



HPS

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

Gardening with hardy perennials

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We welcome plantsman **Kevin Hughes**, owner of Heale House Nursery at Middle Woodford. He specialises in magnolias, trilliums, clematis, viburnums, philadelphus and lilacs and has a huge range of woodland treasures – he used to work at Spinners.

This is our last meeting until September when we get back together to listen to **Marina Christopher**, owner of Phoenix Perennials, talking about Gardening with Gravel.

Before that of course there's our Plant Fayre on Saturday, 13th May at 2.30 p.m. This is the place to buy unusual – and more common - plants at bargain prices. I hope you are growing some plants for us to sell – all contributions gratefully received, preferably on the day and well-rooted and in clean pots, etc. etc. We need a lot of help with this event as we serve afternoon teas too, I'd still like to add your name to the list – it's great fun! Email me – bgooch@talktalk.net

Then there's the trip to Rosemoor on 6th June (still a few seats left), the three day holiday in Norfolk, and finally the visit to Sherfield English for dahlias and Andy McIndoe's garden.

Manure



The bags of extremely well rotted manure were seized upon at the last meeting – 120 were sold - and we are making arrangements to bring more over for the Plant Fayre on 13th May (thank you Kevin and friends!). We are selling the

bags at £1 each and it would help if people could pre-order again (email address above).

HPS Ambassadors

The Hardy Plant Society now has **Ambassadors** to support the Society and spread the word – they are Matthew Biggs, Val Bourne, Carol Klein and Matthew Wilson. We've had all of them to speak to us in the past.

A few gardens to visit meantime

Diana Guy's garden at Kitemoor Cottage, Manswood, BH21 2BQ, will be opening to support the Tuberous Sclerosis Association - *Tea and Scones for TSA* - on 13th and 14th May, 2-5, entrance by donation. The Saturday is the day of our Plant Fayre though, but we'll let you go on the Sunday!

The gardens of Witchampton are open on Saturday and Sunday, 17th and 18th June, 11-4. Lunches, tractor rides, etc.

Fay Clifford will be opening Brackenwood, God's Blessing Green, Holt BH21 7DD, on Sunday, 25th June, entrance £3. Her garden was shortlisted Daily Mail National Gardens 2016.

Edmondsham House & Garden – every Sunday and Wednesday from 2-5, our President Andrew Haynes is the Head Gardener of this mature, 6 acre, organic garden.

And of course we will be selling plants at **Manor Farm, Hampreston**, on Sunday, 11th June, 1-5. Tea and cakes there too (for Lupus)!

Members are opening their gardens up and down the country to celebrate the Hardy Plant Society's 60th anniversary. Two Dorset members are included: on 3rd June, 12-5, Marie Fitzwalter at 41 Wimborne Road West, Wimborne BH21 2DQ and on 25th June (as part of Blandford Hidden Gardens) Elaine Lofthouse of Sapling Cottage, East Street, Blandford, 11-5. Teas and plants naturally.

Our own celebration

(There has been some confusion with timings and the Magazine and some of the trifold programmes gave the wrong time – this is the latest and is correct and involves two separate events!)



The President of the Hardy Plant Society, Roy Lancaster, will be coming to speak to us in Colehill on **Saturday, 28th October, at 2.30 pm**. His talk will be entitled **'A Life of Plants'**.

In order that we can anticipate the numbers attending, we plan to make the meeting an 'all ticket' event. Tickets will be available at the Kevin Hughes talk and can be obtained thereafter by contacting Barbara Melton by email or telephone (). The cost will be £1.50 for members and £5.00 for visitors. This will include your usual tea or coffee and cake.

We are also organising a **dinner in the evening** at the Dudsbury Golf Club, 64 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth BH22 8ST. We are anticipating great demand for this event – the dinner is subsidised for members to celebrate HPS's Diamond Anniversary. Details are on the attachment.

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Do have a look at our website – it's brilliant! All thanks to Debbie, who set it up and is keeping it up-to-date. She has created a Calendar page and would be happy to add dates of horticultural interest in your locality – contact her through the website. On the 1st of every month she will change the headline photo with a more topical one, so if you would like your garden or special flower to be shown, contact Debbie (via the website) so that you can email her the photo before the end of any month.

Topical Tips from our Experts

Time is rushing by!

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 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.

Clematis

Clematis really struggle on my sandy soil and I can't grow the large-flowered ones with any success at all. But I've just been reading that some clematis are from mountain areas in Europe and Asia and they dislike being planted too deeply in rich soil. They have fine, fibrous root systems and prefer poorer, free-draining soil – just like mine! *Clematis alpina*, *C. macropetala*, *C. koreana* and *C. chinensis* are suggested, an excuse for another nursery visit!

New RHS Show

The Chatsworth estate is hosting its first RHS show on 7th to 11th June this year - it will become an annual event in the RHS calendar.

Knoll Gardens Plant Fair – 22nd April

We will be in the marquee at Knoll on Saturday, 10 until 4. Please come and visit us. Knoll is offering HPS members 10% off plants and free entry to the gardens at this event, so take your membership card!

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