



HPS

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

Gardening with hardy perennials

Dorset Group *Hardy Times*

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We are delighted to welcome the Hardy Plant Society President, Roy Lancaster, as our speaker this month, celebrating the Society's 60th year. Roy will be celebrating an anniversary of his own in December – he will be 80. He will be talking about his book "A Life of Plants", describing his chance find of a Mexican tobacco plant in a local allotment which brought him fame as a Bolton schoolboy and sowed the seeds of his future career, to his eminent position in horticulture today. Well-known for his encyclopedic botanical knowledge and for introducing many popular garden plants, Roy is also a consummate storyteller with a spirited sense of adventure. (You can tell I'm excited!)

This is an all ticket meeting as we have to limit numbers to the capacity of the hall.

If you have a ticket, the doors will open at 2 pm and the refreshments will be served before the meeting – we couldn't possibly manage 160 people during an interval. Roy will then talk without an interval, followed by questions. Please arrive in good time.

November Meeting

On Saturday, 25th November, Neil Lucas will be our speaker. Neil is the UK's leading ornamental grass specialist, owner of Knoll Gardens, RHS Council Member, judge, author, and holder of ten consecutive Gold Medals at Chelsea, and a witty and inspirational speaker.

This will be the last meeting of 2017 and the Dorset HPS Magazine will be handed out with details of next year's talks and events. 2018 will be the Dorset Group's 20th Anniversary and we are rather proud of the varied and exciting programme we have prepared.

Cynthia Reast



Sadly, after a long illness, one of our longstanding members of 15 years, Cynthia Reast, died in Delph House Nursing Home earlier this month. Her interest in gardening goes back over many years, founding the Plant Sales Team at her local church. She loved to get the RHS seeds and share them with others and after her father's death, she started sharing them with Wendy (Poole) and so a gardening friendship blossomed which has lasted over 20 years. They belonged to many gardening groups including the HPS and Plant Heritage. They were both regular participants in our Day Trips and holidays and we shall miss Cynthia's happy and easy going manner.

Fruit

Autumn is well and truly here, it's a very good one for nuts and berries, our chestnuts have never been so large. **Eric's medlars** are ready if anyone would like to make some jelly – please ring him on 01202 581669

Orlaya grandiflora

Just a reminder that at our last meeting Marina Christopher told us that seeds of Orlaya sown in 60% sand in autumn have excellent germination. If you're going to have a go and have some spare in the spring, please let me know! A beautiful plant.

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, buddleja etc. to reduce wind rock
- *Sow sweet peas
- *Visit Knoll Gardens for inspiration
- *Visit 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 over winter and bug habitat
- *Compost leaves for leaf mould
- *Clean greenhouses and line them with bubble-wrap

*Still time to plant prepared hyacinths, Paperwhites or other bulbs for house around Christmas Keep in dark/cool until roots grow and bulb starts to grow.

*Take hardwood cuttings from roses & other shrubs

*Not too late to split perennials while the soil is still warm

Committee positions

This year, as you may be aware, the membership has steadily risen and as a result our meetings are becoming ever busier. Without the many members who have volunteered throughout this year, we would have struggled to keep things going. In addition, the introduction of our website has encouraged more gardeners to come along to see what we are doing. As you may recall from the last AGM, we became aware that we had not been following our Group Constitution which states that no one should stay on the Committee for more than 3 years without a break, which gives others a chance to get involved without feeling they are there forever! This means we find ourselves needing more committee members, more often, to share the responsibility, then pass on the mantle. We have already managed to recruit two further members for the Events Team to maintain the standard of Day Trips and Holiday but we still will need more help.

So what skill-set do you have to offer? We still need all those volunteers to help in the kitchen, baking cakes, growing or selling plants, selling raffle tickets and all those invaluable jobs at the meetings, but now we also need help with jobs like updating the website, putting up posters, asking gardening businesses to advertise with us or even writing articles about what we do. If you would be interested in finding out more, why not have a chat with Debbie or Barbara? Our AGM is not until February next year but it is never too early to start thinking!



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