

Prestwood Gardening Society

Founded 1976

Newsletter

Editor; Terry Cann, 01494 783254

July 2018
Issue 3

A GREAT GARDEN EXPERIENCE ON OUR DOORSTEP

If you have not recently, or ever, visited the Plant Specialist Nursery in Great Missenden then I urge you to do so soon for a splendid gardening experience.

It is some years since I last visited but I did so in late May to look for plants for a shady border. I found that since my last visit the Nursery has been extended and improved beginning with a larger car parking area to provide easy access.

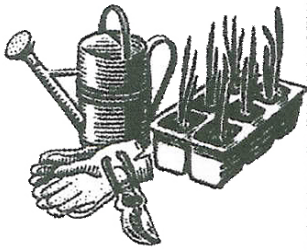
However the real joy of The Plant Specialist is that many of its plants are displayed in an extensive garden setting whose mixed borders are linked by meandering gravel paths. These beds provide both interest and inspiration in their combinations of trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals. You are, in reality, in a marvellous plant lovers' garden.

Even more tantalising is the view through the open fenced 'staff only' area to stock beds, glass houses and poly tunnels where most of the nursery's specialist plants are propagated and raised for sale.

The garden and stock beds provide the background to the well ordered sales area whose plants are displayed on benches or low standing-out frames. All of these plants are well labelled to provide essential information on their growth habits and characteristics.

Because most of the plants are raised and grown within a natural environment it is likely that they will be more hardy and resilient to pests and diseases than those from the artificially manipulated growing environments of the mass production plant industry.

In addition, The Plant Specialist's plants are selected to provide a wide variety of choice in terms of their physical characteristics and form.



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In this respect the sales area includes sections for plants for specialist growing conditions, such as shade, which have been chosen by experienced experts to be suitable for such given garden conditions.

In my case I was spoilt for choice from the dozens of plant varieties available for my shady area.

The Plant Specialist was founded in 1998 on a 4 1/2 acre site adjacent to the late Roald Dahl's home by Keith Pounder who was his gardener at that time and Sean Walter who is an enthusiastic plantsman with an obsessive drive and knowledge to grow beautiful and interesting plants. They are supported by a knowledgeable team who are able and ever willing to provide advice and guidance to their customers.

Following my visit I thought that I must write about this unsung gardening gem for the Newsletter only to find that I had been beaten to the punch by the great plantsman, author and broadcaster Roy Lancaster VMH in the June issue of the RHS Magazine, The Garden. He loved the nursery and his four page article is enhanced by many photographs of The Plant Specialist's plants. Roy's article records the visit he made last August so if you would like to replicate his experience now is the time to do so. Wow, what a treat you have in store.

To find the nursery go down the High Street towards Old Amersham, soon after the second traffic calming island turn right opposite the Missenden Abbey into Whitefield Lane and under the railway arch. The Plant Specialist is immediately on your left at 7 Whitefield Lane. HP16 0BH.

Telephone: 01494 866650. Website: theplantspecialist.co.uk. It is open April to October 10 am - 5 pm Wednesday - Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays. Enjoy!

The Plant Specialist does, of course, offer discounts to Society Members on production of their membership card.

Terry Cann