



Hardy Plant Society Northamptonshire Group

NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL

Dear Members,

It has been such a strange year the like of which none of us could have foreseen - we hope you are all keeping well and free of this dreadful virus, especially this new variant which disrupted the plans for Christmas for so many of us. At least we now have the promise of the vaccines which should allow us to return to some degree of normality by late spring.

Your committee have decided that all meetings up to and including that of April will be held on Zoom. They are only too aware that some of you do not have the means of joining us and regret very much that you will be excluded. It is hoped we may be able to return to Moulton for the meeting in June – it will be wonderful to see you all in person if that is possible.

Despite the disruption of Covid-19 we are still required to hold an HPS Northants Group AGM and although this can be a reduced agenda there are certain things on which the Group must agree. These are to approve the Minutes of last year's meeting, approve the Treasurer's Report and adoption of the Group Accounts and appoint the officers, committee and auditor.

Your committee have agreed that this year we will hold our AGM on Zoom. Enclosed is all the paperwork that you require for this year's AGM:

1. The notice of the AGM, the Agenda and, on the reverse side, the Minutes of last year's AGM.
2. The Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2020. These are unaudited and it has been approved by your committee that these and the accounts for 2021 will be audited together and presented for approval at the 2022 AGM.
3. A voting form for each member to be completed and returned in the enclosed stamped, addressed envelope by 20th February 2021 at the latest.

The Chairman's Report and the Treasurer's Report appear later in this newsletter.

The results of your voting will be given at the Zoom meeting on 6th March 2021 at 2pm preceding the talk by Helen Picton. Members will only be able to view the meeting so it is important that you use your vote. Again, we realise that some of you do not have a suitable device to view the meeting but this is the only way that we are able to hold our AGM.

We will provide a link in the usual way for those people wishing to view the AGM and listen to the talk that follows immediately afterwards.

If we do not currently hold your email address, please let us know by sending an email to hpsnorthants@gmail.com.

The Editor on behalf of Your Committee

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2021 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

Unless otherwise indicated all meetings are held at the Moulton Community Centre, Reedings, Sandy Hill Lane, Moulton NN3 7AX commencing at 2pm except for the October meeting which will commence at 2.30pm.

9th January 2021 **on Zoom**

Please note that this is the second Saturday!
Timothy Walker – ‘Garden Hunting in China’

6th February 2021 **on Zoom**

Bob Brown of Cotswold Garden Flowers – ‘Light in a Dark Season’

6th March 2021 **on Zoom**

Helen Picton of Old Court Nurseries – subject to be announced

3rd April 2021 **on Zoom**

Dr Andrew Ward of Norwell Nurseries – subject to be announced

5th June 2021

Graham Spencer of Plants for Europe – subject to be announced

4th September 2021

Bring a Friend for Free!

Darren Rudge ‘The Laughing Gardener’ – ‘Sustainability in Your Garden’

2nd October 2021

Please note this meeting will start at 2.30pm

Samantha Hopes of Hopes Garden Plants – ‘Journey into Horticulture’

6th November 2021

Simon White of Peter Beales Roses – ‘Highlights of Chelsea and Hampton Court’

4th December 2021

Paul Barney of Edulis Nursery – ‘Plant Hunting in Manipur’

COTSWOLD GARDEN FLOWERS

Sands Lane, Badsey, Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 7EZ
01386 422829

We are not easy to find being half a mile down a single track lane. Keep going, you will get there! Punch WR11 7EZ into your satnav.

www.cotswoldgardenflowers.co.uk

OLD COURT NURSERIES & THE PICTON GARDEN

We are a small family run plant nursery nestled on the lower slopes of the Malvern Hills. We hold the Plant Heritage National Collection of over 430 varieties, which are displayed in the charming 1.5-acre Picton Garden.

www.autumnasters.co.uk

NORWELL NURSERIES

Woodhouse Road, Norwell, Newark, Nottinghamshire
NG23 6JX

01636 636337

www.norwellnurseries.co.uk

PLANTS FOR EUROPE

Representing the interest of the raisers of new plants in the EU

www.plantsforeurope.co.uk

DARREN RUDGE

Darren Rudge, also known as ‘The Laughing Gardener’, has been a BBC Radio presenter for over 15 years.

www.darrenrudge.co.uk

HOPES GARDEN PLANTS

Halesowen, West Midlands
01384 413070

We propagate a range of plants from our garden and plant collections, some are reliable border staples, while others are rare jewels.

www.hopesgardenplants.co.uk

PETER BEALES ROSES

London Road, Attleborough, Norfolk NR17 1AY
01953 454707

The gardens, plant centre and shop are open Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm, Sundays and Bank Holidays 10am to 4pm. Visiting at other times is by appointment.

The Rosarium Restaurant is open Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 4.30pm, Sundays and Bank Holidays 10.30am to 3.30pm.

www.classicroses.co.uk

EDULIS NURSERY

The Walled Garden, Tidmarsh Lane, Pangbourne, RG8 8HT
01635 578113 / 07802 812781

Founded by Paul Barney, Edulis is tucked away in a walled garden in the Thames Valley near Pangbourne.

www.edulis.co.uk

TIMOTHY WALKER

Lecturer, botanist, gardener, author

For a profile of Timothy Walker go to

www.timothywalker.org.uk/about-me/

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am writing this on the Saturday before Christmas just as the government has introduced the new tier 4 and further stringent guidelines and at the moment no one knows what the new year will bring.

This year has been challenging for everyone and the pandemic has done its best to disrupt all of our lives.

My first thoughts are hoping that all of our members, their families and friends are keeping fit and well.

The only meeting held to date was a Zoom meeting earlier this month, when Sally Gregson gave a professional power point presentation. It was lovely to see friendly faces and, although we miss the social interaction of an actual meeting, Zoom is the only option at the moment and we hope to build on that experience for the first half of 2021. Please join in if you are able, very few of us are experts but we are learning together.

You have a hard working committee, who have ensured speakers are booked, membership renewals have been processed and finances balanced; this is with your support and faith that we will eventually be meeting again in Moulton, hopefully later in the new year.

I look forward to that as I see the first snowdrops tentatively peeping through the undergrowth (maybe weeds) and the small catkins waiting to burst into long tassels of pollen. I realise that nature is preparing for the new year and we must all try to do the same in a safe and secure way.

With my very best wishes

Anna

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TREASURER'S REPORT

What a mess Covid-19 has made of the accounts! Having collected monies for the plant fair and coach trips much of it had to be refunded. With no income from the plant fair we might have expected a large loss for the year but with so many meetings cancelled the loss for the year was only £312.26.

The income and expenditure on meetings was, of course, down on last year. The loss on coach trips was due to a non-returnable deposit to the coach company.

Subscriptions were up as the membership grew to 126, up a net 16 on the previous year.

Committee expenses are up due to mailing costs as we have not been able to hand out membership renewals at meetings.

What can we say of 2021? At the moment there must be some doubt that the Plant Fair will take place in May and then we shall have very little income apart from subscriptions. As we hold the early meetings on Zoom we shall save on room hire but may experience higher speaker costs as they have no plant sales.

It is as well that we have strong reserves as I estimate we may show a loss as high as £2,000 for the year.

Notes to 2020 Accounts

Miscellaneous Expenses

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|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Audit fee | £30.00 |
| In Memoriam Iris Shardlow | £25.00 |
| Presentation to retiring Chairman | <u>£11.00</u> |
| | <u>£66.00</u> |

Net Monies (Received)/Paid in Advance

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Subscriptions 2021 | £(472.00) |
| National Subscriptions 2021 | £(1,239.00) |
| Plant Fair 2021 – Stall Bookings | <u>£(100.00)</u> |
| | <u>£1,811.00</u> |

Peter Ryder

Hon Treasurer

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PROGRAMME/MEMBERSHIP FORM

To save postage the Programme and Membership Card for 2021 have been included in this mailing, whether or not you have paid your subscriptions which are now overdue.

If you have not paid your subscriptions, please do so with the minimum of delay.

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RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscription renewal form was sent with the last Newsletter and both your Group and the National HPS subscriptions are overdue if you have not yet renewed.

Enclosed with the renewal form was a stamped, addressed envelope for you to return your form to Judith, with any necessary corrections, and with your cheque. You will, of course, also be able to pay online or by standing order but do, please, return the form to Judith indicating that you have paid in that way.

We do ask you to pay your National HPS, and Cornucopia, subscriptions with your Group subscription in a single payment, be it cheque, bank transfer or standing order. This saves time and effort for Judith and also for HPS Head Office staff.

Please make your cheque payable to 'HPS Northants Group'.

Those paying by bank transfer or standing order may be required to use the full name 'Hardy Plant Society Northamptonshire Group'. Also please enter your GROUP membership number and your name in the reference field.

Should you decide NOT to renew your subscription, please still return your form to Judith indicating you will not be renewing. We shall be sad to see you go.

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COACH TRIPS

It is hoped that we will have a programme of coach trips in 2021 similar to those that we should have had in 2020. Your Committee has asked Linda Kier to re-arrange the trips now as it will be too late when we know that we can go.

Hopefully her labours will not be in vain.

Bookings will be taken later when the trips have been confirmed as being able to go ahead.

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COMMITTEE VACANCY

You will notice from the Voting Form for the upcoming AGM that there is one vacancy for a member of the Committee.

Normally we hold our committee meetings after our Saturday meetings, about four times a year, for an hour.

If you would like to join the Committee, please indicate so in the space provided at the bottom of the Voting Form.

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HARDY PLANT SOCIETY NORTHAMPTONSHIRE GROUP

OFFICERS, POSTHOLDERS & COMMITTEE

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| CHAIR: | Anna Smith | 01455 552646 |
| VICE-CHAIR: | Vacant | |
| HON. SECRETARY: | Jan Craig | 01604 740401 |
| HON. TREASURER: | Peter Ryder | 01933 279003 |
| MEMBERSHIP SEC'Y: | Judith Roan | 01604 645359 |
| PROGRAMME SEC'Y: | Kate Brown | 01604 706248 |
| N'LETTER EDITOR: | Peter Ryder | 01933 279003 |
| COMMITTEE: | Beryl Brett James Chua | |
| PLANT FAIR CO-ORDINATOR: | Jan Craig | |