



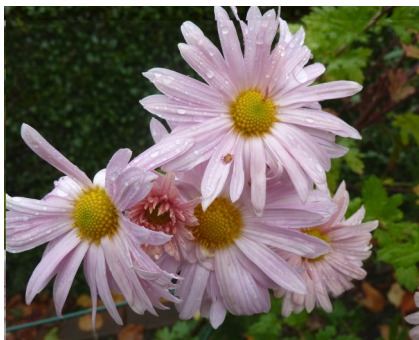
Gardening with hardy perennials



HAMPSHIRE GROUP NEWSLETTER

Number 91

Autumn 2019



Cultivars of Chrysanthemum and Phlox

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Front cover pictures, courtesy of Hardy Plant Society, from left to right:

Chrysanthemum 'Beechcroft'; *Chrysanthemum* 'Lucy Simpson'

Phlox paniculata 'Pat Coleman'; *Phlox paniculata* 'Caroline van den Berg'

Indoor meetings are charged at £2 per member (guests £5) and held at St. Boniface Centre, Hursley Road, Chandlers Ford. Meetings are usually the 3rd Friday of the month and start at 7.30pm preceded by tea and coffee at 7:00 pm. **Please note January and February Meetings are on Saturday afternoon starting at 2:30 pm.**

Where the speaker has brought plants for sale, these will be available after the talk.

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Contributions for the Autumn edition of the Newsletter should be sent to the editor by 31st January 2020 . Contact details on back cover.

Chairman's Thoughts

As I set out my thoughts it is already late September and we are enjoying summer weather courtesy of a warm front coming from the South. For those who love the warmth it is an unexpected bonus though I have often found that September is better weather than August. The ground is bone dry though we are promised rain, and plants are already showing signs of shutting down for the autumn; even a large lime tree next door is decorating the lawns with keys and leaves so plenty of work to come.



Though the border of delphiniums and phlox are over the display this year has been something special with only the faintest hint of mildew to spoil things. One acquisition in the border from Sue Hough, is *Verbena officinalis* var.



grandiflora Bampton. It does have a tendency to spread into the border, but the deep purple foliage and lighter purple flowers just continue with no maintenance through the summer. Thanks Sue.

The hot dry weather has produced another bonus with the *Hedychium* (Ginger Lilies) flowering this month along with some Cannas that have produced stunning foliage in previous years, but few flowers. This year the weather seems to have suited both – is this a sign of times to come?

Looking forward it is easy to see plants dying down for the winter as the sign that summer is over, but it is also a time to plan ahead. I find something satisfying about planting different daffodils in the autumn and then waiting for the Spring to see if they come up as advertised in the catalogue. Our speaker in September, John Gibson, imparted so much enthusiasm and knowledge about bulbs that I have felt it important to rethink autumn planting to take on board his expertise. Whilst we do not have much of the garden that is wet, we do have candidates for summer baking and perhaps success in the coming year will be better reflected by

planting daffodils according to the soils and climate rather than the easy option of solely looking at ones with an attractive name or flower. Thank you, John

As we approach our AGM in November my sincere thanks to the committee who have worked hard to organise great meetings, visits and a holiday, which was very successful by all accounts. Also to the many volunteers who help make things work – without them, and you, the members, meetings would be very quiet and would not happen! The Group belongs to us all and long may it continue – if you have any ideas to help us improve or change the things we do, please do let us know. I know that a few members find it hard to hear speakers at times – if you are one then try to find a space at the front, or ask one of the committee to help.

Mike Maunder
Chairman

Changes to January and February 2020 Indoor Meetings

January and February can be two of the darkest months of the year and venturing out on a Friday night in the dark and usually inclement weather is not a lot of fun. In fact, for those members living on the edges of Hampshire it means they often miss out on some of our meetings because of the journey and the lateness of the hour getting home.

Your committee has considered these facts and decided as a trial the **January and February 2020 meetings will take place on a Saturday at 2.00 pm with the talks starting at 2.30 pm**. If this proves to be successful and members like the change, then it may become a regular item in the programme.

So please make a note in your diaries of the following and we look forward to seeing you at what should be some very interesting talks to brighten these winter months.

Saturday 18th January 2020 at 2.30 pm

“Growing old fashioned flowers” by David Standing

David has been in charge of the Gilbert White Garden in Selborne since 1979 and over that time he has researched the layout and plants in this very historic garden.

Saturday 15th February 2020 at 2.30 pm

“The Plant Hunters” – how our wealth of garden plants were found and brought back to our gardens. By Simon Gulliver

Simon is Gardens Consultant for over 30 National Trust Gardens in Lancashire, Cheshire & East/West Midlands. He has gained degrees in horticulture, botany and garden history. His main interests are garden history, plant hunters and horticultural training.

Sue Hough

Hampshire Hardy Plant Society Holiday to Kent Sunday 16th June – Tuesday 18th June 2019

Our destination this year for the annual HHPS holiday was Kent, where we stayed at the Mercure Tunbridge Wells Hotel. There were 34 of us who gathered at Breamore Close where the coach was parked, ready for a prompt departure at 8.45 am.



On our previous five HHPS holidays we have always been blessed with beautiful weather. However this was the year it was not to be, as three of the gardens out of the nine we visited were rather wet, but being “Hardy Planters” this didn’t deter us from donning our macs and putting up our umbrellas and enjoying the gardens just the same and a good time was had by all, visiting nine very different and

lovely gardens. Did I have a favourite? No - I enjoyed them all. For me they all had something special or different to remember them by.

1. Caxton House, Reigate, Surrey
2. Timbers, Maidstone, Kent
3. Nettlestead Place, Nettlestead, Kent
4. Merriments Gardens, Etchingham, Kent
5. Sissinghurst (NT) Kent
6. Madrona Nurseries, Ashford, Kent
7. Leydens, Edenbridge, Kent
8. Durrance Manor, Shipley, Sussex
9. Upwaltham Barns, West Sussex

The following are the write-ups that members very kindly did for each of the gardens we visited.

Dawn Trenchard

Garden 1 - Caxton House

The current owner of Caxton House moved here 20 years ago, to a garden which only contained a few trees. In the intervening 20 years, he has created a wonderful 7-acre garden, full of interest, with the help of his full-time gardener, who came with him from his previous garden.

There was a lovely wildflower meadow area awash with Oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* and an enchanting folly "down in the woods" in an area which has only been developed since 2002. The folly was clothed in climbing roses which were in full bloom.

One of the design features that I plan to emulate is the low clematis planting at the base of many of the trees



The stone pillared pergola (Dawn Trenchard)

My favourite design feature of the garden was the long stone pillared pergola clothed in roses and wisteria and lined with lavender and lush mixed herbaceous planting.

The garden has two ponds - one was very large, with a duck house,



The large duck pond and heron (Dawn Trenchard)

a very clever feature for a shady spot!!

and a bronze heron standing guard. The other smaller pond, complete with waterfall, was opposite the house, and had a beautiful backdrop of small conifers and ferns

The greenhouse was discovered by following a very windy path through an intensely planted shrubbery - beside a beautiful grass circle bordered by a *Euonymus fortunei* hedge -

Jackie Jack

Garden 2 - Timbers

Timbers is a 5-acre garden located at East Farleigh to the south of Maidstone, designed and maintained by HPS member Sue Robinson. Built on the remains of a Kentish Cobnut plat, an industry which has declined severely during the last century, around 230 of these 100-year-old trees enclose the garden and still produce a good crop.



The raised pond in the walled garden (Peter Hart)

The garden surrounds the house. In the front, there is a formal parterre and a circular area of herbaceous planting surrounded and sheltered by a yew hedge. A number of small trees and shrubs such as *Physocarpus* 'Lady in Red', *Cornus controversa* 'Variegata', *Pittosporum tenuifolium* 'Irene Paterson' and clematis including 'Madame Julia Correvon' (red) provide a good backdrop for the perennials -

euphorbia, alchemilla, geraniums, *Mathiasella bupleuroides* 'Green Dream' and much more.

To one side of the house, an old tennis court has been converted into a walled garden with a large rectangular raised pond. Many roses, large varieties of dianthus and a very dark astrantia were of particular note.

On the other side of the house, a large island bed adjacent to the pool house is well stocked with perennial plants. *Cephalaria gigantea* and *Cynara cardunculus* stand stately with several peonies, notably pure white 'Duchesse de Nemours'. A number of dahlias in pots were just coming in to flower.

The rear of the house looks out towards mature specimen trees. A large spreading *Prunus* 'Shirotae' is particularly striking and also a *Morus alba* and *Juglans nigra*. There are a number of island beds here with a rock pool and arbour.

A pergola leads down to the hedge and cobnut boundary and through a gate to a striking vista beyond. Here a valley, thought to be an ancient Roman Quarry, has



The Pergola (Peter Hart)

been planted as a wild flower meadow.

A very interesting and beautifully presented garden.

Peter Hart

Garden 3 - Nettlestead Place.

This 10 Acre garden has been developed in the last 10 years. The herbaceous garden, succulent garden, rose garden, shrubbery, terraces, spring fed pond, wildflower meadows, stream area and bank offered something for everyone.



Planting was generally loose and naturalistic, with the exception of the structured formal rose garden. Striking sculptures from Zimbabwe added interest throughout, one in particular raising a smile.

A highlight for me was the succulent garden, with *Aloe striatula*, *Echeveria glauca* and others planted in groups in a sparse gravel landscape. The sculptural beauty of the plants and the brave minimalist planting mimicked how colonies of plants develop in the wild. It was different from anything else seen on the tour.

Sculptured lady! (Getgood, 2019)

Another highlight was the 600-700 year old walnut tree (*Juglans nigra*) and a striking grass, *Themeda triandra* var. *japonica*, native to Africa, Australia and Asia, in the herbaceous borders.

A *Meconopsis betonifolia* brightened the shrubbery and the dry bank was perfectly planted for the conditions and aspect with various *Cistus* cultivars and *Helianthemum* rock roses. The 13th Century stone house with a 1920's addition was delightful, with *Centranthus ruber* 'Albus' growing on the buttresses adding to its charm.



Ancient Walnut (Getgood, 2019)

I loved this large garden and would happily have whiled away another hour here.

Becky Getgood

Garden 4 – Merriments Garden & Nursery

After being fully stuffed at breakfast, we weighed down the coach and made our way to the first garden of day two, Merriments. Aptly named, as it was a merry garden to start the day with. Located in Hurst Green on the East Sussex/Kent border this vibrant four-acre garden sits next to a nursery and was created in 1991.

The group predictably swarmed firstly to the nursery but we were soon enticed into the attractive garden to the side, where we could see how many of the plants for sale perform in an herbaceous border setting.

Sweeping deep, well stocked borders, often colour schemed, flow together seamlessly, giving the wandering HHPS gardeners' plenty of vistas and occasional sculptures to capture the eye.

Ballooning clumps of *Geranium* 'Nimbus', towers of *Silene fimbriata* and spreading *Oenothera* 'Sulphurea', help to link each border to the other. The roses were



Rosa 'Bonica' and *Amsonia* 'Blue Ice' (D Trenchard)

stunning, with varieties such as: *Rosa* 'Bonica' a lovely double pale pink; *Rosa* 'Eye Paint' a single striking red with a white eye; and the pale pink single flower clusters of *Rosa* 'Francis E. Lester', stealing the show. Other perennials standing out were *Paeonia* 'Bowl of Beauty', *Amsonia* 'Blue Ice' and an eye-popping red and purple everlasting

pea on many of the members shopping lists, *Lathyrus grandiflorus*.

A welcomed cup of tea and cake concluded our tour and with wallets made lighter through buying plants, we wended on our way. All in all, a stunningly captivating garden.

Ali Fletcher

Garden 5 – Sissinghurst Castle Garden (NT)

Mark and I first visited world-renowned Sissinghurst pre children, about 20 years ago. We were completely new to gardening and I was blown away by it. I loved the setting, the buildings and all the garden “rooms”. The beautiful planting within the structure that Vita Sackville-West’s husband, Harold Nicolson, planned is just my thing. I couldn’t wait to go again, but was slightly concerned I wouldn’t love it as much as before.

The day was beautiful and we arrived at the castle late morning - along with half the world it seemed. Sissinghurst has over 200,000 visitors per year (it’s open from March to October) and most of them were there that day. It was just as I remembered it and actually very little has changed within the gardens - they are still true to Vita and Harold’s vision. They started the gardens in the 1930s from derelict farmland and turned them into one of the world’s most influential gardens. They are now looked after by The National Trust - the Head Gardener has a team of 8, helped by a regular posse of 15 volunteers, with more at rose deadheading time.



The Tower at Sissinghurst (Anne Lynam)

For those that don’t know Sissinghurst, you’re greeted by the imposing castle tower, Vita’s sanctum, which housed her writing room that is left largely as it was when she was alive. We climbed the 78 steps to the top where you get magnificent views of the gardens and miles beyond. Note to self -

next time do this on arrival for orientation, not at the end of the visit!

Sissinghurst is famed for its roses and Vita had about 200 growing at one point. Troy Scott Smith (the current man in charge, although he’s about to leave) has reinstated most of these varieties after they had dwindled to fewer than 100.

The White Garden is perhaps the most famous garden room of all, with its subtle white, silver, grey and green planting. It's very romantic and beautiful, and definitely inspires me to think more about colour combinations in our own garden at home.

The South Cottage Garden is in marked contrast with its bright, vibrant colour scheme of shrubs, perennials and annuals. I hate orange at home, but the colours look magnificent here! The Cottage itself was open to the public for the first time in 2017, but unfortunately it is not open in June - I imagine because of the horrendous queues there would be.

The Lime Walk of pleached limes, also known as The Spring Garden, was obviously not at its best. Apparently it's a picture for a good month, when it's bursting with spring bulbs including tulips, fritillaries, hyacinths as well as perennials, such as *Euphorbia polychroma* 'Major'. Perhaps another visit is on the cards for the spring?



The White Garden (Anne Lynam)

The Orchard, in contrast to the more formal parts of the garden, has a wilder feel. There are mown paths, so you can wander through the long grasses, past the fruit trees planted up with rambling roses. A gazebo in one corner was built in 1969 in memory of Harold, who'd died the previous year.

Mark and I enjoyed chatting to some of the staff and volunteers in the veg garden, who were all very helpful and informative. They use the "no dig" method and garden organically. I don't think there was a weed in sight!

Mark of course particularly liked the *Delphinium elatum* trial in The Cut Flower Garden. They were apparently "pucker" Delphs!

One notable change from our last visit was the start of work on the redevelopment of the area, 'Delos', near the restaurant. Delos is a Greek Island, which Vita and Harold visited in 1935. They loved it so much that they wanted to recreate the Mediterranean look back home. It must have been one of their only unsuccessful parts of the garden, because they planted up a North-facing area which gradually returned to woodland. Dan Pearson, the designer, has redesigned the space and with clever landscaping and planting he hopes to achieve what Vita and Harold were unable to do. Another reason to visit again in the future!

There are more areas to the garden, but no time nor space to write any more, less I bore you all! It is definitely worth a visit if you haven't been, so you can see for yourselves why this garden is so beautiful and unique. BUT may I recommend term time and possibly not June. I loved Sissinghurst again, but the garden was so packed with visitors which spoilt it somewhat. It did make me realise though how very lucky we are to visit so many private gardens on HHPS holidays. I think most of the other ones we had to ourselves, which was a joy and privilege to be able to look around in peace. If you haven't been on an HHPS holiday before, they come highly recommended!

Anne Lyman

'Garden 6' - Madrona Nursery

Madrona is a specialist nursery in Bethersden Kent, growing rare, unusual and garden-worthy plants – they grow trees, shrubs, perennials, conifers, ferns and grasses.

The nursery has been in existence for 33 years, and has moved from a back garden to a dedicated site, set in 11 acres of beautiful Kentish countryside. The site is enhanced by a beautiful and totally unique brick-built folly, which contains a shop, counting house and tearoom, and by many other walls, brick arches and shade structures, all built to original designs by the owners.

Liam Mackenzie and Ylva Blid-Mackenzie are committed to producing healthy, unusual, well-grown plants for the general public, public gardens and landscape designers.

The nursery is open to the public four days a week between mid-March and the end of October. The beds are laid out in an easy to access fashion.

The spring and summer are the busiest months, with propagation, re-potting, plant

shows and the retail nursery. The autumn and winter are spent overhauling the nursery and in the writing and production of a very detailed 52 page catalogue



The Nursery (D Trenchard)

which reflects the ever-varied stock. It is difficult to write a report describing the delightful views and garden features when reporting upon a flat 11-acre nursery. I would like to avoid providing a list of plants but inevitably this cannot be avoided but can probably be minimised.

Madrona Nursery has plants which garden centres do not usually supply. Those, which attracted my attention, were:

Hakonechloa macra 'All Gold' - a semi-evergreen grass with arching foliage and mound-like form.

Erodium 'Spanish Eyes' - compact, spreading five-petalled lilac-pink flowers similar to a geranium.

Iris japonica 'Ledger's Variety' – a stunning white orchid iris with fimbriated petals

Podophyllum versipelle 'Spotty Dotty' - a rhizomatous perennial with umbrella-shaped leaves that are heavily-spotted with bronze, dark red, hanging bell-shaped flowers below the leaves.

Rodgersia 'Bronze Pearl' - compact with large leaves divided into veined leaflets with tall sprays of bright pink flowers.

Phyteuma scheuchzeri - Horned rampion is a relative of the campanula, bearing unusual 'horned' purple flowers above tufts of narrow grey-green foliage.

There are many other wonderful plants contained in the nursery which I found providing flower or delightful foliage –

Acer – comprise more than 110 species mainly from Eastern Asia. Eight are offered in the nursery. The following warrant consideration

A. palmatum 'Dissectum' – 40+ plants with dissected leaves and varying colour

A. pseudoplatanus 'Brilliantissimum' - a small deciduous rounded tree. Leaves start bright pink, becoming yellow-green, finally dark green, mottled with cream.

A. rubrum 'Summer Red' – leaves in spring flushed red and retaining the colour until autumn.

Callicarpa japonica – an unusual shrub producing pink/white flowers and purple berries in the autumn.

Cercis canadensis 'Forest Pansy' – a magnificent large shrub that in spring bears deep crimson, pink pea-like flowers along its bark and branches.

Cornus – A group of splendid shrubs and trees some of which have large showy bracts. Consisting of 11 species. The three below are particularly nice.

C. alternifolia 'Golden Shadows' – this is the ideal tree for your garden; it grows with distinctive horizontal branches and is complemented by bright yellow bracts with emerald green leaves.

C. kousa var. *chinensis* 'China Girl'- this Chinese Dogwood is a lovely small tree with an attractive spreading shape. It will serve well in any sunny position in the garden given well-drained soil.

C. kousa 'Venus' – a small, but tough tree with excellent tolerance to drought and diseases. It bears large creamy white bracts, 15cm across, in late spring.

Davidia involucrata 'Sonoma'– Handkerchief tree – a rare cultivar that flowers at a very young age. Large white bracts hang cloth-like amongst the leaves.

Drimys winteri – evergreen shrubs from Chile with attractive, aromatic, leathery leaves and terminal clusters of small, ivory-white starry flowers.

Edgeworthia chrysantha 'Grandiflora'– a native to woodlands in the Himalayas and China, famed for the beautiful clove-like fragrance that perfumes crisp winter air. It is a gorgeous plant.

Fremontodendron 'California Glory' - is a large, vigorous evergreen shrub to 6m, with rounded, three-lobed dark green leaves and bright deep yellow flowers to 6cm in width.

Paeonia – Peony Itoh hybrids – from Japan – intersectional crosses between herbaceous and hybrid tree peonies.

P. 'Cora Louise' - Impressive very large, pure white, semi double flowers, 8-10 in. wide that delicately open to reveal flushed lavender to purple petals

P. 'Julia Rose' - a remarkable plant with magnificent single to semi-double blossoms. Cherry red in bud, they open to orange and apricot, with delicate purple flushed edges, and fade to yellow.

P. 'Pastel Splendor' – has single, white flowers showing shades of light pink and light yellow on opening, attractive centre with brilliant red flares.

Sinocalycanthus chinensis – has lovely, large, creamy white, magnolia-like flowers with yellow centres in mid-summer. A very beautiful easily grown deciduous shrub – it is a joy to behold.

I hope that you have not found this report to be an uninteresting dialogue and that you enjoyed the short note attached to each plant. The thing that is very clear is that the coach had more stability when it than when it arrived due to the additional weight provided by the nursery - we were half-an-hour late in leaving.

The selection and quality of plants purchased was no surprise – it was a very good nursery.

Peter Schofield

Garden 7 - Leydens,

I chose this garden for the write up because it was the smallest garden we were to visit! It was the first garden we were visiting on our last day in Kent. I wasn't quite sure what to expect as I hadn't researched the garden, and it was only during the visit that I realised Mr Platt had designed gardens and won Gold Medals at Chelsea!



Cornus 'Norman Haddon' (D Trenchard)

The weather was dry and the sun was out as we entered the garden through the nursery. The nursery specialises in large specimen trees and shrubs like acers and cornus - plants like *Cornus 'Norman Haddon'* and *Cornus kousa 'Milky Way'*. However these were much too big and expensive for me to afford or carry in the coach! Mr Platt uses these big specimens in his garden design business and

show gardens, but also to fill in gaps when the garden is open to the public!! However there were a few smaller plants for sale, which were more affordable.

Mr Platt met us when we arrived and gave us a short talk about the garden, but admitted that he hardly has time to get involved in the maintenance. He was in the garden all the time we were there, answering questions and showing interest in our comments. He also took advice from some of our members!

The garden is a beautifully designed garden and has an open field bordering one side. Curved paths take you in and out of sunny or shady borders, all with an element of surprise in them, like a very beautiful tree or rose or shrub (eg. *Calycanthus x raulstonii* 'Hartlage Wine' which has aromatic leaves and solitary, fragrant wine coloured flowers).

Sometimes it would be a water feature, a statue or a seat tucked in somewhere, all placed for great impact. I loved the way he fills the borders with big contrasting trees and shrubs for colour, shape and height (eg *Sambucus* and *Prunus*); and at the very front the very well chosen common smaller plants, such as *Alchemilla mollis*. The pergola walk was also very tastefully planted all along it with a number of hardy geraniums and nepeta and then at the end taking the visitors to a different part of the garden through a gap in the yew hedge.



Leymus arenarius (D Trenchard)

Most of the borders had a backdrop of yew, which allowed the plants to stand out. As I mentioned above, the planting was lovely, but there was a plant that stood out which was a tall unusual silver grass called *Leymus arenarius* that attracted a lot of attention. Unfortunately, there were no plants for sale in the nursery!

The vegetable garden was made up of raised beds and I spotted *Oxalis tuberosa* (Oca) in one of them, which is a native of Peru and it is the roots that are edible on this plant. To end the visit we had a lovely cup of tea and cake in the large greenhouse and then off we went to the next garden.

Roret Blue

Garden 8 - Durrance Manor

Our penultimate garden visit started with a very heavy shower of rain, so we had resigned ourselves to eat on the coach, but our hosts very kindly found seats for all 34 of us to eat our lunch in the dry. We left our brollies dripping on their kitchen floor, and walked our muddy boots and dripping coats through their lovely house, while they brought us very welcome cups of tea. It was very much appreciated by us all.

One side of the wonderful entrance drive was lined with standard red roses, and the opposite side had amazing topiary box obelisks. The garden derived tremendous structure from all the fantastic topiary throughout, with magnificent

Japanese areas filled with tightly clipped balls of hebes, azaleas, box, choisya, yew and other shrubs. There were cleverly positioned tree-ferns, which you might think would look out of place in all this formality, but really were the “icing on the cake”!



The topiary in the Japanese garden (D Trenchard)

The newly planted hosta walk will mature in no time, and included some delightful ferns – my

favourite was *Polystichum setiferum* (Divisilobum Group) with more tree ferns, *Allium christophii*, and more clipped shrubs intermingled throughout.

The herbaceous borders were a mass of colour, with a particularly impressive *Buddleja alternifolia* in full bloom. The wild garden was just as colourful with ox-eye daisies, yellow rattle and cranesbill.

Amongst all of this gorgeous planting there were some interesting sculptures - definitely talking points!!! You would either love or hate them - the most unusual of which was a light green sculpture of the chlorophyll symbol.



Love it or hate it - the green sculpture of the chlorophyll symbol (D Trenchard)

This garden was truly a delight to visit.

Julie Willis

Garden 9 - Upwaltham Barns

After the previous garden, surely there would be an anti-climax, but no, Dawn had cleverly programmed the last one as a complete and beautiful contrast.

This was unashamedly romantic and pretty, as it is a very popular venue for weddings (up to four a week!). The cottage exuberance of the flower beds and many containers was achieved in part by plug plants of many tender and half hardy plants of co-ordinated soft colours, supplied by Sarah Raven. There were also perennial borders of cottage garden character, with peonies, Pacific Coast delphiniums; and geraniums; there was no jarring note. Of many well trained roses, a charming one was the fully double deep pink *R. Darcy Bussell*.



A lovely array of roses leading up the steps (D Trenchard)

Beyond their pretty brick and flint farmhouse, wreathed in rambler roses, was a short avenue of hornbeams topiarised as square tall columns; also a simple wide rill with goldfish swimming races. On the cross walk of this area there was a good row, almost like a low hedge, of *Sedum spectabile*, for autumn interest.

There were formal garden seats and little groups of metal chairs and tables for drinks and conversation; also a large wood framed aviary of canaries and finches.

The barns on three sides dating from the C17 had been beautifully restored and the formerly muddy farmyard, was now suitable for those in a wedding dress. Our hostess, Sue Kearsey, had made all the cakes. She, married at 16, has now completed 62 years of marriage. Her husband, Roger, did the vegetables which I didn't have time to see. Much of the proceeds from this garden go to restore the beautiful small medieval church on the hill across the road.

The atmosphere of the whole holiday was of fun, friendliness and of learning from other people's plantsmanship and design. I would urge anyone who had not been on an HHPS outing to come - other gardeners have wonderful ideas.

Patricia Elkington

Mycorrhizal Fungi – The Facts

How many of us use Mycorrhizal Fungi when planting? Here's a few interesting facts that may help you decide whether to apply Mycorrhizal Fungi:

- Mycorrhizal fungi (Mycorrhiza) occur naturally in soils, forming mutualistic associations with the roots of 90% of terrestrial plants. They are a critical part of well-functioning mature ecosystems in nature.
- Mycorrhizal Fungi available from garden centres contain a mix of general fungal species that will associate with most woody and herbaceous plants. Only specific specialist Mycorrhiza can form associations with Ericoid plants and with Orchids.
- Some plant families **cannot** form mycorrhizal associations for example: Brassicaceae; Amaranthaceae sub-family Chenopodioideae (E.g. Spinach) and Proteaceae.



Figure 1. Mycorrhizal hyphae associated with a soya bean root (RootRescue.com).

- Mycorrhiza provide water and nutrients to the plant in return for carbohydrate produced by photosynthesis.
- Mycorrhizal fungal hyphae form networks that can spread for many square meters away from the host plant therefore can reach more water and nutrients than the plants' roots. They could be seen as an 'extension' to the roots, significantly increasing surface area for absorption of water and nutrients (Figures 1 and 2).
- Mycorrhiza can live in soil that contains organic matter but cannot form colonies in very high levels of peat.
- Plants only form an association with Mycorrhizal fungi when they need help to get water and nutrients from the soil. For example, Phosphorus, a major nutrient, is often bound to soil particles in a form that plant roots cannot absorb. Mycorrhiza can extract this Phosphorus and transport it into the plant.
- Regular digging and fertilization decrease naturally occurring Mycorrhiza.
- Annual plants do not make good plant partners as they cannot provide a long-

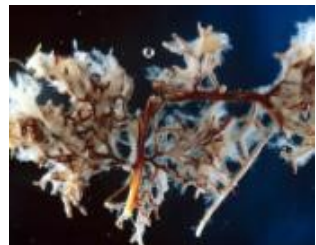


Figure 2. Fungal hyphae associated with a tree root (International

term source of carbohydrate to Mycorrhiza.

- Sterilised soil and compost do not contain Mycorrhiza.
- If plants are fed with a fertilizer containing all nutrients required, and receive enough water, then addition of Mycorrhizal fungi is not required. This is relevant for well cared for plants in pots and raised beds.
- Addition of Mycorrhiza to new plantings in the garden can assist the plant to get established by providing water and nutrients whilst plant roots are still developing.
- A sachet of Mycorrhizal fungi is expensive to buy so it may only be worth using for more expensive plantings such as trees and shrubs. Naturally occurring Mycorrhiza in garden soil will colonise other plants over time.

Becky Getgood

Article written following research into the topic for a horticulture degree.

Image credits: International Mycorrhizal Society: Image retrieved from <https://www.yousense.info/696e7465726e6174696f6e616c/international-mycorrhiza-society-education-research-and.html> Root Rescue.com – Image retrieved from <https://www.rootrescue.com/site/mycorrhizal-science>

Quiz

The characters below all appear in fiction. Name the writer who created them and the book in which they appeared. If more than one book only one name is required. Courtesy of **Pat Gormley**

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Basil Hallward | 14. Hyacinth Robinson |
| 2. Cecily Cardew | 15. Lettice Douffet |
| 3. Cherry Ames | 16. Lily Rowan |
| 4. Clover Carr | 17. Little Buttercup |
| 5. Daffodil Quentin | 18. Marguerite St Just/Blakeney |
| 6. Dahlia Travers | 19. Marigold Lesley |
| 7. Daisy Buchanan | 20. Myrtle Dunnage |
| 8. Daphne Millicent Turner | 21. Petunia Evans/Dursley |
| 9. Eglantine Banks/Took | 22. Poppy Burt-Jones |
| 10. Fern Arable | 23. Rosa Bud |
| 11. Hazel Shade | 24. Rowan Mayfair |
| 12. Hebe Courtenay | 25. Sorrel Forbes |
| 13. Holly Short | 26. Violet Elizabeth Bott |

Answers on Page 22

Hampshire Conservation Group

The annual meeting of the Hampshire Group of the HPS Conservation Scheme took place in early September this year

The Conservation Scheme aims to identify and preserve some of the plant cultivars that are becoming harder to find in local nurseries. This could be partly due to the commercial aspect that drives gardening today and to current fashions and trends. Some of the older varieties of hardy plants, which have historical links to the HPS and have proved to be good garden worthy plants, would be lost if the Conservation Scheme was not supported by members in each county.

There has been a separate Hampshire HPS Group Conservation Scheme for several years and members have collected a huge number of plants which are currently shown on our Active List. In line with other Counties we have now joined the National Scheme and we are keen to merge our plants with the National List.

Hampshire currently has 73 different plants on our Active List of which 23 are National plants. Our aim is to get all the Hampshire plants to be adopted by National, so that there is only one list for Conservation plants in the Hardy Plant Society!

Sue Hough, delivered a further selection of Hampshire collected plants to the National Scheme this year; members from other counties will now grow and propagate these in different areas of the country.

One of these plants is *Sedum* 'Little Dove' a long-lived plant suitable for hanging baskets as well as in well-drained garden soil. I have grown this plant for several years in my Hampshire garden and this year popped a couple into a south facing hanging basket with great success!



Sedum 'Little Dove' (Olenka Snell)

To view the National list of plants, now showing many of the Hampshire collected plants, go to the HPS website. <http://www.hardy-plant.org.uk/about-plants/conservation/conservation-plants>

Our Conservation meeting on September 7th was well attended; the Ritchie Hall was filled with members who then filled all the tables with hundreds of plants! These plants were selections from the different lists for example:

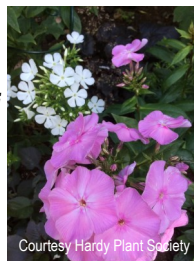
Hampshire Active Conservation Plant List - the pale lilac-pink *Phlox paniculata* 'Lady Clare' and the white *Phlox x arendsii* 'Cassablanca' (see right)



Arabis alpina subsp. *caucasica* 'Arctic Joy'
(Olenka Snell)

National Conservation List - plants like *Arabis alpina* subsp. *caucasica* 'Arctic Joy'

shown *in situ* in my garden and being propagated in coarse sand topped with grit in September last year.



Courtesy Hardy Plant Society

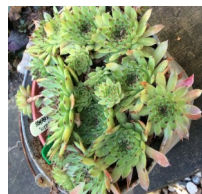
Archived Plant List such as *Sempervivum* 'Little Flirt'.

At our meeting, for the second year in succession, Sue Hough gave an informative talk on our Hampshire conservation plants.



Hosta 'Longthatch' (O Snell)

She explained that some plants have been removed from the Active List and added our Archive List; *Hosta* 'Longthatch', a plant which has not been registered and has not been found in the RHS Plant Finder, lacks provenance and has been archived. Such plants will still be grown and enjoyed in members' gardens. When brought to meetings these will be offered to members but not necessarily for Conservation propagation.



Sempervivum 'Little Flirt'
Olenka Snell

Some plants are regularly propagated, and others seem to get overlooked. Sue asked for information on 3 *Phlox* that had not been propagated recently and as a result photographs provided by members are not available:

Phlox paniculata 'Otley Purple' Introduced to Hampshire Group 2005 and was last brought to the 2008 meeting. Flowers: Purple with a crimson eye; Height: 60cm; Bred by Fred Simpson of Otley, Yorkshire in 1965. This is an excellent plant and early grower and the flowers are early too. *Phlox paniculata* 'Fairy's Petticoat' Introduced to Hampshire Group 2005 but hasn't been seen since then. Flowers: Delicate shade of mulberry on light ground with slightly deeper eye; Sturdy and

vigorous with compact heads; Mid-season flowering – medium height 75cm; First Listed in RHS Plant Finder pre 1987. Last listed in the RHS Plant Finder 2009. *Phlox paniculata* 'Fidelio' Introduced to Hampshire Group in 2004 and not seen since then. Bred by B. Ruys, Moerheim, Dedemsvaart Netherlands 1939. Flowers: White, with a large neat cerise eye. According to Jennifer Harmer's HPS Booklet, it is one of the best with this colour combination. It is of medium height.

The meeting was filled with information and discussion and members went away with many more plants to trial in their gardens. Do put next years meeting into your diary, 2 May 2020, and if you have not grown a Conservation plant before, and want to hear more about the plants grown by our Hampshire HPS members, come along on the Saturday morning next year and see what this enthusiastic bunch of gardeners get up to; no pressure but you may find yourself leaving with a super plant to trial in your own garden!

Olenka Snell

Answers to Quiz on Page 19

Basil Hallward	Oscar Wilde The Picture of Dorian Gray
Cecily Cardew	Oscar Wilde The Importance of being Earnest
Cherry Ames	Helen Wells and/or Julie Campbell Tatham Cherry Ames books
Clover Carr	Susan Coolidge Clover; the What Katy Did books
Daffodil Quentin	Dick Francis The Edge
Dahlia Travers	P G Wodehouse Bertie Wooster/Jeeves books
Daisy Buchanan	F Scott Fitzgerald The Great Gatsby
Daphne Millicent Turner	Enid Blyton Malory Towers books
Eglantine Banks/Took	J R R Tolkien The Lord of the Rings books
Fern Arable	E B White Charlotte's Web
Hazel Shade	Vladimir Nabokov Pale Fire
Hebe Courtenay	Liz Fenwick One Cornish Summer
Holly Short	Eoin Colfer Artemis Fowl books
Hyacinth Robinson	Henry James The Princess Casamassima
Lettice Douffet	Peter Shaffer Lettice and Lovage
Lily Rowan	Rex Stout Nero Wolfe books
Little Buttercup	W S Gilbert HMS Pinafore
Marguerite St Just/Blakeney	Baroness Orczy The Scarlet Pimpernel
Marigold Lesley	L M Montgomery Magic for Marigold
Myrtle Dunnage	Rosalie Ham The Dressmaker
Petunia Evans/Dursley	J K Rowling Harry Potter books
Poppy Burt-Jones	Zadie Smith White Teeth
Rosa Bud	Charles Dickens The Mystery of Edwin Drood
Rowan Mayfair	Anne Rice Lives of the Mayfair Witches (and others)
Sorrel Forbes	Noel Streatfeild Theatre Shoes/Curtain Up
Violet Elizabeth Bott	Richmal Crompton Just William books

AGM Formal Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Hardy Plant Society Hampshire Group will be held at 7:30 pm on Friday 15th November 2019.

Nominations for Officers and other Committee Members should be sent to the Secretary, Helen Cleare by Friday 1st November 2019. See the nomination form enclosed. Please make sure you have obtained the nominee's consent beforehand.

The present Committee comprises:

Chairman	Mr Mike Maunder*
Vice Chairman	Mr Peter Schofield*
Treasurer	Mr Peter Hart*
Secretary	Miss Helen Cleare*
Membership Secretary	Mrs Roret Blue*
Newsletter Editor	Mr Martin Ward*
Indoor Events	Mrs Sue Hough
Special Events and Plant Sales	Mrs Dawn Trenchard
Conservation Programme	Mrs Olenka Snell*
Garden Sundries	Mrs Linda Ham*
Audio & Publicity	Mr Peter Hart*
Auditor	Mr Brian Collins*

The Committee Members' marked by * are willing to stand for re-election. Those standing down are: Mrs Sue Hough (Indoor Events); Special Events and Plant Sales (Mrs Dawn Trenchard).

Mrs Jenny Maunder, who was co-opted by the current committee on Tuesday 10th September, is willing to take on the role as Indoor Events unless any other nominations are put forward.

If you would like to nominate someone to serve on the committee, please complete the enclosed Nomination Form ensuring that you have the nominee's consent. The forms should be sent to the Secretary, Helen Cleare, at hants@hardy-plant.co.uk by Friday 1st November 2019.

HHPS Membership Information

A **Membership Form** is included within this issue of our Newsletter. The form is for **new members** as well as for **existing members renewing** their membership.

There is an electronic database for the membership, but it is important for us to keep a hard copy. **Please**, read the form and fill it in using clear capital letters. Post it with a cheque and a SAE (for the Programme Card to be sent to you), to the Membership Secretary (Address on back page of the Newsletter). The Programme Card is usually available in January.

It is much easier for the Membership Secretary if you post the form filled in. Meetings are busy and mistakes can occur. However, if you decide to bring it to a meeting, **please** bring the form filled in, with a cheque or correct membership fee money in an envelope. The Programme Card can be picked up at the January meeting.

If you pay your membership in any other way rather than by cheque or cash, **please** still fill the form in and either post it or bring it to a meeting. If you send a SAE a Programme Card will be posted to you.

Email addresses are used to inform you of meetings, visits, etc. So, if you have an email address, don't forget to write it in the Membership Form.

Remember that you need to renew your National HPS membership **before** joining or renewing our local group (HHPS).

If you joined the **Hampshire Group** in July, 2019, you won't need to renew until January, 2021.

Roret Blue (Membership Secretary)

Forthcoming Events

Friday 18th October 2019 at 7.30 pm

Howard Dury

51 Years of Ashwood Specialties'

Howard's talk will look at the many specialty plants such as Cyclamen, Lewisias, Primulas, Salvias, Hydrangeas, Hepaticas and Anemones which Ashwood Nurseries have developed and how to grow them in your garden or greenhouse.

Friday 15th November 2019 at 7.30 pm

AGM followed by **‘Hampshire Group’s Holidays 2018 and 2019’**

A talk by Dawn Trenchard.

Including bring and share refreshments.

Saturday 18th January 2020 at 2.30 pm

(Please note this is a Saturday afternoon meeting)

David Standing

‘Growing Old Fashioned Flowers’

David has been in charge of the Gilbert White Garden in Selborne since 1979 and over that time he has researched the layout and plants in this very historic garden.

Saturday 15th February 2020 at 2.30 pm

(Please note this is a Saturday afternoon meeting)

Simon Gulliver

“The Plant Hunters”

A talk on how our wealth of garden plants were found and brought back to our gardens.

Friday 20th March 2020 at 7.30 pm

Paul Green

“Plants of the season”

A practical talk using real plants, including propagation, pruning and best use in gardens.

Friday 17th April 2020 at 7.30 pm

Samantha Hopes

“Roscoeae”

A brilliant, but unusual member of the ginger family. Greatly underused, it is a wonderful garden plant, with so much to offer, in this talk Samantha shares some of her infectious enthusiasm for the genus.

Plant Labelling

We do our best at our Plant Sales and Raffles to ensure plant labelling is correct. Occasionally, plants are donated with the wrong plant name. Also, some plants grown from seed are not always marked accordingly and there is no certainty that they will come true, even when grown from HPS supplied seeds. The Society cannot always guarantee accuracy but we will continue to vet all labels to the best of our ability.