

## Hardy Plants Society – Southern Counties Group – Public Programme 2023 – 2024

### Meetings with invited speakers

During the winter months (October to April, with the exception of December) we meet and enjoy illustrated talks from local and national gardening speakers at:

The Old Barn Hall,  
55 Church Road,  
Great Bookham  
Leatherhead  
Surrey  
KT23 3PQ

The meetings are on Saturdays, and directions to the venue can be found [here](#). The venue is accessible for those in wheelchairs and there is a loop system for the hard of hearing.

We usually\* open the doors at 10.00am and free tea and coffee are served. At 10.15am there is a plant sale where you can buy good-quality home-grown plants at very competitive prices. In addition, there is a range of garden sundries, HPS booklets and second-hand gardening books to buy, and a raffle.

At about 10.45am, the Chairman will officially start the meeting and a guest speaker will talk for about 1 hour followed by a questions-and-answer session. The topic will relate to plants and gardens.

During the summer months we run a number of garden visits and outline details will be added as they become available. The garden visits are members-only, so why not come along to a talk and consider joining?

Saturday 21st October (10.00 for 10.45 am)	<b>Talk - Kevin Tooher</b> will speak on ' <b>Euphorbias for Home and Garden</b> '. Kevin is a regular guest expert on Radio Kent Sunday Gardening. He currently teaches RHS theory and practical at Coolings Nursery, Hever and Walmer Castles. Kevin is also an RHS trial judge and was a judge on the Euphorbia trial. <b>Plant sale</b>
Saturday 18 November (10.00 for 10.45 am)	<b>Talk - Steve Edney</b> will speak on ' <b>Drought Tolerant Plants</b> '. Steve was Head Gardener at The Salutation in Kent for 17 years and he and his partner, Lou, won a gold medal at Chelsea and Best in Show at Hampton Court. They have now established and run No Name Nursery, also in Kent.  This event is followed by the <b>Members' Festive Lunch</b> .
<b>2024</b>	
Saturday 13 January (10.00 for 10.45 am)	<b>Talk - Simon Horrill</b> will speak on ' <b>Springing into Another Year</b> '. Ideas and musing on where gardens may be moving in the coming year. Simon is a former member of the Royal Ballet and has appeared in several productions in the West End. He recently took a change of path and trained in garden design. <b>Plant sale.</b>
Saturday 17 February (10.00 for 10.45 am)	<b>Talk - Jackie Currie</b> will speak on ' <b>Ornamental Alliums and How to Grow Them Successfully</b> '. Jackie holds the National Collection of Alliums, and is a true allium expert. <b>Plant sale.</b>

<p>Saturday 16 March (10.00 for 10.45 am)</p>	<p><b>AGM</b> followed by <b>Talk - Mark Saunders</b> will speak on '<b>Super Seasonal Displays</b>'. Mark is Head Gardener at Fittleworth House near Pulborough. This talk covers displays through the seasons from large flower beds to small pots and looks at creating colour and interest throughout the year. <b>Plant sale.</b></p>
<p>Saturday 20 April (10.00 for 10.45 am)</p>	<p><b>Talk - Peter Smith</b> will speak on '<b>Protecting our Pollinators</b>'. Peter is a beekeeper, amateur entomologist and writer. His talk looks at the causes of the huge decline in insect numbers over the past few years, what is being done to help and what we as individuals can also do. <b>Plant and seedling sale.</b></p>