



1a The Drive, Ilkley



Dragons, Essex



Vale End, Surrey



Retreat, Pembrokeshire



Little Ash, Devon

Members' gardens open to celebrate our 60th Anniversary

Ruth Plant, Groups Coordinator

HPS members have a long history of developing new ideas, services and opportunities since the Society was created 60 years ago. In 1957, just four keen plantsmen and nursery owners formed the HPS to promote and conserve perennial plants in all their diversity. Now there are over 6,000 members, a network of Local Groups, Special Interest Groups, a Seed Distribution

offering thousands of varieties, a plant Conservation Scheme, a series of booklets and an extensive photo library.

From the beginning members have enjoyed garden visits, the first to Bressingham in 1957; so perhaps it's surprising that this is the first England-and-Wales programme when 65 gardens of HPS members will be open to the public on dates between February and September. Each garden owner has chosen when they would like to open, so the garden can be seen at its peak and star plants can be at their best!

An entry fee will be charged, similar to that of the NGS. Apart from £1 to cover administration costs, money raised will go either to charity or to the local HPS group.

You'll find all the details on the HPS website, or in a booklet available from your Local Group or the HPS office.

I'm looking forward to meeting some of you in some of the gardens this season. 🌸



Staffs chairman Fiona Howarth & Margaret Stone



Wendy's Gold

On a cold, damp, grey and snowy February morning, Hardy Planters from Staffordshire visited the very first garden to open as part of the 60th anniversary celebration – Margaret Stone's garden in Worcestershire. We were greeted by Worcestershire Group members, and by great numbers of very healthy clumps of snowdrops! What a variety: particularly fine were 'Warwickshire Gemini', 'Elmley Lovett', 'Imperati', 'Wendy's Gold', and 'Sutton Courtenay', all combining beautifully with a sheet of aconites and early narcissus 'Rinjvelds Early Sensation', which I shall plant next year!