

## VISIT TO CHARLESTON - JUNE 14th

14th June was one of those perfect English summer days, bright, warm and sunny. A coach full of happy souls, chatting merrily were transported to Charleston where we were given an informative tour of the farm house.

Situated in the heart of the South Downs, Charleston was the home of Bloomsbury artists Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant. Pioneers of early 20th century British art, Bell and Grant created a hub of artistic and intellectual activity with visitors including Virginia and Leonard Woolf, John Maynard Keynes, E.M. Forster and many others.

Following the tour it was back into the sunlight and time to explore the charming garden which was at its best with so much in bloom. The hum of bees was everywhere and perfume from the rambling roses was intoxicating. Plants tumbled over the narrow paths and statues enhanced the visual aspects. The veg patch did credit to the gardeners working so tirelessly during our visit.

Thank you Eve for your sterling work organising yet another enjoyable outing.

## VISIT TO LONGSTOCK PARK WATER GARDEN - JULY 21st

The River Test flows into these seven acres of garden keeping the water crystal clear. Winding paths and little bridges enticed us from island to island, revealing wonderful collections of many marginal and water-loving plants. A true spectacle with over forty different Water lilies alone. There were over one hundred tree species gathered from across the globe, including the Swamp Cypress (most famously associated with the swamps of the Everglades).

The gardens were a magnet for wildlife, with an abundance of water and insect life attracting a diversity of woodland and water birds. Our Members took full advantage of the many seats throughout the gardens to appreciate the experience, relax and enjoy tranquil views and reflections across open waters.

Then it was the short ride on to the Leckford Estate for lunch and to explore the farm shop, nursery and the gardens which contained the national collections of buddleia and clematis viticella and an impressive 80 metre herbaceous border.

Chairman Bill thanked Eve for organising this year's diverse series of outings.

View the photographs and full reports visit our website [www.hihs.org.uk](http://www.hihs.org.uk).

**Norman Newton**



## HAYLING ISLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AUTUMN 2017 NEWSLETTER

### CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS

We have just had the record wettest July in many areas; so, how did our exhibitors at the June Show produce such beautiful displays? I am told that the Sweet Pea Judge was very impressed, and thought the displays were up to National Standard. Well done to the Show Sub Committee.

The outing to Longstock Water Gardens followed by the visit to the Leckford Estate was superb. The employees of the John Lewis Partnership are so fortunate that their founder, John Spedan Lewis, was such a kindly benefactor. Thanks Eve Osborne for another splendid year of visits; I can't wait for 2018!

The September talk at the URC large Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> is by Alan Sargent and entitled "The Confessions of a Gardener"!

Gill Elton tells me that the ticket sales for "An Evening with Pippa Greenwood" are selling well, at the last count 75. Just to remind you the venue is the Community Centre, at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> October. Tickets, £4 for members and £5 for non members, are available from Gill Elton, telephone 023 9246 1942, myself on 023 9246 8789 or the Community Centre Reception. Gill has also given advanced notice of our star speaker for 2018, it is Charles Dowding of Monty Donn and Gardeners' World.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.30 pm, June Kemp and her helpers will supply refreshments after the meeting. Please remember to bring your membership card, this enables you to vote as and when necessary.

The Growing Together Project has had more support from Community First, for which we are extremely grateful. They have helped us again at the Stead and Ritchie Memorial Garden. We are now in a position to commence choosing new trees, flowers and so on; we are only being delayed in that we are waiting for the Council to arrange for the clearance of the tree branches that have been lopped, and also, the cutting back, for safety reasons, of two trees. Community First are also helping at Mengham Infant School, and hopefully, the College during September. Our sincere gratitude to Ina Allum and her volunteers.

We have also been greatly encouraged by the meeting with Mike Darby of Mill Rythe Junior School, his enthusiasm is infectious, and his achievements in such a short period of time are quite remarkable.

Some disappointing news, Peter Jackson, our Trading Centre manager, has stated so many times "USE IT OR LOSE IT". Looking at the figures so far this year I appeal to you, DON'T LOSE IT please give us your support.

Many of you will know that our County Councillor, Frank Pearce has passed away. Over the years Frank quietly supported the Growing Together Project. His input enabled us to carry out a number of projects which benefited school children. The new County Councillor is Lance Quantrill who is a member of the Society, and indeed, the Editor of the Newsletter. We wish Lance every success in his new role.

One of the ideas put to the Management Committee, by Peter Jackson, is the establishment of a Junior/Youth Section. The idea will be evaluated, and you will be kept informed .

**Bill Biggs, Chairman**

### **AUTUMN SHOW - GIVE IT A GO**

With the Show nearly upon us now is the time to look through your Yearbook to consider what to enter. 145 different classes are available; from cookery to photography, and the headline Dahlia Championship, there really is something for everyone. The Show relies on members taking part and it does not matter if the slugs found your prize bloom the night before or if that cake is inedible, we do need those entries.

There are 7 excellent judges coming to make sense of it all and they will offer help and advice as they go. To give a flavour of their wide experience; Bryan Madders, from Bournemouth, has been a National Dahlia judge for the last 30 years, Michael Bowyer MBE, from Salisbury, has competed at Chelsea as a flower arranger and is the Director of the Salisbury Cathedral Flower Festival and Ian Clemens, from Billingshurst, has won silverware for his fruit and vegetables across most of the South's major shows .

So you are in safe hands, give it a go, and you will find it adds lot of fun to the afternoon. And, there is always the chance of prize money or even silverware!

**Tim Speller, Show Manager**

### **AUTUMN SHOW - BAKE A CAKE?**

Any members who make cakes are very welcome to donate a cake for the Autumn Show on 2nd September. Just call 02392251292 or get in touch with me on longcollins8@gmail.com

**June Kemp**

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Hello again to all members and welcome to those of you who have recently joined us. Also a special welcome to our newest distributor Nikki Pyatt for Cherrywood Gardens, Palmerston Road, Rook Farm Way and St Marys Road.

If for any reason you feel that you will not be able to make the delivery and collection of subscriptions in Feb/March (yes I know it's a long way ahead and none of us have a crystal ball) please let me know as soon as you know, so that we can put plan B into place.

The membership numbers are now at 792, I would appreciate your help to increase it to 800... So if you have anyone new in your road tell them about the society and all we have to offer.

We now have 113 members on our Facebook page it's good to see the interest in the plants we grow in our gardens; there are some superb pictures on there of recent society outings and the Summer Show.

Just a little reminder of our bank details if you should wish to pay by standing order or internet banking for your membership in the future sort code 30-15-42 a/c 00761983 we will need your house name or number, your postcode and, of course, your surname.

**Lesley Tyrrell**

### **100+ CLUB**

Drawn numbers for May 2017 were: First 116, Second 12, Third 30.  
Drawn numbers for June 2017 were: First 47, Second 49, and Third 27.

Draws for July and August take place at the Autumn Show on 2nd September.

New members are always welcome. For more information/application forms visit the website [www.hihs.org.uk](http://www.hihs.org.uk) or contact me on 023 9246 3803.

**Hazel Phillips**