

What a summer we have been having! The long glorious sunny days earlier in the June were perfect for enjoying gardens, the more recent wet weather feels more appropriate for ducks. With Autumn around the corner, we are looking forward to two more plant fairs; wherever the gaps in your garden are or what plants on your wish list, we are sure you will be able to source them at either event.

The first is at **Midney Gardens** near Somerton (TA11 7HR) on 1st September. *Malcolm Allison Plants*, *Whinwhistle Nursery and Cutting Garden* and the specialist Salvia grower, *Foxplants* will be there plus other nurseries selling vegetable plants, herbs, shrubs and late flowering perennials. There will also be plants propagated from the garden and delicious cake in the highly recommended tearoom! Midney is a unique plantsman's gardens with clever design and planting combinations and beautifully illustrates the quirky sense of humour of its creator. Admission to the plant fair is £3, with reduced entry to the garden on the day.



Sunday 15th September is the **Mapperton House** Autumn Plant fair, near Beaminster, in Dorset. Alongside regulars, *Bridport Fly Catchers* and *Mrs Mitchell's Kitchen and Garden*, will be 30 other nurseries selling herbs, shrubs, plants for flower arranging, vegetable plugs and colourful late flowering perennials. The Plant fair is a great day out for everyone, not only plant lovers, with free entry to Coach House Cafe and gift shop and discounted ticket price to the extensive gardens and guided tours of the magnificent Jacobean manor house. Admission to the plant fair is £3.00 in support of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. More details and a list of the nurseries for both fairs can be found at www.plantfairs.com.

The Spring plant fairs were well attended by both stall holders and visitors. March seems a distant memory, but the first fair of the year at the **Digby Hall** in Sherborne always seems a celebration that spring is on its way. This year we were pleased to be joined by Pennard Plants with their extensive range of seeds and potatoes and they have booked for 2020 already. The Spring **Mapperton House** Plant Fair saw a number of new stall holders, including *Avon Bulbs* and the woodfired glazed pots maker, *Jonathan Garratt*, he is coming again in September. **Yarlington House** had near record attendance, with organic vegetable plants and paeony's selling particularly well. In June, **Hestercombe Gardens** hosted their first plant fair, an eventful day which included a flying visit by BBC Somerset and very heavy thunderstorm!



Most of the nurseries and producers offer a pre-ordering service, just get in touch with them via our website www.plantfairs.com and collect your purchases at a plant fair - save on delivery costs!

If you enjoy being with fun friendly people and visiting gardens you might be interested in the coach trips we organise departing from Yeovil. While the focus of the trips is gardens, we throw in other treats as well. The trips are enjoyed by keen amateurs, interested partners and professional horticulturists alike. Whatever your gardening knowledge or experience you will be made to feel very welcome on these light-hearted "gardening jaunts." For more details please visit www.gardenbreaks.com or ring 01460 242620.

If these newsletters about the Specialist Plant fairs are no longer relevant or of interest, please let us know and we will remove you from our database.

Happy gardening!

Becky and Rob Cotterill

Specialist Plant Fairs, 2 Dower Cottages, Compton Durville, South Petherton, TA13 5EU

www.plantfairs.co.uk

www.gardenmaker.co.uk

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