

LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Spring Newsletter 2007

Thoughts from your Chairman

Here we are spring 2007 and this time last year it was very dry with cold winds. This year I have six inches of water in one of my greenhouses but on some days I have been working outside in just a jumper. The first of my daffodils have been out since January, and the snowdrops are making a great display. However with all the rain spring does not seem to be very keen to put in an appearance yet.

I have some sad announcements to make. Evelyn Potter died in January; she was treasurer for many years. It was due to her vision and encouragement that we made bulk orders for the sundries centre when it moved to Spring Lane, enabling us to sell competitively and setting us on the way to being financially stable. Elizabeth Blunden also passed away in January having been unwell for sometime. She was a most effective secretary for several years and I am sure that many of you enjoyed a visit to Keeper Cottage at Walstead to admire Elizabeth's and Percy's beautiful garden and to have a cup of tea and a delicious cake.

Evelyn Drew died very suddenly also in January; she passed away virtually in harness. One of her interests was supplying cakes and biscuits for the Country Market in the King Edward Hall. She came to the Market on Thursday, helped with the teas and coffees, and was rushed to hospital on the Sunday. She will be sadly missed all over the village as she was involved in so many activities. We will miss her lovely personality as well as her flower arrangement, craft and cookery entries in the shows. The Floral Art Cup for the Spring Show will be named in her memory.

I have an announcement that really fills me with happiness and pleasure: Michael and Alison became engaged on Christmas Day. They will be getting married early next year and we wish them a long and happy life together.

Finally do not forget to get your entries ready for the Spring Show to be held on Saturday 24th March. Entries can be delivered to 25 Eastern Road, 66 Sunte Avenue or Harmony Pharmacy up to 10 pm on Wednesday 21st. Full details can be found in your Show Schedule.

Sheila Hobbs

The Evening Talk on Great Dixter Wednesday 9 May 2007

The meeting on the 9th May with Fergus Garrett from Great Dixter is a special event for the Society and it has therefore been decided to have an all ticket entry. The cost will still be the same as usual (50p per member). Tickets are now being sold and are going fast. They are available at any of our meetings and if any tickets are left by mid April they will go on sale to non-members at £1. This event has all the hallmarks of being a fantastic evening; so if you want to come purchase your tickets as soon as possible.

Michael Elliott

Garden Visits Programmed for 2007

Set out below are the details for this year's visits that are referred to on the back of the Show Schedule. Because of the popularity of these outings only members of the Society may purchase tickets. Tickets may not be brought by either members for their guests or by non-members of the Society.

➤ RHS Wisley

This is always a very popular trip and this year there should be the opportunity to see the new Bicentenary Glasshouse. The coach will leave Lindfield at 8.30 am. The cost of a ticket covers coach travel, tips and entrance. Please use the attached application form at the end of this newsletter to order tickets.

➤ West Dean Gardens, Chichester

West Dean Gardens have:

- 2.5 acres of restored Victorian walled kitchen and fruit gardens
- 13 original glasshouses dating from the 1890's
- 35 acres of ornamental grounds
- 240 acre landscaped park
- 49 acre arboretum (with the latter two linked by a scenic 2.25 mile parkland walk)
- 300 foot long pergola
- Restaurant
- Visitor centre
- Plant sales area

The coach will leave Lindfield at 9.00 am. The cost of a ticket covers coach travel, tips and entrance. Please use the attached application form at the end of this newsletter to order tickets.

THE ATTACHED APPLICATION FORM IS TO BE USED FOR ALL TICKET APPLICATIONS, AS THERE WILL NOT BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CIRCULATE ANOTHER ONE. TICKETS WILL BE ALLOCATED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS.

PLEASE ENCLOSE ONE CHEQUE TO COVER ALL THE OUTINGS YOU WISH TO BOOK TICKETS FOR. PLEASE ALSO ENCLOSE A STAMPED SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR THE RETURN OF YOUR TICKETS.

I hope you enjoy find the outings enjoyable.

Ann Higgins

Sundries Centre

The Sundries Centre will be open as normal during the spring. As many of you will already know we have not moved from our old much beloved leaning shed, so you will not need to trek further down the track. You will find us at the old site very well stocked for the new season. The latest price list is attached to the newsletter. For many items: **Canes, Bone Meal, Fish Blood and Bone, Lime, Rose Food etc., we cannot be beaten for price.** All our products are top quality – the best growing medium for your plants. A cheap compost is exactly that – a cheap compost - and is of very little use for growing your plants.

So come to your Sundries Centre and get the best there is for your gardens and allotments this year!

Spring Opening Times

Saturday 17th March

Sunday 1st April

Saturday 14th April

Sunday 29th April

Sunday 6th May

Saturday 19th May

Sunday 27th May

Noreen Smith

Committee Vacancies.

Members will remember that in the New Year Newsletter there was an article asking for volunteers for the Committee and listing specific posts that needed to be filled.

Unfortunately those volunteers were very few and far between but hopefully we do have someone who will be taking over next year the talks from Peter Day and who will be working with Peter from April this year in order to learn the 'ropes'. The Show Superintendent is a far more difficult job and does need some knowledge and we are currently in discussions regarding sharing or rotating this post. This therefore leaves us the post of Press Officer, which we desperately need to fill, please come forward and help. Here is a reminder as to what the post involves:

Press Officer – The Society would like to introduce a post for someone to pull together the advertising of events. The duties would include:

- creating posters (the format for which is already available) and passing them to the distributor
- contacting local radio stations and free newspapers to obtain publicity
- advertising the shows and AGM in the Mid Sussex Times
- writing articles about our event for the Lindfield Times.

These jobs are currently either spread among the Committee or do not get done at all. Although not a particularly arduous job it is of immense importance. To undertake it you would however need a computer.

Michael Elliott

Spring Sales

Both Scaynes Hill and Wivelsfield Nurseries are offering 10% off plants and a range of other things. As most of you will know Scaynes Hill Nursery is situated on the A272 after you leave Scaynes Hill going towards Uckfield; Wivelsfield Nursery is on the Ditchling Road opposite Baldocks Garage.

David Macmillan

Sponsor a Class at our Shows

Members are invited to sponsor a class or section in any of this year's three shows. The cost of prizes in an ordinary class is £1.80, a collection £6.75, a flower arranging class £4.50 and a heaviest class £2.25. Or three times these figures if you want to sponsor the same class in all three shows. These costs are purely a guide and a Sponsor may contribute any sum to support any class. A small card of appreciation will be placed next to the exhibits at the appropriate show thanking the Sponsor. To become a Sponsor just send your cheque to our Treasurer, Michael Elliott stating which class you wish to sponsor.

Michael Elliott

The Tastiest Tomato

Gardening writer Lee Pateman's favourite tomato for taste is the cherry tomato Gardener's Delight. He has a tradition that when the first tomato is ripe he presents it on a plate for his wife to enjoy. Who says chivalry is dead? He also mentions that he gives the tomato flowers a little spray to help the flowers set, emphasising that you have to be careful not to give the plants a soaking as this increases the risk of blight. He also keeps some of the side shoots as cuttings which rapidly develop into good sized plants.

Thanks to Audrey Kite for this snippet

Grand Village Sunflower Competition

The Lindfield Horticultural Society would like to offer its support and encouragement to Lindfield Bonfire Society in its plan to hold Lindfield's own Sunflower Competition during 2007 in aid of the Bonfire Society's funds. Members will be aware that the Bonfire Society gives thousands to children's charities every year as a result of its collections on November 5th. However the Society cannot use any of the money it collects on bonfire night to stage the following next year's event, and consequently must raise the necessary funds from other activities. Their insurance charges alone are horrendous.

You may remember that in 1999 when the competition was last held, the Village was awash with sunflowers. This time we want there to be even more sunflowers and that they are bigger and better than last time.

It is hoped that every member and their families will grow a least one sunflower during 2007. Entry in the competition will only cost £1, which will go towards the staging of Bonfire Night. Seeds and entry forms will be available at the Spring Show.

Michael Elliott