

Dorset Group

Newsletter

September 2023

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www.dorsethps.org.uk



Hello everyone... goodness, we're officially in autumn, (!!) and that means our speaker meetings are starting again.

Our special invitation to Knoll Gardens at the end of August was really well attended with about 65 of us enjoying the gardens. The grasses were all looking stunning, and many of us spent a fair amount of time plant shopping! Oh, and the cakes were very yummy too.

Don't forget to bring your plants for the plant sales table ☺

Please note we have a change of speaker in October – details below.

Looking forward to seeing you all next Saturday Ed.

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

Sally is an experienced organic, 'no dig' gardener and wildlife enthusiast, with a degree in botany. She is an experienced garden writer and has authored three gardening books:- The Healthy Vegetable Garden, Living on One Acre or Less, and The Climate Change Garden. Sally will be bringing her books for sale.

Timings:

1.45pm - gate opens – refreshments, raffle, plant sales

2.30pm - Start of talk, followed by Q&A and Notices

4.15pm approx. end of meeting

Book your Ticket for our Celebrity Talk - 'Developing the World Garden' with Tom Hart Dyke Saturday 25th November – by ticket only: £7 for members

Tom Hart Dyke is an English horticulturist, author and intrepid plant hunter from the well-known Hart Dyke family. He is the son and heir of Guy and Sarah Hart Dyke at the family seat of Lullingstone Castle, Eynsford, Kent, and Tom is the designer of its 'World Garden'. He is an exciting and passionate speaker about his fascinating collection of plants and his talk will also include his 9 month kidnap ordeal in the Colombian jungle. (And you're probably already familiar with his cousin, famous comedienne, Miranda Hart.)

The booking form containing full instructions, is attached to the email with this newsletter.

We're operating the same method we've used previously this year ie bring your completed form with your cash or cheque in an envelope to our meeting and drop in the Events box at reception. If paying by bank transfer the form can be brought to a meeting and dropped in the box, or scanned and emailed to the email specified. Full details are in the form.

NB: For those without email we will have some forms at the meeting so just bring your money! ☺

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 23rd September

'Coping with Climate Change in the Garden' with Sally Morgan

Saturday 28th October

change of speaker (see below)

'Born in the USA' with Martin Young

Saturday 25th November

Celebrity Speaker Event

Ticket Only (see opposite)

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 –

Gardeners' Question Time and Christmas Social

Change of Speaker for October meeting

Sadly, due to ill health, Terry and Mary Baker are now not able to attend. However, we are pleased to tell you we have Martin Young joining us again, his talk - 'Born in the USA' is about colourful perennials and shrubs which are now commonplace in the UK but originated in North America (includes Canada, USA & N. Mexico). A surprising range of plants, including impressive and colourful trees.

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

We hope this date is already in your diary! We're finalising details at the moment and more details will be in the October Newsletter. However, start thinking about any burning questions you'd like to ask the DHPS Gardeners' Question Time panel. The overall aim is to have some gardening related entertainment and fun, and to celebrate Christmas sociably with some refreshments too.

What do you think of the talk you've just heard?

Some of you regularly tell us what you think of our speakers and talks, but we'd like to introduce a simple and immediate way of having your feedback. So, at each meeting, starting next Saturday, we are asking you to drop your name badge into one of the two boxes on the reception table in the lobby, marked with 😊 and 😞
Feedback from everyone like this will really help your committee with choosing speakers/topics in the future.

Events Sub-Committee – members' help wanted!

Last month we told you Sarah Neophytou has recently joined the committee and has taken on the role of Events Co-ordinator for trips/garden visits. She is looking for some enthusiastic members with ideas and organisational skills to help her with planning/organisation for 2024. This is not a main committee position. Please do consider whether you could help and if so, speak to Sarah at the September meeting or email her at events.dorsethps@gmail.com

New Treasurer needed for 2024!

Richard Cooke, our Treasurer, has been doing the job for some years, and is due a rest! We are looking for a member to take over from him, preferably from February 2024. You need to be comfortable with numbers and handling cash, and ideally, be familiar with using a spreadsheet or be willing to learn. You will not be left in the lurch! Richard has kindly offered to give support initially to his replacement if needed. The Treasurer is one of the officers of the Committee, so participation in committee meetings and decision-making is also important. Please speak to Richard or Rowena asap if you think you might be interested, or email the group secretary.

Wimborne Community Garden

Many of you may already be aware of the Wimborne Community Garden (WCG) established in 2022 to enable the local community meet, share gardening skills and grow fresh produce for the Beaucroft café and the local food bank. Jane Benson, founder of the WCG, will be coming to tell us more about the garden at our October meeting, for a few minutes before the main talk. Once we know more about what they need, we hope DHPS will be able to help them.

Also, see their flyer in the email with this newsletter regarding a fund-raising talk from gardening guru Tamsin Westhorpe talking about 'Preparing for the Best Spring Ever' on 10th October, 7.15pm at the Beaucroft College Hall. Tickets cost £10 per person which includes mulled apple juice and Dorset Apple cake. There will also be a garden-themed raffle. *See the flyer in the email with this newsletter for full details and how to book tickets.*

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. 😊