



Hordle Gardening Club Newsletter January 2023



Hello Everyone... and a happy New Year to you all.

Considering the hot dry summer, then the continuous rains in autumn and now (it appears) lengthy freezing periods - worse than what we used to call a 'cold snap'... how on earth do we choose plants to cope with all of that?

Looking forward to seeing you at our AGM next Friday 27th.

AGM + Plus - Friday 27th January

We keep the formal part as short as possible. You should all have received the email (29th December) with all the details and Agenda. The same details were posted in late December to those without email. Kate will then take us through the chairman's report with a presentation, slide show of our year in 2022, which is bound to include some giggles.

Doors open at 7pm, time to get settled for a 7.30pm start.

Refreshments - **cake** and drinks—**no charge this meeting**.

Membership Form for 2023

A gentle reminder regarding your membership for this year, a copy of the Membership Form for 2023 is attached to the same email as this newsletter. Hard copies will also be available at the AGM. You can bring the form, in an envelope with the **correct money** (please) or a cheque, to the meeting next week and hand in when you sign in at the meeting.

New Years Days Flower Count

Thank you everyone to emailed us with their flowers - not bad results considering the atrocious recent weather. The highest number of flowers was 13/14, well done Caroline, with *Abutilon megapotamicum* and *Eurybia divaricarata* (wood Aster), is it in a sheltered corner? Lovely.

Many on your lists were understandably winter shrubs - we do need them don't we, and so do the birds and insects. Strangely, I and a couple of you reported Rosemary in flower!! Well done everyone. If you're interested I can do a full list so you can add some to your shopping lists? Let me know please.

Club meetings are generally held on the 4th Friday of the month, doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start, at the Hordle Pavilion.

Diary Dates

2023

Friday 27th January - AGM
(more info soon)

Friday 24th February - talk
'Wildlife of a Working Forest' with Mike Read.

Friday 24th March - talk
'An Introduction to Pruning for Best Results, across a Wide Range of Plants' with Roger Hiron.

Friday 28th April - talk
'The History of Furzey Gardens and Minstead Trust' with Julia Baker

Friday 26th May - talk
'Shrubs - the Backbone of your Garden' with Geoff Hawkins

Friday 23rd June - talk
'Future developments in horticulture - to cope with changes in climate' with Ray Broughton

Friday 28th July - Closed Show
Members only - more information soon

Friday 22nd September - talk
'Plant Hunting in the Himalayas' with Tom Clarke, Head Gardener, Exbury

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New Committee Members needed!

We would love one or two members to join us on the committee and get involved, we also have to consider the rotation of committee members. It's not onerous, we all pull together as a team, and we generally meet up a 6/8 times a year to discuss what needs to happen. Fresh faces bring fresh ideas, please think about it and either have a chat with any of the committee or email the club email address.

Membership/Programme Cards?

At the last meeting we asked you whether you still want the printed membership card (ie the little tri-fold card which gives the programme). Most people said they never refer to it because the latest information is on the newsletter. We originally said we would print "on request", however, we will bring some and see what the take-up is.

Plant of the Month - *Erysimum* (woody wallflower)

We're probably all familiar with the biennial wallflowers usually bought in autumn and often sold in a clump wrapped in newspaper.

However here (and if ever there's a plant we should all have in our gardens it's one of these), we're talking about the more woody evergreen type, usually referred to as a 'short lived evergreen perennial'. Our first experience of this type was *Erysimum* 'Bowles Mauve' AGM (right) when it first appeared a few decades ago. It grows quickly and creates a good sized mound of grey/green evergreen leaves, often flowering for **6 months or more** starting in January (depending on where you live), with mid-mauve flowers opening on erect racemes.



In more recent years the number of varieties of this type of *Erysimum* has increased – though some seem to be rather similar!

Erysimum 'Red Jep' (right) is slightly shorter than Bowles Mauve and its flowers start off a deep red and fade to a reddish purple. I'm loving this one at the moment.



Then there is *E.* 'Winters Orchid', (left) also flowering in my garden now (albeit shrinking from the freeze), which seems to keep an equal mix of soft orange/pinky/mauve.



E. 'Parish's', a new variety to me & not yet flowering – probably because I'd tucked it underneath an evergreen for protection during the freeze last month. Its flowers are reported to be shades of deep pink.

They're a Mediterranean species, so need full sun, & do best in soil that's on the poorer side (if your soil is rich mix in some grit & sand when planting), & not too acid (if yours is acidic add some lime). After two or three years these plants can fade, or become leggy and less attractive so get some new plants going by taking semi-hardwood cuttings.

What Happens at our Meetings

Doors open at 7pm with the talk starting promptly at 7.30pm. Time for you to look at the plant sale table and buy your raffle ticket/s.

Following the talk **coffee/tea** will be served (50p please) and the Raffle drawn. Donations of raffle prizes are always gratefully received.

We have various **gardening magazines** available for you to take - usually in front of the bar shutters. Keep an eye out here for other items.

Information Board

Check out the club's black Information Board which will show upcoming event details, and the relevant booking sheets on clipboards. **Please pay when you put your name down for an event.**

Plant Sales Table

Your donations of plants for the sales table will be very welcome each month we have a speaker. Funds raised contribute towards our talks and events. Please name your plants if you know what they are... we will have labels available at each meeting.

Raffle Table

We have a raffle table at every meeting with a speaker, so remember to buy a few tickets. Your contributions of raffle prizes are always very welcome too.

All monies raised go to club funds and towards future events