

DW&CVHS Spring 2023

DOGMERSFIELD WINCHFIELD & CROOKHAM VILLAGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



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Chairman: Brian Leversha
tel 01252-615534

Please contact our Membership Secretaries with any queries relating to membership of the Society:

John and Jen Potter
e-mail: membership@dwcvhortsoc.org

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The DW&CVHS Newsletter

Please send all contributions for the newsletter to the editor:
Ivan Cresswell
e-mail: editor@dwcvhortsoc.org

Between issues of our twice-yearly newsletters, updated information on events/visits can be found on the Society's website :
<http://www.dwcvhortsoc.org>

To access the Society's website from a smartphone or tablet without having to type in the full website address use this QR Code.



The Society wishes to thank member David Jackson for continuing to act as our webmaster.

Photographic Credits

Thanks to members who supplied photographs included in this magazine.

Church Crookham Garden Society (CCGS)

The CCGS Sales Shed is situated in the Crookham Memorial Hall car park at the western end of Sandy Lane. Opening times are Saturday mornings from 10.00am to 11.30am between February and September. Please take your DW&CV Horticultural Society membership card along. The range of goods available is extensive, from composts and fertilizers to twine and canes. Most of the goods on offer are at prices that are considerably cheaper than garden centres and DIY shops. Other products that are available include pesticides and herbicides, lawn-care products, ant and slug killers, plant pots and trays, grit and vermiculite..

The Society would like to thank **mackenzie smith** for sponsoring the printing of this newsletter

From our Chairman

As the skies are blue on this sunny Winters morning one's mind turns to the speed at which the evenings are drawing out, reminding us of the Summer ahead.

The Committee has been, like each year working since after the last Flower Show and Fete, to get all the bookings done for this year's Fete. At this time all the attractions we have that are very popular are booked.

We have held many of the Winter talks with one more to go in April. The attendance has been on an average up to 40 attendees and the talks have covered many subjects and we have had many comments on how enjoyable they have been especially the Christmas Quiz.

We have also in the latter months of last Summer held Garden Visits again enjoyed by those Members who enjoyed the homemade cake provided.

Reports on Talks and Garden visits elsewhere in this Newsletter.

At the AGM we have a changeover of the Secretary and Treasurers posts. Donna Gray has been in the post for twelve years and has been a stalwart not only as a Secretary but has helped in all sorts of ways especially at the fete, Jill Rowe has also done an excellent job with keeping the books in order and again working hard at the fete handling all the cash boxes/prize monies.

On the members behalf I must thank both Donna and Jill for their dedication and hard work.

John Coombes is also retiring from his post as Car Park Manager and we are in the process of the job being done by an outside person. John has done an extremely good job with all the setting up on the days leading up to Fete and on the Fete day itself for many years now. Thank you John for all your efforts and time spent on a good job done.

Carol Leversha stood down as Tea Tent Manager last year and the very important task of providing the essential tea and cakes and new this year will be BBQ burgers and sausages to the menu which will be under the management of Janine Knighton. Welcome Janine.

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Two Members have come forward to take on the vacant posts I am pleased to report Jen Potter will be filling in the Treasurer's post and Gillian Clarke will be our new Secretary. With Jen and Gillian joining the Committee team we will be able to carry on the excellent job that it achieves for the Society and all its Members.

Finally I wish to thank the Sponsor's and all who help to make the Society and all its elements the success it is and of course Alf White and family for letting us use their farm for the fete.

Yours

Brian

Potato Growing Competition

It was suggested by Ann Ings that we ran a potato growing competition for the Members last year. It was entered by 14 of our Members.

First we had a talk on how to grow your potatoes by Alan Wilson a popular grower of potato locally and are sold in all the local Garden Centres. The Members brought selections of types of seed potatoes that Alan sold and after sowing them in April and then reaping them in September we held a competition shortly after. Alan of course was the judge and the entries were worth all the efforts and one of the members who had not grown potatoes before won a few first classes. It was a great fun afternoon with John Potter making up his own class "the miniature " No prize awarded. The afternoon finished with a very tasty Cream Tea all of which was consumed whole heartedly



Forthcoming Events at the WI Hall

Evening talks take place in the WI Hall in Crookham Village, starting at 7.30pm. For those who need directions, the WI Hall is located at the rear of the Crookham Street Social Club - post code GU51 5SJ for satnav users. Please park on the (much enlarged) gravel area by WI Hall, not on the Social Club's tarmac area.

These social evenings are very popular, helped along with a glass of wine (or soft drink) & food provided free of charge! The current cost for the evening is £2 for members (no charge for the AGM). Non-members are always welcome and are asked to contribute £3.

Forthcoming winter talks (& AGM) are as follows:-

9th March 2023	AGM followed by seed potatoes for 2023 and results of the 2022 potato-growing competition.	Alan Wilson
13th April 2023	"Metal Detecting"	Mark Davison
14th September 2023	"Sissinghurst"	John Negus
12th October 2023	"Birds and Wild Life in Britain"	Pete Bickford
9th November 2023	"Square Foot Gardening"	Sue Hinton
14th December 2023	Christmas Quiz	Brian Leversha
11th January 2024	"Familiar Places, Unfamiliar Plants"	Vincent Gradwell
8th February 2024	"What's in a Name"	Peter Almond
14th March 2024	AGM followed by a short talk	
18th April 2024	"Houseplants"	Geoff Hawkins

Reports on Winter Talks

"Wild Britain, Wildlife" by Pete Bickford,

8th September 2022

Our Chairman, Brian, started the evening off with a two minutes silence to commemorate Queen Elizabeth dying today.

Pete, our speaker, is a great conservationist. He explained that dead trees do not have TPO's on them. They are a good habitat for other forms of life. The lesser spotted woodpecker nests in dead trees. It is the size of a sparrow and there are only 5000 pairs left, mainly because of paranoia about tidying up the garden. When Dutch Elm disease struck the population of this bird increased.



Ivy growing on trees does not kill them, but it does make a windsail in windy conditions.

Butterflies: The Brimstone butterfly looks like a leaf and loves brambles' The Small Tortoiseshell butterfly caterpillar is found exclusively on nettles. Their bright contrasting colours can often scare a predator, giving it time to escape. It feeds on ivy and hibernates through the winter.

Birds: The Wren is the most common bird in Britain. The cold winter of 1963 killed 90%I. Sixty three little wrens can inhabit one single spruce tree. The black cap male has a short sharp beak, it winters in the Mediterranean and North Africa, they eat ivy berries. Blue tits eat 50 billion caterpillars a year. If they did not there would be fewer trees. Sparrowhawks eat small birds, mice, voles and small squirrels.

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Trees: Old gnarled trees are very good for wildlife. Ancient woodland has been around since the 17th Century. Some fungi is over four hundred years old.

Wasps: In the spring the Queen wasp wakes from hibernation and goes out and collects pests as food. She then builds a nest and lays eggs in cells. She feeds the larvae until there are around seven new worker wasps, at which time she retires to just lay eggs. The larvae secrete a sugary substance which the worker wasps feed on, the worker wasps collect pollen and pests to feed the larvae (but the workers can't digest this)

Hoverfly: Their larvae feed on aphids.



Wild Flower Meadows: are diminishing in favour of large open fields - monoculture, which is a desert for wildlife. Often the fields have had fertiliser put on them., only 20% goes into the plant, 80% is washed out. It then costs a lot to eliminate the pollution

Fields with hedges: And sheep grazing are good.

Swallows from South Africa will become less common if our fields are not more diverse.

Things we can do and grow to help Wildlife

- Cut lawns once a month.
- Churchyards are good because generally they have not been fertilised, which will lead to a bigger diversity of flowers.
- Keep Foxgloves in the garden, bees love them.
- Keep trees of different age and species, keep the dead stuff they make. It is a great habitat for blackbirds and moths.
- Bullfinches feed on Rowan berries.
- Berberis is a good source of food for birds.
- Keep the ivy.



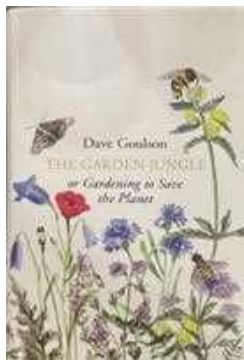
Information:

- 44% of the world's heathland is in Britain.
- In biodiversity ratings, out of 210 we are 189 on the list.
- Every 4th bite of food we take has been pollinated by a bee.

Message from the speaker "The overall message of the talk was to underline the parlous state that our environment and wildlife finds itself in at this present time, and suggested small ways in which we, as individuals, could mitigate against further losses (planting wildflower meadows — perennial and annual — stopping our personal use of fertilisers, being less tidy in our gardening, and generally appreciating all wildlife for its beauty and importance -- working with nature and not against it.

I attempted to highlight and point out, by example, that even the unloved species (ivy, wasp, magpie) play their necessary part in nature's web, and that all need and deserve our protection. For example intensive agriculture, with its reliance on herbicides, fertilisers, pesticides and monocultures is detrimental to the long term survival of biodiversity, and indeed the human race

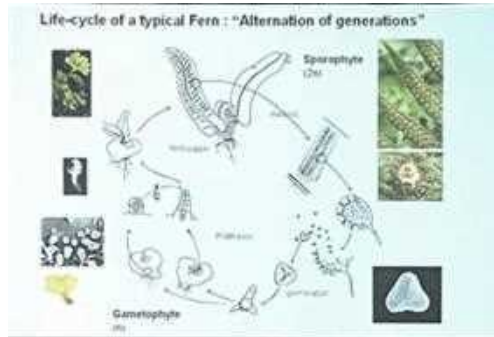
Barbara Cairns



"Ferns" by Fred Rumsey

13th October 2022

October saw Fred Rumsey gave a very informative and well structured talk on Ferns which were superbly illustrated with a slide presentation. Fred is the senior curator in charge of Historical Collections in the Department of Life Sciences at the Natural History Museum in London.



He first gave a varied introduction to ferns. Ferns rely on water to reproduce. Ferns are some of the most ancient plants, some are unchanged for millions of years. There are 12000 species worldwide but only 70 in Britain. Most popular in victorian times. Pteridomania or fern fever was a Victorian craze for ferns (the term was coined by 1855 by Charles Kingsley in his book *Glaucus, or the Wonders of the Shore*). It was 'allowed' for women since ferns do not have sex organs!

Some widely available good garden ferns:

Maidenhair fern.

Harts Tongue fern..

Lady fern, which has a vast range of varieties.



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Ostrich fern

Tree fern (only one species hardy)

Less desirable ferns

Bracken, which is invasive and carcinogenic

Water fern, which forms dense mats on water (banned from sale)

Local ferns of interest

Moonwort, rare can be found at Blackbushe airport

Fen-Buckler fern, found at Wishmoor Bottom, Camberley

Oblong Woodsia, second largest UK population on Llyn peninsula (Wales)



Rarest and most recently discovered ferns

Killarney fern, unusual & unique life cycle; found in Ireland and a few places in UK but is frost sensitive so limited sites possible

Kerry Mousetail, smallest and rarest in UK discovered in the 2010 decade (and Fred was instrumental in identifying it)

Jackie Cresswell



"Plants for Free - Propagation" by Keith Hine,

10th November 2022

Keith opened his talk by saying he has two main interests in gardening, His first interest is Vegetables and his second interest is Propagation. He has been Chairman of the National Vegetable Society.

Talking about propagating plants there are no special items required. He suggested using old food trays and boxes. All equipment must be cleaned well before use. Wash in warm water with a little bleach. High domes are good propagators on seedlings, like empty soft drinks plastic bottles. He said the moulded fibre pots are good for planting the seeds. He suggested that a light cabinet helps the seeds to germinate - or put them on a warm windowsill. He said a heated mat costs about 4p an hour (that has probably changed now), but you will get a month's growth in 12 days. He also suggested Jiffy peat free pellets, they have mesh round the outside, he said do not leave them in so the roots grow through the mesh. He uses a pot making shaper and newspaper. The important thing about growing from seeds is you must keep spraying them. He suggested using a fine seed module compost. Do not use Multi compost unless well sieved and smoothed. Trials of peat free compost, the soil runs out of nutrient in a week and it needs lots of watering. You can also try wool and bracken.



Seeds: Keith suggested you collect your own seeds. Store them in a paper bag. Good seeds to collect are poppy, agapanthus, tomato, cucumber, acer. When shoots grow on tomatoes and cucumbers let them grow, then slice them off and put in a jar of water, they will grow a root system, change the water every two days. You can also grow seeds from supermarket peppers and chillies. Dry them on kitchen paper. When sowing keep to straight lines. Do successional sowing, then grow on in a 3 litre pot. He said hydroponic propagators are good.

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Taking cuttings: Dahlia in August and hardwood cuttings when leaves have fallen. Always use a knife. Divide hostas. Gladioli, grow the cormlets, they will grow from the size of a 10p coin.

He recommended spraying with seaweed feed. Do not include any recycled garden waste.

You can use Birds Custard Powder as a rooting powder!

Barbara Cairns

Christmas Quiz

8th December 2022

As one of our Winter Talks we hold a Christmas Quiz in December. One of the features of the Quiz is ask people to select a table number which means we do not have a select "boffin" group on one table. Because we are a flower/plant group, people think the quiz is related to these subjects which of course is not the case --eg- try this one - excluding one which is the tenth prime number. Can you answer without reference to the web ?

Another part of the evening is the "Guess who Father Christmas is visiting" competition in which one puts your name against a ladies name on a list and if that name is selected then that lucky person wins a Christmas cake. The cake is excellent and is kindly made and donated by one of our members, Sandra Fishlock, who also bakes the cake that we have at the Flower Show and Fete as "Guess the Weight of the Cake". Many thanks Sandra.

Brian Leversha



Gardeners Question Time

12th January 2023

Helen Baker

Helen Baker chaired the Question Time. At the start of the meeting she talked about her current prime interest of collecting and selling unwanted plants in aid of charity. The following are the plant stalls planned this year.

- 16 April 2023 - Old Thatch, Dogmersfield
Stall at the NGS opening at Old Thatch This is a beautiful spring garden, also with teas and a number of other attractions and stalls. Details will be on the NGS website.
- 11 June 2023 - Crondall Village Hall
Crondall Open Gardens. A great opportunity to see 12 beautiful gardens in the village, particularly if the weather is kind. Stall, and teas, at village hall. Event in aid of Phyllis Tuckwell, and full details will be on their website nearer the time.
- For folk who can't make either of the above, but are interested in the plants we have available, we will be distributing our stock list in May. If anyone would like to receive a copy, and is not yet on our mailing list, please email me at CharityPlants@gmail.com

Helen is a RHS Wisley volunteer and she highlighted a scheme under which RHS members (only) can get seeds collected from their five RHS gardens. Further details of the scheme are in the link below, but you may need to be quick as it closes to applications at the end of February :

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/membership/rhs-members-seed-scheme>

Ivan Cresswell

Newsletter Articles

Whilst it is nice for everyone to get together at our Flower Show and Fete and compare exhibits, as we have two newsletters a year, please send in photographs of some of the more unusual or quirky flowers, fruit, vegetables or even gardens that you have grown or seen during the year.

If you email these in to me with brief covering information, I will do my utmost to include them in our future newsletters—space permitting!

e-mail: editor@dwcvhortsoc.org

Future Garden Visits 2023

May 2nd and 4th.	Visit to Little Croft 2pm £4 entrance + £3.50 tea and cake = £7.50
June 19th	Visit to Allotments - more info nearer the date
July	No visit due to Fete
August	Planning to arrange a visit to Wisley with Helen Baker to guide us Date TBC

Reports on Garden Visits 2022

Editors Request

This section contains very few photographs, I would kindly request that anyone who visits a garden with the society and who takes photographs please will they forward any attractive or interesting pictures to myself by email to :-

editor@dwcvhortsoc.org

Any written note or comment would also be welcome

Country Park Nursery

Thursday 19th May 2022

A group of us met at Applegarth Farm Shop, on Headley Road, Grayshott where we had lunch.

Paul Boosey met us there and gave us a talk about his nursery. After lunch and the talk we went to the nursery which is in Blackmoor, just 5 minutes from the A3.

It is Paul's home, Paul is the grandson of Graham and Margaret Hutchins who started the nursery in 1955 on a small patch of land in their backyard in Essex.

They specialised in New Zealand and Australasian species. They exhibited at Chelsea and won a medal.

Paul relocated the plants to Hampshire. He is still mostly growing New

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Zealand Australasian species, the range has been reduced whilst still retaining some of the old, with the main focus now being on structural and low maintenance shrubs suitable for the UK climate such as *Leptospermum* (the Manuka honey tree), *Callistemon*, *Corokia* (wire netting bush) and *Hoheria* (lacebark). He was "discovered" by RHS Wisley and was offered a stand for their Autumn Fair. He is interested in topiary and trims many of his shrubs into unusual shapes. He has a large greenhouse but most of his shrubs are outdoors. He is still building the nursery up. It is well worth a visit (by appointment)

Contact: Boosi87@hotmail.co.uk

Barbara Cairns

Fairbanks

Tuesday 7th June 2022

What a scorcher of a day but well worth the effort for this garden visit. Lovely knowledgeable hosts and huge garden laid out in different sections. From the front you have no idea of the scale of it and it is fruitful and beautiful. I was particularly envious of the strawberry rows. A large number under nets but then rows along the side of the walkway heavy with fruit and over 3 years old. Plenty of shade to be found from huge shrubs and very beautiful trees, when meandering its length. When we had our fill of the garden our hosts kindly offered delicious cakes and tea/coffee to end the afternoon. They said they would be more than happy to open their garden again for our Society.

Carol Leversha

Bramshot Farm Country Park

Friday 2 September 2022

The art of Hedge laying.

10 Members of the Society met in the Plough & Horses pub in Cove to have lunch and a chat in early September.

We then drove to Bramshot Farm Country Park in Cove where we were joined by 4 more Members and we were introduced to John Blithe, one of our Members, a professional hedge layer who works at the park mainly to carry out hedge laying for Hart District Council Countryside Services.

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John took us to see a hedge he had laid some 5 years ago. It was fascinating to see photographs of the hedge taken in the early stages as well as it is now with flourishing new regrowth

John had with him a large bag of tools and lead us to a section of hedging which he had worked on several years ago. John had examples of the branches that demonstrated the correct angle of cut that is made to allow the branch to nearly cut through the bough but leave just enough wood to allow the top of the branch to carry on growing. In John's bag he had different billhooks from various parts of the country and all varied in shape and weight. John passed round photos showing the work in progress .

The hedge laying can be to any height wanted and allowed birds to nest and keep out of the sight of predators. Bats and birds use the line of the hedge for navigation. In a day John can usually lay a hedge of about 25 metres for most of the year apart from late spring when birds are nesting. The hedge laying season is from September to April,

He then took us for a walk around Bramshot Farm Country Park to see other examples of previous hedges he had laid and how well they had stood up over the years.

It was a lovely afternoon and the members who came along certainly admired and respected this amazing ancient craft.

John Blithe

"Little Croft"

Friday 28th and Sunday 30th October 2022

We had two separate visits to "Little Croft" garden in October 2022. We had two visits because the garden has lots of narrow paths and it is more comfortable with smaller groups.

This is a very local venue with a variety of Autumnal planting. Notable is the large collection of Japanese maples with orange and red autumnal colours. There are several flowering cherries with good autumn colour and a katsura tree with its distinctive autumn candy floss smell. The nandina berries well in this garden as does the callicarpa with its distinctive clusters of purple berries.

The garden draws inspiration from Japan, with its pond garden, gravel garden and tea garden as major features. Rocks, fencing, gates, water basins etc. are deployed in Japanese style. Stepping stone and other paths wind around the garden. The garden has been planted with

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thought and a love of design. Maintenance, especially of the trees, draws on Japanese techniques.

After we had walked round the garden we all sat around on the patio and enjoyed home made cakes and tea. All proceeds go to the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice.

We enjoyed the visit so much we are planning to go back in Spring 2023 to see the spring colours.

Barbara Cairns



Annual Membership Application/Renewal

Dogmersfield, Winchfield & Crookham Village Horticultural Society

Benefits of membership include:

- Free entry to our annual Flower Show & Fête
- Comprehensive annual Show Schedule
- Twice-yearly newsletter with Show results in summer edition
- Reduced admission to winter talks with wine and food
- Summer garden visits in the locality
- 30% off entry charges to RHS gardens
- Annual draw for 2 tickets to an RHS Flower Show
- Free horticultural advice
- Discounted garden supplies from local club
- Opportunity to meet like-minded people sharing a love of horticulture

Application for Family Membership £7 p.a.

Application for Senior Citizen (65+) Family M/ship £5 p.a.

Where possible, payment by Standing Order is requested.

Account Name: Dogmersfield, Winchfield & Crookham Village Horticultural Society

Bank & Branch: Lloyds TSB Fleet Branch

Account No: 00074552

Sort Code: 30-93-32

Standing order mandate forms are available on request.

If you have any queries please contact Jen Potter on 01252 622639.

If paying by cheque, please make payable to the Society, as above, and send (with SAE for membership card) to Brian Leversha, Daegmarsfield Farm, Church Lane, Dogmersfield, RG27 8SZ.

Name:.....

Address:

.....

.....

Phone.....

Email:.....

Annual General Meeting

DOGMERSFIELD, WINCHFIELD AND CROOKHAM VILLAGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Thursday 9 March 2023 7.30pm

At the W.I. Hall, The Street, Crookham Village

AGENDA

Number of Attendees:

Apologies for Absence:

1. Chairman's Welcome.
2. Approve Minutes of last year's Annual General Meeting.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Approval of Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Approval of Annual Accounts
7. Election of Chairman
8. Election of Committee Members.
9. Consider any motions notified to the Secretary of the Society in the last 28 days prior to the date of the AGM.
10. Draw two tickets for an RHS Flower Show from a list of current paid up members.
11. Any Other Business

The meeting will be followed by a short talk by Alan Wilson on growing potatoes. Also there will be an opportunity to purchase seed potatoes to grow for our annual potato competition.

RHS affiliation and discounted entry to RHS



All bona fide gardening clubs and horticultural societies with an annual membership subscription are eligible for affiliation to the RHS. Such clubs and societies should have a remit to promote horticulture at a local level, should hold regular meetings and/ or hold an annual show. The DW&CVHS meets all these criteria and is affiliated to the RHS.

One of the benefits of affiliation is the opportunity to purchase Garden Reduced Price Entry (GRPE) cards. GRPE cards can be used an unlimited number of times during the year and grant up to two people a 30% discount on the normal adult entry rate at any of the four RHS Gardens (except Wisley on Sundays).

Members of the DW&CVHS might like to know that the Society holds two GRPE cards for use by our members. The cards are held by our Chairman, Brian Leversha, and can be borrowed after payment of a £10 deposit.

Please contact Brian as follows: tel: 01252-615534
e-mail: chairman@dwcvhortsoc.org

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AGM:

Thursday 9th March 2023

Next year's Show and Fete:

Saturday 15th July 2023

