

“It is with great pleasure that I am writing to you all at this time of year because it means we have a volunteer to edit this newsletter, so we welcome Linda Williams to this post.

What a difference a year can make; our committee has also been joined by Kathryn Chamberlain as Secretary, Julie Loughlin as Coach Trip Organiser, Su Detre for Publicity and by Janet Horton, who many of you may already know, who takes over as Website Manager. We welcome them all!

A Happy New Year indeed, so now we look forward to the wonderful speakers we have in store, and get those seeds in (if you haven't already) for the Seedling Swap and cherish those cuttings and plants ready for the Plant Sale. I look forward to seeing you all at our meetings and events. Do come and talk to me and the other members of the committee about anything you have on your mind”.

Liz Egge HHPS Chairman

2020 Indoor Programme

Monthly talks are held in the Wheathampstead Memorial Hall, Marford Road, Wheathampstead AL4 8AY at 2pm, followed by tea and cake.

Saturday 7th March. Sandy Primrose – Modern Plant Hunters,.

Sunday 5th April. Derry Watkins – Unusual and Long Blooming Garden Plants.

Saturday 3rd October. Andrew Ward – The Late Show, Autumn's Last Finale.

Saturday 7th November. AGM followed by 'Show and Tell' session chaired by Annie Godfrey of Daisy Roots Nursery.

Saturday 5th December. Janette Merilion – Christmas Crackers. Followed by HHPS Christmas Party.

Visitors are most welcome at our indoor meetings. £5

For more details please see our website

www.hertshps.com or follow us on Facebook

Dates for your diary

Thanks to Julie Loughlin we now have a full summer programme!

Saturday 18th April - Seedling Swap

Friday 1st May – Group visit to NGS opening

Saturday 30th May – Grand Plant Sale

Saturday 26th July – Open garden visit and tea party

Saturday 13th Coach Trip to Beth Chatto Garden

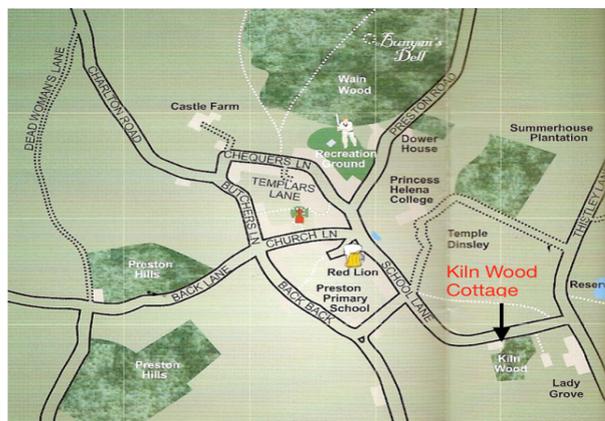
Thursday 22nd October – Group visit to Beale Arboretum

Seedling Swap – Saturday 18th April

Sue Kellard has kindly offered to host this year's event on **Saturday 18th April from 10.30am – 12.30pm**

**Kiln Wood Cottage, School Lane, Preston,
Nr Hitchin SG4 7SA**

All members are welcome to the Seedling Swap whether you have seedlings to swap or not! There will be lots to chat about plus tea, coffee and a cake or two!



Grand Plant Sale – Saturday 30th May

The annual HHPS Plant Sale will be held on **Saturday 30th May at the Homewood Road United Reform Church Hall, St Albans AL1 4BH from 10am – 12 noon.**

Receiving, sorting and pricing of plants Friday 29th May, 6pm – 9pm.

The revenue raised from the Grand Plant Sale is vital to the success of the Society as the subscription that we pay to belong to the HHPS is nowhere near sufficient to pay for the well-known and sought-after speakers that we enjoy. It is therefore very important that the sale is a success.

The amount raised on the day is totally dependent on the quality and quantity of plants donated. Those that sell best are the more unusual ones and those that are in flower and especially those with informative labels.

How you can help

1. Please think about the Plant Sale when you are sowing seed or dividing this Spring.
2. Ask neighbours and friends for any spare plants that they have.
3. Offer your help to sell plants on the day.
4. Offer to distribute leaflets promoting the Plant Sale.
5. Come along on the Friday evening to help with the setting up.

NGS Opening - Rustling End Cottage, Codicote

Friday 1st May 4pm – 8pm Entrance £5.00

Julie Wise opens again, featuring a rewilding project with small newly planted orchard which provides an environment for many wild birds and small mammals. Plants & wine/soft drinks available. Meet inside the garden around 6pm?

Open Garden and Tea Party

Sunday 26th July 2pm – 5pm

Hornbeams, Priory Drive, Stanmore, Middx HA7 3HN

Longstanding HHPS member, Barbara Stalbow, has kindly offered to open her garden for us again this Summer. Each time we have had the opportunity to visit Barbara's garden there is something new to see so make sure you put this date in your diary.

Directions: Priory Drive is a private road off the A4140 in Stanmore. There is plenty of parking available.

Find us on Facebook!

We now have a presence on Facebook. Our group is called the Hardy Plant Society Hertfordshire Group.

If you have a Facebook account (profile), use the search bar in Facebook to find the group by typing in the Group's name. You can then ask to join the Group or simply like one of the posts. You can then see any new posts, events and other activities of the Group in your News Feed. You can also post in the Group or comment on the Group's posts or other member's posts. Facebook's policy has changed with the arrival of 2020 so, if you don't have a Facebook account and don't wish to create one, there is unfortunately currently no way to view the Group's activities.

We hope though that the Facebook Group will provide another way for members to keep in touch with forthcoming activities and talks, use the Group as an online newsletter and give us a presence in the wider community to attract new members.

Subscriptions: National and Hertfordshire Group

Have you paid your 2020 subscriptions?

It is a condition of belonging to the Hertfordshire Group that you are also a member of the National Society.

The membership year for both Groups runs from January to December.

HPS Hertfordshire Group costs £7 Single or £12 Joint.
National HPS costs £17 Single or £19 Joint.

Your last chance to renew will be at the March meeting, or your HHPS Membership will lapse. You can pay by cash, cheque or electronic transfer. Contact Membership Secretary Tricia Calcraft if you need more information about renewing your subscription

Coach Trip to The Beth Chatto Garden

Saturday 13th June - £25 members/£27 guests

Picking up at St Albans at 8.30 and Wheathampstead at 9am, and calling enroute at The Place for Plants for tea/coffee (included) as we shop, we will spend the afternoon at one of our favourite gardens and buying the odd plant, no doubt! Booking forms accompany this newsletter and will be available at meetings and online. Why not bring your chequebook and sign up on Saturday?

Group Guided Tour – The Beale Arboretum

Thursday 22nd October 2.30pm - £7 including tea & cake

West Lodge Park, Cockfosters Rd, Hadley Wood, EN4 0PY

Members to meet on site for a guided walk round this wonderful tree & shrub collection – approx. 1.5 hours, followed by refreshments in the hotel restaurant. Limited numbers – book early!

Refreshments Organiser

We need another member to join Leo Vaughan and the very efficient team as Penny Bennetts is standing down from April this year. This has been a smooth-running operation for many years now but we do need someone to co-ordinate the team during the winter season to keep the provision of drinks and cakes going. It would be a shame to only provide water and biscuits at meetings. Please contact any of the committee if you would like to help.

Thanks to Penny for all she has done and we wish her much enjoyment of her new grandchild.

Committee	Name
Chairman	Liz Egge
Vice Chairman	Annie Godfrey
Treasurer	Alison Tracy
Secretary	Kathryn Chamberlain
Membership	Tricia Calcraft
Refreshments	Penny Bennetts (until April 2020) Leo Vaughan
Plant Sales	Beryl Davis
Speaker Programme	Susanna Geoghegan
Summer Programme	Julie Loughlin
Technical Manager	David Singleton
Newsletter	Linda Williams
Social Media	Anastasia Rezanova
Website Manager	Janet Horton
Publicity	Sue Detre