



**HPS**  
HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

## Dorset Group *Hardy Times*

January 2017 Issue 121  
Ed. Barbara Gooch

Gardening with hardy perennials

### AGM – 28<sup>th</sup> January at 2 pm

A Group's AGM is always important and this year there are changes to the Committee including, after 18 years, the Chair. We have therefore decided to allocate half an hour to the AGM and begin the meeting earlier than usual – we hope you will be able to be at the Hall by 2 pm (doors open at 1.30 pm).

The January speaker, Chris Birchall of Tale Valley Nursery talking on 'Choice Plants of Rosemoor', should begin at the usual time of 2.30 pm. One of our excursions this year is to Rosemoor so those of you who have already bought tickets, or are thinking about it, don't miss this one!

**Pennard Plants' Potato Day** will be on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January, at Pimperne Village Hall, from 10.30 till 1pm and sells Heritage seeds, potato tubers, onion sets, shallots, garlic, soft fruit, etc. etc. (and plenty of expertise). Soup and refreshments for sale.

### IMPORTANT DATE & TIME CHANGES

The April meeting is on **Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> April** (NOT Wednesday). Roy Lancaster will be speaking to us at **2.30** on **28<sup>th</sup> October** (not 7.30). This meeting will be followed by a dinner at the Dudsbury Golf Club – details to follow.

### February meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> February 'New Tricks for Old Gardeners'

Next month our speaker will be Katherine Crouch, winner of both the BBC Gardener of the Year and Gardener of the Decade. She will be bringing plants from Avon Bulbs with her.

Once again, this will follow the popular **Hurrah for Hellebores event at Anne and Guy Trehane's**,

Manor Farm, Hampreston, from 10am to 1pm. You could make a day of your visit to Wimborne!

The **Hurrah for Hellebores** event will also be on the following day, Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> (1 to 4pm), when Lupus UK will be offering soup as well as tea and cakes.

On both days **Dawn and Martin Preston of Dorset Perennial Plants** will be there selling a large range of hellebores and other plants. Anne and Guy have built up quite a collection of hellebores themselves and their garden looks wonderful at all times of the year. Look out for Helleborus 'Anna's Red', named after local gardening doyenne Anna Pavord and the result of 20 years of hellebore breeding by local nurseryman Rodney Davey. H. 'Penny's Pink' (for Penelope Hobhouse) is another of Rodney's star hellebores, a very strong grower with lovely outward facing flowers and speckled leaves. This is an NGS event and admission will cost £3.50.

### More Members' Open Gardens ...

**Diana Guy** will be hosting her hellebore event at Kitemoor Cottage, Manswood BH21 5BQ on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> March, 12-4pm. She's also running a workshop on 'Hellebores and the Winter Garden' on 23<sup>rd</sup> February in the morning, at Cherry Tree Nursery.

**Lyn Miles**, an obsessive galanthophile, has a collection of over 200 named snowdrops and over 100 Pulmonarias in her garden at Westcroft, Boscombe Village, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 0AB. She's opening every Thursday in February, 11-4, and on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> and Monday 13<sup>th</sup>. Home-made soups, tea/coffee and cakes. Inside if cold and wet.  
[www.westcroftgarden.co.uk](http://www.westcroftgarden.co.uk)

### HPS DORSET GROUP CONTACTS

President	Andrew Haynes		
Chairman	Eric Watson		
Secretary (Co-opted)	Sheila Westgate		
Treasurer	Debbie Steel		

Plus David Burnham-Slipper (co-opted), Angela Edwards, Felicity Frost, Barbara Gooch, Roy Hole, James Westgate (Co-opted), Jane Norris, Lyn Ovens and Pat Rex.

## Shaftesbury Snowdrop Festival

As a tribute to the Queen on her Diamond Jubilee, the people of Shaftesbury began planting thousands of snowdrops in public places around the town to create a series of snowdrop walks; they are still planting, and now there are hundreds of thousands on display. During Snowdrop Festival Week from 10th February there are many other snowdrop-related activities, details on the website.

## Heale House, Middle Woodford

Another wonderful place to visit at Snowdrop time - they're intermingled with Eranthis hyemalis (Winter Aconites) on the banks of the River Avon – stunning. Kevin Hughes has his nursery here, he's coming to talk to us in April, and there are excellent tearooms. Opens from 1st March.

## Plant Fayre 13<sup>th</sup> May

Please consider this year's Plant Fayre (slightly later date to avoid the Bank Holiday). All the plant sales we hold help boost our finances and hence the quality of our speakers. We would be grateful if you could help us by potting up the various plants you dig up or divide in the next few months. If you could offer help on May 13<sup>th</sup> by selling plants or making cakes or serving the tea and coffee, please talk to any of the committee. Even better, if you propagate your own plants, you could have your own table to sell them, please email Jane ( ).

## Topical Tips from our Experts

\* While the garden is still in its winter state it is easy to see troublesome weeds such as brambles, docks and tree seedlings. Seek and destroy now! After March new root growth will make them harder to remove.

\*Prune Wisteria, apples and pears.

\*Climbing roses need pruning - all side shoots should be cut back to within three buds and last season's strong new stems need tying in.

\*Check through your seed collection to see what needs sowing first.



**Younger 4 Longer** Fitness classes that reach the muscles the garden misses!

In Colehill Memorial Hall  
Monday mornings at 09.15, 10.20 & 11.25  
More classes in Wimborne  
On Wednesday and Thursday mornings

For more info speak to Diane on 01202 888493

\*Keep feeding the birds.

\*Check for vine weevil and use Provado if you see the little horrors.

\*Tidy greenhouse, clean pots and seed boxes.

\*Weed vegetable patches.

\*Dig a trench in readiness for beans and fill with kitchen refuse compost and/or manure.

And a tip from **Ray Broughton**: Heinz Tomato Sauce is an excellent cleaning product which helps keep your tools sharp. Use monthly to clean tools and it will sterilise, lubricate and clear off the burr. If your secateurs are really bad, dunk them in HTS and leave them for 3 days, then wipe clean.

## Horse Manure

For the last few months, Marie Fitzwalter has been organising supplies of very well-rotted horse manure from a stable in West Parley. This has proved very popular and many of us are using it as a mulch. She arranges for a pile to be dumped next to a parking area so that we can get really close with our bags and buckets. Let me know if you are interested.

## New Year Blooms

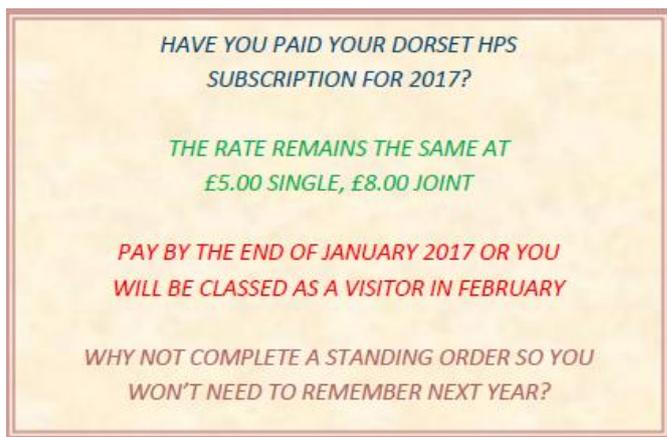


For the last few years the HPS Committee has counted the number of flowers blooming in their gardens on the first day

of January. I had 24 this year, lots of them obviously flowering out of season, but Sheila and James have this beautiful and covetable clematis napaulensis which has flowered for the first time.

## Big Garden Birdwatch

This year's survey takes place 28th to 30<sup>th</sup> January this year – see [rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://rspb.org.uk/birdwatch) for details and to find out how to take part.



HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DORSET HPS SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2017?

THE RATE REMAINS THE SAME AT  
£5.00 SINGLE, £8.00 JOINT

PAY BY THE END OF JANUARY 2017 OR YOU WILL BE CLASSED AS A VISITOR IN FEBRUARY

WHY NOT COMPLETE A STANDING ORDER SO YOU WON'T NEED TO REMEMBER NEXT YEAR?