

*Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Hardy Times. Regretfully we have to tell you that Diana Guy, who normally writes articles and pulls together members' articles to produce the Hardy Times, is having to withdraw from her involvement due to continuing health issues, and this is her last issue. Diana has been heavily involved with the Dorset Group for many years, and we send her our many thanks and best wishes.*

*We want to continue publishing the Hardy Times so need your help in providing articles for future issues, please think about it, and then have a go. It could be about a favourite individual plant or a genus, a garden you've visited that you'd recommend, a 'Top Tip' or even a funny gardening experience or story. Don't worry if it's not polished or 'Fleet Street' ready, we can sort it out.*

*Please send your items to the Group Secretary email address: [dorsethps@gmail.com](mailto:dorsethps@gmail.com) The next Hardy times will be the Winter edition, to be sent out in the New Year, so items will be very welcome before the end of December. (NB if you send photos and your email asks what size, choose the largest size it offers. Your contact phone number would be good too in case we have any queries.)*



*Judy's garden  
in July*

## Review of the summer

We had plenty of chances to get together during the break, with events at Manor Farm, coach trips, the holiday, Colehill open gardens, Sheila Westgate's opening of her garden.

We all enjoyed a truly magical trip to **Malverleys** and **Houghton Lodge** and here we publish one of the many thank you letters that says it all...

"Dear Debbie and your team of helpers. Please accept a sincere thank you for organising the trip to

Malverleys and Houghton Lodge yesterday.

Two very different gardens both with their own charms.

Matt Reece has truly made his mark at Malverleys with his time spent at Great Dixter, an obvious influence on his planting style. There were many little gems to inspire with the White Garden a magical place to be.

Thank you once again, Best wishes"

*Anne Butler*



Although many of us had been to Malverleys before, it was great to see it at another time of year. It was in perfect condition despite the intense heat. Houghton Lodge was our tea venue and the highlight for many was the stunning view offered down a slope to the River Test and beyond. Whilst some of the garden was, not unsurprisingly, a little dried up, the long herbaceous border which had been well irrigated looked very good indeed, and there was a wealth of other features to explore. I must echo the thanks to the events sub-committee, especially Judy and Debbie who work tirelessly to provide us with such great opportunities.

## Manor Farm NGS Open Days

DHPS have supported Anne and Guy Trehane at their NGS garden Manor Farm in Hampreston since their first openings in 2009. There were just 3 open days originally and we asked members to donate plants to sell to raise funds for DHPS.

To improve the quality of plants for sale, the double-ticketing system was introduced after a few

years. There are now 4 open days throughout the summer alongside their Hellebore openings in February when Dorset Perennials also attend to sell their seasonal plants.

We raise a lot of money each year for the Dorset Group by selling plants, over £250 this year and we would like to encourage more members to propagate plants to sell, and also come along and help on the day.

A lot of visitors come to the open days because they know that they can buy good quality, reasonably priced plants from us, as well as seeing a fabulous garden and enjoying delicious tea and cakes!

So, more plants are needed.

If you would like to have a chat with any of us that regularly sell there and to find out what types of plants are popular, how much you can earn or any other questions, please speak to any of the committee ready for next year. Thank you.

*The Manor Farm Plants Team.*

## Plant of the Month

### **Hylotelephium (Sedums)**

This group of plants has been split into two, the taller varieties, often known as Ice plants, are now Hylotelephium, the lower growing ones known as stonecrops remain as Sedums. However, some shorter varieties are actually included in the new classification, so it is rather confusing.

In my heavy clay soil sedums can be a bit sad but this year they have revelled in the dryness, and have not been watered at all.

A great plus is that they look good in every season, from emerging buds, until the stiff winter skeletons. Here is *H. 'Purple emperor'* in July at the front of the border.



Old stalwarts such as *H.spectabile 'Hebstfreude'* AGM (formally '*Autumn Joy*'), a good dark salmon remains a vary garden worthy plant and probably

the one most grown. The spectabile group includes the '*Brilliant*' series where you find '*Autumn Glow*'. *H.s 'Abendrot'* is an unusual pink and *H.s 'Iceberg'* is white.

Onto foliage, if you like green and white variegation then there are several to choose from. *H.s 'Abendrot'*, *H.etherythostictum 'Mediovariegatum'*, *H.populifolium 'Em's Varigated'*.

Purple leaved varieties include the *H.telphium 'Strawberries and Cream'*, *H.t. 'Atropurpureum Group'*, a fine richly coloured one called *H.t.'Karfunkelstein'* and the old favourites *H. 'Purple Emperor' AGM* and *H. 'Matrona' AGM*.

Lower growing forms that are also now reclassified include *H.*

*'Bertram Anderson' AGM* and *H. cauticola 'Coca Cola'*, (right) which I recently bought from a



lovely nursery based at Heale House. (Well worth a visit if you are going that way, and a nice tea shop). Most of the above can be obtained from the Beth Chatto Nursery, mail order, or good local nurseries. All require very well drained soil in full sun. The taller ones and especially really big clumps benefit from the Chelsea Chop' (see below).

A plant cut down by half at the end of May. This produces a lower, chunkier plant with flowering delayed by about two to three weeks.



*Cont'd/...*

Right is a plant that was **not** chopped, starting to flower at the start of September. There is a tendency for plants with the heavier heads left intact to splay out like a starfish.



Judy sent me this 'blackboard list' from the Beth Chatto Nursery and added....

"Apart from the usual plants that you think would resist the drought like salvias, lavender, sedums, gauras etc, the following is a list of plants that have looked good throughout this dry summer.



**Rudbeckia deamii**, **Crocosmia**, especially 'Star of the East', **Kniphofias**, **Asters** (**Symphotrichum Novae Angliae**) just starting to flower now.



The star of the show has been **Argyranthemum 'Jamaica Primrose'** (below). It was given to me as a



small cutting by Mary Case last autumn. It survived the winter and has flowered non-stop for the last 3 or 4 months. I have dead headed it regularly and it is still producing lots of new buds. Mary wants it back now!

Judy Spratley

## Jane's Winners

Our poor gardens are really suffering from this intense heat. My soil is not particularly good and for the past 17 years I have always bought a cubic metre of mushroom compost to add some body to the soil. My plants are tightly packed closely together in an effort to stop losing moisture. Looking at the scene I have selected some of the more sensible plants that are tolerating the drought.

The first three I suggest are **Verbena bonariensis**,



**Verbena 'Bampton'** and **Verbena hastata** all have small leaves and wiry stems. **Phlox paniculata**, one called 'Miss Jill' has strong stems, also 'Bright Eyes' and 'Prince of Orange'.

**Hemerocallis** seems to

be doing moderately well but I still have to water it but the flowers don't wilt too badly. I have grown **Daucus carota** for several years and this looks excellent, a good low spread over the soil. Flower heads and heads that have gone over look splendid.



**Tradescantia** is surviving well some of the named varieties such as 'Osprey' and 'Perrins Pink' are good plants and less vandals than the blue plants.



**Eryngium bourgatii** (left) loves the drought, silver leaves and prickles excellent for insects.

The upright **Diascia personata** (right) was another



good performer.



My last 2 suggestions are **Anthemis Kelwayii** a yellow daisy that grows in stones and finally the later flowering **Allium 'Millenium'**, **A. 'Senescens'** and **A. 'Sphaerocephalon'**.

Jane Norriss

## Lily Beetles.

A while back, one of our members dug up all her lilies and sold them at our plant sale, while several members said they just do not grow them because of the Lily beetles. But most members resort to hand control, which can keep numbers down, but will not totally eradicate them. In my garden lily beetles only invade certain lilies in the back garden and do not appear on the later flowering **Tiger lilies** (*Lilium tigrinum*). In my front garden where I grow the earlier *L. martagon* and *L. candidum*, beetles are rarely seen. In my experience this reflects behaviour of the equally troublesome Hemerocallis gall midge which is not a big problem on either the early or the later flowering varieties.

Meanwhile, when my invaded lilies reach the stage when the leaves are coated with that awful black slime (lily beetle larvae excrement), I put on gloves and remove every leaf along with the larva nestling in the slime. This has not affected the lilies flowering well the following year.

## Jobs for the month

- Time to move biennials such as forget me nots, honesty and foxgloves to their final flowering positions from where they have seeded themselves or you may have sown them. Loose, fresh wallflowers are available from Mayfields (see advert), and are delivered as soon as they are dug up. Baskets and Blooms sell bundles of freshly dug Sweet William plants around this time.
- Start to plant bulbs and to re-plant any summer hanging baskets or containers that are now going over. Parkers Wholesale offer excellent value for money but if you have not already done so get your order in promptly as many lines are already sold out. Farmer Gracy has some unusual bulbs not seen elsewhere, but are more expensive. I like their crown tulips (above).
- This month is the best time to move or divide hellebores, ensure they are replanted into well-nourished and well-watered soil. They dislike such disturbance so only do it when really necessary. They will probably flower next year as the flowers are already instigated, but henceforth may sulk for a year or two.



- Through September and October many border perennials can be divided. Remember our plant stall at meetings if you have surplus. Evergreen shrubs move well in October. Considering our dry year this year, anything done this side of Christmas will have a better chance of getting its toes (roots) established in the soil.
- Collect seeds, there should be a bumper crop in this dry weather. Why not send some to the HPS seed exchange?
- Sow annuals now to flower early next year. and many perennials can be started off too. Sweet peas are traditionally sown on October 1<sup>st</sup>, to plant out on March 1<sup>st</sup>. I kept mine going right up until the end of August this year, but it was a struggle.

Please let us have your thoughts on Lily beetle control, peat free compost and plants that have done well for you this summer. Peat free compost will be discussed next issue, Also, is anyone a fan of Strulch?

Finally, our thanks to those of you who contributed to this issue, and to Debbie and Jane for their fabulous pictures.



<b>MAY FIELDS</b>	<b>WALL FLOWERS</b>
<b>Garden &amp; Log Supplies</b>	<b>WINTER BEDDING</b>
<b>PREPARE YOUR GARDEN FOR AUTUMN</b>	<b>FILL YOUR LOG STORE NOW - DRY - SEASONED</b>
Mushroom Manure 10 sacks.....£22.50	The best fuel this winter - Stocking service available
Loads from.....£37 • Horse Manure & Cow Manure	Dumpy Bags or Loads From £63 or 8 sacks: now £26
Woodland Mulch • Bark • Shingle	25kg Best Coal £12.65
Multi Purpose Compost 60L.....£4 • 4 only..... £22	Smokeless £14.70 - Kindling £4.50
Jacks Magic 60L.....£6.70 • 5 only.....£30 • Woodchips Special Offer	<b>01202 740795</b>
	Est. over 40 years.

Discount offered to members, will also deliver mushroom compost and many other items.