



HPS

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

Gardening with hardy perennials

Dorset Group *Hardy Times*

April 2018 Issue 131 BG
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www.dorsethps.org.uk

Important information for those going on the coach trips to Malverleys: On the 26th the emergency mobile telephone number is 07980 585810 (Judy) and on the 30th 07926 484018 (Barbara). And don't forget your packed lunch! The coach leaves from Olivers Road at 9 a.m. and Ringwood 20 minutes later.

Saturday, 28th April - our last meeting before the summer break - we are delighted to welcome back **Mary Payne**, the very popular garden designer, writer, broadcaster, and numerous Gold Medal winner – her talk is “Compton Acres Revisited”, she has been the gardening consultant there for many years. The garden occupies 10 acres and is home to over 3000 species of plants, some the only examples in the country.

Coach Outings

There are 8 seats left on the Mon 30th April visit to Malverley garden and Hardy's Nursery, and only 3 available to Hanham Court and Special Plants Nursery on Thursday, 28th June. Our recently announced trip to RHS Garden Wisley on Saturday, 8th September, is selling fast with 36 of the 55 tickets already sold. Our affiliation to the RHS gives us free entrance so the cost is only £18 for members and £23 for non members, and it's the first day of Wisley's Flower Show and Plant Fair which is all included in the price, so a real bargain.

James Alexander Sinclair

Tickets are selling fast for the meeting on 24th November, members £1.50, visitors £5, restricted to 160 tickets (119 gone already).

Kevin's Krafty Korner

I was delighted with the topic of our last speaker David Hurrion, as it was on composting, something close to my heart. David explained that by laying compost on top of soil (and also by autumn leaf mulching) you could achieve better results than double-digging, by not digging at all! No more

aching backs, lovely. So it is a good thing we will have lots of bags of well-rotted horse compost for sale at our 28 April meeting, and leaf mulch for sale in the autumn. I have also ordered my soil test kit, to check my soil PH levels, I'm sure some of you have too. As my potatoes have been sprouting, both those in raised beds and those in bags, I will be trialling the use of barleystraw (versus earthing up), as per our earlier speaker Ray Broughton, and will let you know any difference in yields. As the rain has finally eased off, I am taking the opportunity to start putting some of the bulging contents of my greenhouses into the ground. It promises to be a great summer. Happy gardening!

Kevin

Last Chance!

Our **May 12th Plant Fayre** is an important annual event for our Group. Please come along and bring your friends. This is the place to buy both unusual and more common plants at bargain prices.

Open Your Garden for our 20th Anniversary

Several of you have volunteered to open your garden for members and friends but we would love more of you to offer. Liz Underwood is co-ordinating the Members' Open Gardens for us so if you would like to know more about it, why not contact her via the email above. You choose the date and the charity you wish to support and we will do all we can to help out on the day.

Our Chair and her husband, **Debbie & Dave Steel**, have finally “named the date” and will be opening their garden on **Sunday 24th June, from 1 - 5 pm** with afternoon tea and plant sales so please come along and support their charities – Lupus UK and Forest Holme Hospice in Poole.

Six Colehill gardens will be opening on Sunday, 1st July (four of the owners are HPS members), combined with the Summer Party taking place in the Memorial Hall. All six gardens are within a couple of hundred yards of the hall and there will be an HPS Plant stall, craft stalls, giant tombola, etc. as well as

all-day refreshments, and the chosen charity is Colehill Community Library.

Kevin our Composting King will be opening his garden in Ferndown the following Sunday, 8th July, his chosen charity Cash For Kids. As well as tea and cake there will be a Plant Stall, Pimms, Make-Your-Own Pizza, Burgers and Hot Dogs!!! Naturally Kevin will be showing his 9 different types of composting. Not to be missed!

More members will be opening their gardens to members and friends during the summer, so please keep a watch on the Events page of our website www.dorsethps.org.uk which also lists loads of other horticultural events.

The Winner of the First Round of the Photo Competition will be announced at the next meeting. Will it be you? (You have no chance if you didn't enter! But the next session is April to June, so why not have a go at that one? Any horticulturally-related photograph taken during that season. See the Terms & Conditions on the website.)

Topical Tips from our Experts

- *Sow those seeds
- *Sow Hardy annuals where you want them
- *Keep the hoe moving to knock back annual weeds
- *Feed plants once they are in active growth
- *Grasses prefer a spring planting/dividing
- *Start runner beans in pots
- *Erect bean poles and position plant supports
- *Plant up hanging baskets but keep inside
- *Shrubs such as hardy fuchsias, Leycesteria, Perovskia and coloured bark types of Cornus should all be hard pruned close to old wood
- *Dig up dahlias and cannas - divide or set in warm place and take cuttings
- *Cut back shrubby salvias
- *Watch out for lily beetles - the little devils drop off the plant when the ground vibrates as you approach, then they fall on their backs and are camouflaged on the soil
- *Vine weevils too, try Provado.

The May issue of the Gardeners' World magazine has the '2-for-1 Gardens' entrance ticket – over 400 gardens to visit buy-one-get-one-free!

Fungi

You may remember Eric stepped in when the speaker failed to arrive at one of our meetings last year and gave us a fascinating talk on Fungi. He has now been told that quite recently *Paxillus involutus* has been placed on the dangerous list. It destroys your kidneys.



Paxillus involutus, commonly known as the brown roll-rim, common roll-rim, or poison pax mushroom, at one time considered edible, is now on the poisonous list. He hopes you haven't eaten any!

Clems

I have a dozen clematis in my garden, none of them spectacular – I blame it on the very poor soil but I persist as they are such wonderful plants and there is always room for more. Reading through one of the Clematis Year Books Wendy brought to the last meeting I see clematis are described as “First year sleeping, second year creeping, third year leaping”. So I live in hope!

Next Meeting

We start back/meet again in September with a WEDNESDAY EVENING MEETING (26th September at 7.30 pm) – Nick Gilbert talking about his Nursery's Dahlia Season. Many of you will have been to see his dahlias last year when we also visited Andy McIndoe's garden.

Please note that you can contact any member via our email address dorsethps@gmail.com.

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