

First and foremost I would like to introduce our new Hardy Times Editor, Diana Guy - a longstanding member, and one I am sure most of you know as a BBC "Gardener of the Year" and former Chair of Plant Heritage, East Dorset group. She has agreed to take over from Barbara, who has done a remarkable job for a number of years keeping us informed of all that is going on in the plant world. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Barbara for all her hard work and wish Diana an equally long and successful stint with the HT!

Debbie

We have a change of speaker for our next meeting on Saturday November 23rd as Andrew Haynes is unwell and unable to talk to us, but he will be back and we shall hear his talk at some point, so do not be disappointed. We send him our best wishes for a speedy recovery. Popular speaker Neil Lovesey of Picket Lane Nursery, South Perrott has kindly stepped in to give us a talk on 'The Bee Friendly Garden' and will be bringing plants to sell.



Doors will open at 2p.m., and the talk will start at 2.30p.m. with refreshments at half time.

January Meeting

We are delighted to welcome back Bob Gibbons and his incredible slides on Saturday January 25th. His talk is called 'From Orchids to Pitcher Plants- the extraordinary flora of Newfoundland'.

Subscriptions

Make sure you are up to date with your National, due in January. You can pay your local subs at the

November or January meetings as the post box will be there. If you prefer to pay by BACS or Standing Order direct, please contact us via our email address or the Contacts page on the website. Yet again, the rates remain at £5 and £8 for single/joint membership. Thank you.

AGM

Our AGM will be in February – time to re-elect your Committee for another year. It takes so much work, and many talents, to run our group and to hold such successful meetings. We could not manage without the help members regularly give at the meetings, but we also need a solid core of committee members to ensure the future of the group asking only for a maximum of 3 years commitment! Give it some thought! If you would like to know more - why not have a chat with Debbie.

Brochure 2020

These will be handed out to all members at the November Meeting, and then posted to those not in attendance shortly afterwards. Details of all the exciting fixtures we have organised for you will be in it. This will include the Day Trips, the Holiday and details of the many wonderful speakers. We will then update the website later with the details and booking forms. **However no one will be able to book until 2nd January 2020.**

Blandford Potato Day

Sunday January 26th 2020, at Pimperne Village Hall, DT11 8UZ. From 10.30 to 1.30. Organised by the Blandford Museum Victorian Garden Club. There will be unusual seed potatoes, Heritage seeds, Fruit Trees, soft fruit, and much more. Tea, cake and soup available. Admission 50p.

January Flower Count

Something new for members! We are asking you to go out into your garden, whatever the weather, on January 1st and count every flower

you can see. Even flowering weeds count, as well as trees and shrubs. If you have lots of the same plant, i.e. cyclamen, hellebore or primulae count each different species or named cultivars rather than just different colours. Send your list to Diana Guy at Diana.kitemoor@btinternet.com or post to me at 'Dolphins', Broomhill' Wimborne Dorset BH21 7AR. Results will be displayed at the February meeting with a small prize for the winner.

National HPS AGM

In 2020 our Dorset Group will be hosting the National AGM. It will be held at the Allendale Centre, Wimborne. Tickets will only be available from National, with booking details in the next HPS Newsletter at the end of November. (Tickets will NOT sold by the Dorset Group.)

The two speakers are Keith Wiley, one of our very favourites, and creator of Wildside, Devon, and Mat Reese, ex Dixter and Head Gardener of the 'Malverleys' garden in Hampshire.

Dorset Alpine Garden Society Meetings

Corfe Mullen Village Hall come 6.45 for 7.30 start.

Thursday December 5th Christopher Bailes (Ex RHS Rosemoor) 'Gardening with Hardy Orchids from obscurity to ubiquity'

Thursday January 2nd 2020 Graham Poynter 'Botanising in and around the Picos de Europa'

Flower of the month

For me, a great joy in November is to see the hardy chrysanthemums lighting up the fading borders. As well as filling vases indoors they offer the late butterflies and bees one of the last chances to land and feed, especially if you grow to grow the single varieties. I started off by growing the 'Korean Early Mixed,' very easy to grow from seed, often flowering in the first year. The Rubellum group are charming, most, but not all, are single. They are getting much easier to obtain as their popularity creeps up. They are easy, bone hardy, (still sparkling even after two hard frosts this month), bulk up well without being invasive

and are easy to split and share around. Indeed many of the varieties we see in our gardens today have simply been passed on, name unknown, for decades. They are a world away from the big gaudy garden centre blobs that appear, from Holland every autumn. Collectable varieties often turn up on our sales table, so keep an eye out.

To find out more buy the HPS publication, by National Collection holder Judy Barker, 'Hardy Garden Chrysanthemums' available online from Head Office (members price £5.50).

Between them, the following nurseries have a great range to choose from. **Dorset Perennials, Halls of Heddon, Farmyard Nursery in Wales and Norwell Nurseries.**



One of my favourite, 'Clara Curtis' is available locally at **Cherry Tree Nursery**

Topical Tips

*Deep rooted perennial weeds such as dock are much easier to remove over the winter months.

*Mow, rather than rake the fallen leaves on the lawn, as the chopped up leaves, mixed with grass cuttings, compost really well giving the perfect/green brown mix.

*Continue to split perennials while the soil is workable but leave late flowering perennials until spring.

*Cut leaves off **acaulescent** hellebores (*x hybridus* or *H.orientalis* as was). However *H. Foetidus*, *H.argutiolius* and the interspecies types such as *H.x Ericsmithii* are **caulescent**, (with leaves and flowers on the same stem). Leave alone, removing only the odd marked leaf. Then mulch all hellebores generously with mushroom compost, when you order it from **Mayfields, see below, do not forget to ask for your 5% discount.**

And finally, on behalf of the Committee we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas

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