

Dorset Group

Newsletter

February 2024

Group Secretary email: dorsethps@gmail.com

www.dorsethps.org.uk



HPS

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

Gardening with hardy perennials

Hello everyone...

Our meeting next week kicks off with our AGM, so please note the timings are a little earlier than normal. AGM business will be completed fairly quickly – see approximate timings below. Then after the AGM we have Gillian Taylor and her love of roses – I think we're all looking forward to roses blooming around June, aren't we?

Please note, we're reintroducing **'teasticks'** for paying for your refreshments... more information below reminding you how it works.

Our annual Plant Fair on Saturday 18th May is in the **morning 10am to 12noon**... book a table to sell your own plants, and we're also looking for your donated books for the fair - more below. Ed.

Saturday 24th February – AGM

Please note these Timings:

1.30pm - gate opens, buy raffle tickets;
refreshments **Tea/Coffee £1, Cake £1** – (no price increase)

2pm – AGM

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

4.30pm approx. end of meeting

Your help to put chairs away is always much appreciated

Committee Nominations

The following are nominated for voting at the AGM:-

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Chair – | Rowena Jecock |
| Group Secretary – | Gilly Baxter |
| Treasurer – | Richard Cooke |
| General Committee – | Heidi Bateman, Sheila Lister, Rick Wall,
Sarah Neophytou |

Following the AGM - talk

For the Love of Roses – Gillian Taylor

Gillian is an enthusiastic gardener and plantswoman (AND one of our members) with a passion for roses. This talk is the story of how she came to love roses so much, from having only two a few years ago she has progressed to growing around 250 varieties in her collection. Her talk will discuss the diverse types of rose that are available, where to buy them, how to use them in various garden settings, where to see them, their care and suggestions for companion plantings.

Teasticks are 'back'

We've decided to reintroduce the purchase of 'teasticks' for paying for tea/coffee and cake **before** you get your refreshments. We'll set up a table where you can pay - probably by the raffle table – then you take your teasticks to the hatch and/or the cake table.

Tea/Coffee - £1, Cake - £1

**Remember... be 'eco'... bring your own mug or travel mug.

Dates for your Diary

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

Ticketed Events (price TBC)

Sat 26th October – talk

SUE KENT

talking about

'My Evolving Garden'

including her journey to where she is today

Sat 23rd November – talk

TOBY BUCKLAND and

'Abundance'

best varieties and

techniques for bumper crops and flower borders

Sat 7th December -

Christmas Social

(more information later)

Plant Sales Tables at Meetings

Managing the plants sales table at meetings is 'tricky' because of lack of space within the hall and also because donated plants have been on the same table as those members selling their own plants for profit. So, starting next week, we are going to trial **two** plant selling areas. The 'Donated Plants' sales table will stay in the hall – so please bring your donated plants here. Those members selling their own plants can have a table each and will be sited outside the hall. We hope this will also encourage members to circulate, rather than all trying to get around one table.

Dorset HPS Green Aprons

We seem to be missing a couple of our green volunteers aprons – so if all volunteers could check in case the apron is in the bottom of a bag somewhere that'd be great, many thanks.

Would you like to open your garden to members this summer?

If any of you would consider opening your garden to our members during the summer then please get in touch. The date and time is your choice to suit you and your garden. We think this would make for a nice sociable afternoon – hopefully on a lovely sunny day? Please email the Group Secretary or grab a committee member at one of our speaker meetings to discuss further.

Plant Fair – Donations to include Books

We hope all our members will be able to spare one or two plants to donate to our Plant Fair in May. This year we're also asking if you have a book or two that you'd also like to donate. Please bring along to speaker meetings over the next couple of months, look for the plastic crate under/by the reception table. Any not sold on the day will be taken to a charity book shop. As with donated plants, funds raised will go into DHPS funds towards our speaker costs etc etc.

Are you booking a table to sell at the plant fair? £10 for a table (or space if you have your own table). Consider sharing a table with a friend?

Audio/Visual Help Required

We need someone to help, mainly as a backup, setting up the audio equipment at our speaker meetings – and occasionally the projector. You don't have to have previous audio experience, as it's fairly straightforward... please get in touch if interested.

Articles for Hardy Times Spring issue

We'll be putting together the Spring issue of the Hardy Times over the coming weeks, so would be pleased to have your contributions soonish. Articles can be a favourite plant, a garden you've visited, a gardening related story of some kind... all gratefully received. Just send the text in an email, and photos too if you have them.

March Speaker – Wildegoose Nursery

We're really looking forward to welcoming Wildegoose Nursery from their walled garden in Shropshire to our March speaker meeting – and if you'd like a little advance information about the nursery they were featured in Gardener's World on Friday 2nd February, which you can access on BBC iPlayer, search for Gardeners World, it's then under 'Compilations 2024: Episode 2'.

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. 😊