

**NO DIG GARDENING**  
A talk by Charles Dowding to Hayling Island Horticultural Society  
Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018

Charles Dowding is a gardener particularly well known for his concept of 'No Dig' Gardening. Graduating from Cambridge with a degree in geography led to his lifelong pursuit of an interest in the land to produce organic crops in a time efficient and productive way. He has spent time in Africa and France before starting his latest venture in Somerset where. "There was a rapid creation and evolution of Homeacres garden, transformed in six months from weedy wilderness to productive plot, without turning a sod." He has appeared on Gardener's World and gives regular talks to promote his passionate belief in what he calls the #charlesdowdingmethod.

Charles gave a fascinating and insightful talk on his 'No Dig' approach to gardening and explained how to have healthy soil and enjoy easier harvests, followed by questions and answers. Everything was backed up by facts based on his experimental approach which enables him to record and analyse yields resulting from the different methods of producing crops.

The concept is based simply on the need to reduce the amount of digging to avoid disruption of the soil which already has a structure and to feed the soil life with organic matter on the surface, as it happens naturally, to maintain drainage and aeration. Charles stressed this works on all soils including heavy clay. If the area is covered in weeds, for the first year Charles advocates the use of a mulch to exclude light such as cardboard or polythene and this helps to kill perennial weeds. This can be removed after the first year and any weeds that then appear can be removed by hand.

As well as reducing the time and effort needed to cultivate and weed, 'No Dig' has many other benefits, such as increased yields, easier harvesting and maintenance. He is also a great proponent of the beauty of vegetable growing and showed this in the many photos of his own smallholding. Charles was keen to dispel many 'Garden Myths'. For example, he adds blighted tomatoes and leeks to his compost without detrimental effect.

Before he answered a multitude of questions from the audience Charles was keen to stress that "No dig is not a religion, sometimes you need a spade, say to cut out bramble roots or make a hole for planting tree!"

To find out more visit his website [www.charlesdowding.co.uk](http://www.charlesdowding.co.uk)

**Liese Holden**



**HAYLING ISLAND  
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY  
WINTER 2018/19  
NEWSLETTER**

**CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS**

My wife and I spent the Christmas and New Year periods between North Buckingham, with our eldest daughter's family, and North Wales, with a group from the Island to celebrate the arrival of the New Year. The weather has been so mild thus far; and, was reflected in the areas in which we stayed.

In Buckingham the view was quintessential the English country scene, two magnificent horses grazing in a large field that had been landscaped over two hundred years ago, and contained wonderful trees, but the trees were already well in bud. In North Wales we spent part of a day at Betws-y-coed, on our drive there we were in the Snowdonia National Park, and many of the flowering trees were in full bloom, it was stunning!

On our way home we went through the Staffordshire Moors and the Derby Dales. The piece de resistance was a visit to the National Arboretum, it was breath taking. We all agreed we are so lucky to live in a beautiful country. When we reached the bridge at Langstone the tide was in; we had arrived at our wonderful Island!

As Members who attended the AGM will know, Eve Osborne has stood down from being the Outing Organiser. She has been helping her successor, Rosy Raines to settle in, and we shall shortly hear of the visits for 2019.

For family reasons, I am unable to continue in the role of the annual Holiday Organiser; I do hope someone will take over in due course.

Our first talk in 2019 will be at the URC Large Hall on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, at 2.30 pm and is entitled "Unusual Plants available to the British Gardener," and is given by Roger Hiron.

Let's hope that we have a lovely year, weather wise, and that our three shows will be as successful as ever.

I wish you all a Happy, Healthy New Year.

**Bill Biggs, Chairman**

## TRADING CENTRE UPDATE - JANUARY

Happy New Year to you all, we are looking forward to seeing you on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February when we re-open.

For the last financial year we reported a very small profit, £29, for what was a difficult year. Spring was very wet and Summer hot and dry, neither being conducive for gardening. Naturally sales were depressed over these periods and never recovered.

Work continues at the Trading Centre, initially concentrating on essential maintenance. The upgrading of the electrics has been completed and we are now looking at the replacement of the compost shed roof. At the same time we are reorganising some of the product displays and the seeds. This is in addition to a general reorganisation and smartening up.

We have managed to get additional help to the sub-committee:

Dave Clark	Maintenance, assisting Ron Duffield
Greg Taylor	General assistance in the shop
Steve Jackman	Stock management
Pat Burden	Sales adviser

For those that have ordered seed potatoes, delivery is expected for the beginning of February.

Spring planting bulbs have been ordered and are expected shortly.

The new season seed order is being prepared and will be placed in the next couple of weeks.

If you find we don't stock what you want, please ask for your needs to be added to our order list, together with your contact details. If we can help, at an economic price, we will.

There is still a desperate need for a Trading Manager. The job description is available on the web site, Facebook and by Email request to HIHS.Trading.Centre@gmail.com This is a high-profile role that will benefit all Members of the Society. All the basic preparatory work has been completed for this coming year. This will give the new Trading Manager a flying start to ease them into their new role.

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered for duty on Sundays or Wednesdays.

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Wishing you all a Happy Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

I emailed every member on our database earlier in the year inviting all to validate their email address and confirm that they are happy to receive updates from the Trading Centre on offers, promotions and newsletters. I responded to everyone who returned their details; thank you to the 200+ Members who took the time and trouble to reply.

If you did not receive an email or a reply from me and you would like to be included in this scheme, please submit your current email address to: [lesleyt.horti@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyt.horti@gmail.com)

Your details will not be shared outside of the Society and we promise you will not get bombarded by junk mail from us.

The yearly Subscription by standing order and on-line banking was successfully launched last year and if you wish to pay your subscription by this method you can still do so using bank details as follows:

sort code 30-15-42

bank account No 00761983

and, most importantly, using the 1<sup>st</sup> line of your address, or house No/Name, and post code as a reference

For administration purposes I would appreciate it if payments are made before the end of February so that I can update the distributors' lists.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the shows, talks and at the Trading Centre this year.

**Lesley Tyrell, Membership Secretary**

## TEA ROOM

My last thank you to all the super helpers and cake makers from the last fourteen years. As most of you know, I am stepping down and leaving you in the very competent hands of Kay Hawkins, and I know you will give her the same help you have always given me. I will still come to the shows and perhaps help elsewhere. Also, a big thank you to Tony, I would not have been able to do my job without him.

**June Kemp**

## 100+ CLUB

We now have 109 members so the prize money for the next prize draw will be 1<sup>st</sup> £27.25, 2<sup>nd</sup> £16.35, and 3<sup>rd</sup> £10.90

Drawn numbers for July were: First 36 Second 123, and Third 81.

Drawn numbers for August were: First 99, Second 33, and Third 61.

Drawn numbers for September were: First 93, Second 110, and Third 54.

Drawn numbers for October were: First 86, Second 47, and Third 54.

Drawn numbers for November were: First 86, Second 116, and Third 32.

The draws for December and January will take place at the Talk on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, when the renewal letters for next year will also be available.

If you would like to join, new Members are always welcome. The more Members we have the better the prize money!

For more information and an application form, visit the website [www.hihs.org.uk](http://www.hihs.org.uk) or contact the club organiser.

**Hazel Phillips 023 9246 3803**

## TOMBOLA AT THE HIHS SHOWS

Thanks to everyone for their generosity supporting the Tombola in the three shows in 2018.

With 2019 upon us, please consider setting aside any unwanted Christmas presents and bring them along to one of the meetings, the Trading Centre or to me at home.

Every little helps, all very much appreciated, Happy New Year.

**Norman Newton  
27 Park Road  
023 9235 5522**

Staffing is generally well organised, but we still need 3 people for the compost shed, 2 on Wednesdays and 1 on Sundays plus some reserves for both days.

Hoping to see you all on Sundays, starting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2019 when we re-open and Wednesdays, starting 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Have a good gardening season.

**Martin Clark, on behalf of the Trading Sub-committee.**

## CHIEF STEWARD VACANCY

A vacancy has arisen for a Chief Steward to cover the Horticultural Society's three shows staged in March, June and September and to manage the show preparation and to assist the Show Manager.

They will be well supported by the outgoing Chief Steward and the Show Sub-Show Committee.

For further information or an informal chat please contact:

**Tim Speller on 023 9246 6292 or John Lark on 023 9246 3538**

## HIHS TAKES A STAND AT HI-5 CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Throwing Sprouts into Santa's mouth and planting your own bulb for Christmas were the two activities run by the Society at the highly successful Hi-5 Christmas Fayre on Saturday 15th December at Hayling College. Hi-5 is the highly enterprising group representing the five Hayling Schools who have come together with a view to fundraising collectively and installing a community spirit between the five schools.

The Society were invited to run a stall at the event to help raise funds and at the same time, the profile of the Horticultural Society, particularly with younger children. This aim was certainly achieved and the stall, which was manned by Members of the Committee, was very busy all day. The children enjoyed the opportunity to plant a bulb for Christmas and to personalise it as a gift.

Over 120 bulbs were planted and raised over £50 for the Hi-5 funds. All the bulbs and compost were kindly donated by the Trading Centre. The children also enjoyed the challenge of trying to throw sprouts into Santa's mouth to win a prize. The whole event raised over £5000 towards the Hi-5 funds - a fantastic achievement. A huge thank you to all the members of the Committee who supported the event on the day.

**Liese Holden**

**TRY YOUR HAND AT ENTERING A CLASS  
IN OUR SPRING SHOW  
SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**CLASSES FOR JUNIOR EXHIBITORS**

**4 to 8 Years:**

54. A Painting / Drawing - a picture of a rainy day - max size A4 (210mm x 297mm)

55. Decorate and grow something in a wellington boot



56. Decorated seed packet for daisy seeds - Size C6 (162mm x 114 mm), decorated on both sides  
Packets available from the Trading Centre. and Liese Holden - lieseholden1000@gmail.com

57. Family of decorated eggs

58. Home made biscuits - decorated for Easter - 5 on a plate

59. Photograph of a Flower(s)

**9 to 14 years:**

60. A Painting / Drawing - a picture of a rainy day - maximum size A4 (210mm x 297mm)

61. Decorate and grow cress in a pot - maximum size 150mm

62. A Mother's Day card, painting, collage etc. with written message inside.

63. A Model Boat made from recycled material - maximum size 450mm

64. Home made biscuits -decorated for Easter - 5 on a plate



65. Photograph of a Flower(s) - See Rules 31 & 32



**RULES FOR JUNIOR EXHIBITORS**

28. Age limits. Juniors have separate groups. 4 to 8 years and 9 to 14 years.

29. Prizes are awarded for each class

30. Own work. The design and construction of exhibits

must be entirely the junior's own work.

31. Marking. A label naming the exhibitor must be firmly fixed to the exhibit and out of view. >>>>

**COOKERY AND HANDICRAFT CLASSES – All Ages!  
Why not also test your cookery and handicraft skills?**

**COOKERY - Open**

66. Yorkshire Tea Cakes - using yeast, on a plate, 3. See Rule 25.

67. Plain Scones - on a plate, 5. See Rule 25.

68. Jam Swiss Roll - whisked and fatless – approx. 200mm. See Rule 26.

69. White Chocolate and Strawberry Muffins - on a plate, 5. - Visit [www.hihs.org.uk](http://www.hihs.org.uk) for recipe.

70. Digestive Biscuits - on a plate, 5. See Rule 25.

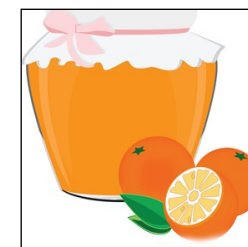
71. Pineapple Upside-down Pudding - approx. 200mm. See Rule 26.

72. Vegetarian Pasty - on a plate – for 1. See Rules 25 and 27.

73. Homemade Orange Marmalade - approx 454g (1lb)  
See Rule 24.

74. Homemade Chutney - approx 454g (1lb)  
See Rule 24.

75. Marmalade Fruit Cake - MEN ONLY -  
Visit [www.hihs.org.uk](http://www.hihs.org.uk) for recipe.



**HANDICRAFT - Open**

76. A Decorated Terracotta Pot - maximum size 400mm.



77. Patchwork / Quilted beach bag.

78. Greetings card using pressed flowers.

79. Something new from something old - to fit maximum space 500mm x 500mm.\*

80. Wood, metal or pottery item - to fit maximum space 500mm x 500mm.\*

81. A Painting / Drawing - any medium, maximum size 600mm x 600mm to include mount and frame.\*

82. Any Other Craft / Artwork Item not in classes 76 - 81

**FOR ADVICE ON ENTRIES AND RULES VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.hihs.org.uk](http://www.hihs.org.uk)**