your fingers crossed for some sunshine!

Very best wishes.... *Rowena*

New Event - Saturday 9th December – afternoon - our own Gardeners' Question Time & Christmas Social

Pop this date in your diary now... this is still in the planning stage and more details will be in the September Newsletter. The overall aim is to have some gardening related entertainment and fun, and to celebrate Christmas sociably with some refreshments too.

New Committee Member

We are delighted to introduce and welcome Sarah Neophytou, whom we were very pleased to co-opt on to the Committee this summer. Sarah is a professional horticulturist who has recently moved back to Bournemouth after working in London for many years, including at Capel Manor and as Head Gardener of 42 acres at The Hurlingham Club.

Sarah is heading up the Events Sub-Committee, and we look forward to seeing what she has in store for next year. If you are interested in joining the Events Sub-Committee to help Sarah plan and arrange garden visits please email her at events.dorsethps@gmail.com

Propagating Plants – Right now

Now is an excellent time to take cuttings from this year's growth from many of your tender perennials and shrubby plants – shrubs; salvias; fuchsias; pelargoniums; penstemons; osteospermums; lavender etc. You can also split perennials - Gardeners' World on Friday 4th August, and now available on BBC iPlayer - shows how you can produce more plants from divisions of perennials. Do have a go, and then you can....

....Donate to our Plant Sales Tables

Please remember that we need, and really appreciate, your donated plants to our Plant Sales Tables** at our speaker meetings. Donated plants are a great fund-raiser for DHPS, where monies raised help us to fund events and keep our membership fees down.

I'm promising, right now, to bring one donated plant to each meeting starting in September – will you too? Yes, you can chase me on this! Ed.

Selling your Plants for Your own Profit

Are you a prolific propagator? If you are and would like to bring a tray or two of plants to our meetings to sell, then **you will be pleased to know we have decided to do away with the 20% commission we previously charged for selling your plants at our meetings.** So, from now on you get **100%** of your sales price - however, we do expect you to stay and help on the plant sales table - it can get very busy! 😊

If you have any questions about selling your plants at our meetings please email the group secretary at dorsethps@gmail.com

****NB:** the quality of plants on our Plant Sales Table is important, so please refer to the guidance notes on plant presentation on our website.

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. 😊