



**HPS**  
HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

Gardening with hardy perennials

## **Dorset Group** *Hardy Times*

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We next meet on **Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> October**, to hear **Jon Evans** talk on Blackthorn Nursery in Hampshire, in the autumn. It was a well-known specialist nursery until the owners retired a few years ago, and turned it into their own private garden. Jon has had special access, and over several years has photographed the magical atmosphere of the place in all seasons. His relaxed style, horticultural knowledge, and pin-sharp photos combine to give us a fascinating glimpse of a hidden acre of land, tended with great devotion and expertise. The garden is not open to the public, but this talk gives us a privileged view.

### **Plants for Sale**

If you are bringing plants for sale at this meeting, would you please bring them to the hall **before 2 pm** so that we have time to display them properly before the doors open.

The **November meeting** with James Alexander Sinclair will be a tickets only event! There are a few left and they will be available at the next meeting - £1.50 for Members and £5 for non Members, and this includes the usual high quality refreshments!

### **2019**

Advance news that there will not be a magazine this year. Instead, at the November meeting, a brochure will be distributed listing the talks for 2019 and detailing the holiday and the outings, with booking forms as well as details of all our speakers.

### **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open Gardens**

Eleven members opened their gardens to celebrate our anniversary. Many of you came to the openings and supported this event and well over £2,000 was collected and passed on to the members' chosen charities. Well done and thank you to Jane, Kevin, Debbie & Dave, Helen, Pat, Diana, Barbara, Ann & Robert, Ann & Paul, Elaine and Mary.

### **Photographic competition**

The winning photograph and the three runners up for the third and final phase of our 2018 competition will be displayed at the meeting. The winner will receive a voucher for an afternoon tea at Cranborne Manor Garden Centre. All the winning photographs will then be displayed at the November meeting and members will be asked to choose their favourite. The photographer of the "Members' Choice" will receive a garden voucher for £30 for Cranborne Garden Centre.

**The 2018 AGM** will be held before the January 2019 talk and will start at the earlier time of **2 pm** with doors opening at 1.30 pm.

The Dorset Group of HPS is attracting more members, we now number almost 200, while other similar organisations are failing. The success of the Group is down to the enthusiasm of the committee who book excellent speakers, arrange great events and organise the meetings so that they are fun to attend. Committee members now retire after three years and so new members will always be needed – remember, no committee means no group. If you would like to know more about the running of the group, please talk to Debbie.

### **Kevin's Krafty Korner**

Well, I am sure everyone is really busy in the garden, getting ready for both winter and spring. Removing summer annuals and pruning some perennials (and composting them); sweeping up and macerating the leaves to make great leaf mulch – either in a plastic cage or simply a black bag with a few holes in; (we need help filling the cages at Colehill Memorial Hall too please, so we can all enjoy leaf mulch next year); laying down an autumn mulch – horse compost or garden compost work great, or leaf mulch (including ericaceous), garden compost or bark; putting in winter bedding or baskets, like pansies, primulas, cyclamen, bellis daisy, and some evergreens (or everwhites like cineraria); planting spring bulbs – if putting tulips

into the ground (not pots), wait until next month; still time for bare root trees and roses; cleaning and insulating the greenhouse; bringing in tender perennials; cleaning tools etc. Talking of horse compost, I am looking to put together another "collection party", after I return home on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Please email me on [kandpsteale@btinternet.com](mailto:kandpsteale@btinternet.com) if you can assist with the digging, by providing plastic bags, have a car and trailer, or know where there is well rotted (not fresh) horse manure to collect.

Finally, I also belong to the Ferndown and District Horticultural Society, who get a 43% discount off Dobies seeds (only seeds I'm afraid). Have a look at their brochure online – it is the one with peas on – and if you want to add on to my order, please email me on the above email address, with full details (including page number, item number, number of items, unit and total price) **before 5<sup>th</sup> November**. The seeds will be available middle of December.

*Kevin*

### Plastic pots

There's a lot of concern about the over-use of plastics and, related to gardening, plastic pots. We would just like to mention that Stewarts Garden Centre in Gods Blessing Lane recycles plastic pots and has a bin in the car park for used ones – it's a good place to pick up a few of the sizes you might need as well! Apparently it's only the black ones which are the problem, so if buying new seek out coloured ones.

### Topical Tips From Our Experts:

**Andrew, Felicity And Jane**

- \*Keep weeding!
- \*Clear all fallen leaves under roses to reduce re-infection by blackspot
- \*Mulch cleared ground before soil temperatures fall too low
- \*Plant roses in November and use mycorrhizal inoculant (Rootgrow) to aid establishment
- \*Reduce height of roses, buddleia etc. to reduce wind rock
- \*Sow sweet peas

- \*Visit Knoll Gardens for inspiration, or Kingston Lacy to see the acers in the magnificent Japanese garden
- \*Plant wallflowers and other winter bedding and bulbs
- \*Plant overwintering garlic cloves
- \*Sow Aquadulce and other hardy broad bean seeds, in the ground or in pots
- \*Cut back perennials which look grotty but leave those which look good for structure and bug habitat over winter
- \*Clean greenhouses and line them with bubble-wrap
- \*Still time to plant prepared hyacinths, Paperwhites or other bulbs for the house around Christmas. Keep in the dark/cool until roots grow and the bulb starts to grow
- \*Take hardwood cuttings from roses & other shrubs
- \*Not too late to split perennials while the soil is still warm
- \*Marina Christopher advised planting seeds of *Orlaya grandiflora* in 60% sand in the autumn for good germination

### Our very own Eric Watson will be hosting his Dorset Quiz on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> November

at Colehill Memorial Hall, 7.30 pm. Tickets £5 from Colehill Community Library or ring 01202 882590. BYO drinks. Some extra fun in the interval! Prizes to be won! Raising funds for Colehill Community Library.

### Christmas is coming!



The HPS jute bags are selling really well and we are all finding them an extremely useful size. They would make an excellent Christmas present, perhaps with a gardening magazine or tool or even a few bulbs or seeds inside. Only £2.50 at the meetings.

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