

LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Autumn Newsletter 2008

“Thoughts from your Chairman”

I know that many readers of this newsletter look forward to our Chairman's opening remarks on what is growing, the weather and the phases of the Moon but unfortunately we will have to go without, just this once. As I am sure many of you know David and Sheila's only daughter Alison is getting married on the 23rd August and at the time this newsletter is being produced they are very much focused on the wedding arrangements. Alison is marrying Max Eggert, whose mother lives in the High Street. The service is at Highbrook Church and the reception is in a marquee down at the farm. I am sure we all wish Max and Alison, a long, happy and wonderful life together.

Michael Elliott

Autumn Show 2008

Our Autumn Show, the most prestigious of the year, will be held on Saturday the 13th September 2008 in the King Edward Hall. It can be relied upon to be a magnificent display of locally grown flowers, fruit, vegetables, floral art and children's exhibits. The show will be open to the public from 2.00pm. As usual Tea, Coffee and delicious homemade cakes will be available together with a large selection of plants.

The Society prides itself in being a small, friendly and village society, and although our shows are staged under RHS rules everyone is encouraged to enter. So whether it is a pot plant or a marrow no one will be ridiculed or laughed at, just encouraged, so please have a go, we are always looking for new exhibitors. If you would like to enter for the first time and have any queries, please speak to our show Secretary Pat Whetstone (483236).

The presentation of the Societies awards will take place at 5pm and will include the annual trophies for the most points obtained over all three shows.

Exhibitors are reminded that entries should be in by 10pm on Wednesday 10th September and should be delivered to 25 Eastern Road, 66 Sunte Avenue or to Abbots (formerly Harmony Pharmacy) in the High Street. Exhibits can be staged between 7pm and 9pm on the Friday or between 8am and 10.30am on Saturday.

Michael Elliott

Show Exhibitors' Cards

Following the Summer Show we received a written complaint from a member regarding the fact that exhibitors entry cards had been made out with surnames shown first. Your Committee is aware of the problem and has had to accept that this is the best we can do at present. The cards are produced from a computer programme that requires the names of exhibitors to be produced in alphabetical order. The alternative is that all the cards (up to

300 for each show) are written out by hand, and this would be too time consuming. Unfortunately, no one on your Committee has the expertise to make the necessary amendments to the programme, which is written in Microsoft Access. However a sub committee, under the Chairmanship of Richard Hilson, has been formed to review the complete show schedule, and has started its work. Following receipt of the sub committee's recommendations your Committee will make a decision as to how to proceed.

Committee

Summer Show 2008

On the Wednesday morning before the show I was really concerned that we would not have a show as I had received very few entries. But despite the weather the members suddenly produced the entries and it was, as usual, a very successful show. There were so many hungry and thirsty visitors that Audrey Kite and her catering team were rushed off their feet and had record takings. So thank you to all of you who managed to bring along produce that had not been eaten by the slug and snail epidemic.

Results

RHS Banksian Medal	Michael Elliott
Blue Riband of the British Fuchsia Society	Rita Pickett
The Lemmy Cup	Ann Higgins
The Savill Cup	Richard Hilson
The Filmer Cup	Anne Skinner
The Fruit Cup	J Gladwell
The Thornbery Trophy	Sheila Hobbs
The Askew Cup	Richard Hilson
The Gilbert Cup	Gill Jones
The Don Booker Fuchsia Cup	Rita Pickett
Forget-me-Not Shield	Alex Cameron
Heart and Soul Shield	Katherine Cameron

Best in Show

Vegetable	Bill Flint
Pot Plant	Michael Figg
Cookery	Gill Jones
Handicraft	Rita Pickett

I look forward to seeing you all at the Autumn Show.

Pat Whetstone

Christmas Social

Tickets for the Christmas Social on Friday 5th December will first be on sale from 7.15pm on Wednesday October 8th (prior to Martin Durrant's talk on 'Orchids') and then at our Coffee Morning on the 11th October. The ticket price is still £7.50 and they will be sold on a first come first serve basis to members. Due to the current popularity of this event, the Committee has had to limit the number attending to 114. As a change, this year's entertainment will be a Barber Shop Choir! Otherwise things remain the same, lots of good food, lots of wine and masses of jolly good company.

Alison Elliott

Membership

Membership fees for the New Year are due on the 1st October at the unchanged cost of £3 they can be paid at any of our events, including the Autumn Show on the 13th September, or by post for an extra 50p to Tom Hughes our Membership Secretary (96 Barnmead, Haywards Heath RH16 1UZ). Don't forget for a mere £45 you can buy life Membership, which could be a very good investment.

Committee

Society's Website

The Society wishes to acknowledge the brilliant work by Tim Richards, one of our members, on maintaining the Society's Website; many thanks Tim. Members can view the site at www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk and also send us their comments and suggestions.

Committee

Sundries Centre

Your Sundries Centre reopens after the summer break (9.30 to 11am) on:

Sunday 7th September
Saturday 27th September and
Sunday 19th October

I am sure we all need to restock our supply of slug pellets, and do not forget the growmore for those over wintering plants and the Autumn Feed for the lawn.

Noreen Smith

The Talks Programme

The Committee would like to thank on your behalf Wendy Dumbleton for organising our programme of talks at 8 pm in the King Edward Hall which will recommence this October. The following Wednesday dates should be entered in your diary:

2008

8th October – Orchids – Martin Durrant

19th November – Plant Hunting around the World – Harry Townsend

2009

14th January - Plant Problems (including Biological Control) – Hilary Newman

11th February – Structure and the Winter Garden – Karoline Baird

11th March – Floral Art – Bob Tunks

8th April – Nymans Gardens – Ed Ikin

13th May – Continuous Colour in the Herbaceous Border – Fergus Garrett

14th October – The Land of the Thunder Dragon, the Himalayas – Ann Chapman

11th November – What makes a Great Garden – Annie Guilfoyle.

Admission remains at 50p for Members and £1 for Guests and everybody is welcome.

Don't forget the AGM on the 19th November 2008 at 7.30 pm, which is timed for the half hour before the talk by Harry Townsend (if we can make it last that long). Members are asked to make every effort to attend the AGM, it is your best chance to air their views and make suggestions for the improvement of the Society.

Committee

Cookery, Flower Arranging and Handicrafts Steward

After having looked after the above classes at our three annual shows and served on the Committee for many years Gillian Macmillan has stepped down. The Committee would like to thank her for all her hard work on behalf of the Society.

Committee

Courgettes

Are you knee deep in courgettes and wondering what to do with them all? Why not try the following recipe?

1 red onion	2 medium potatoes scrubbed & diced
2 cloves of garlic crushed	1 ½ pints of vegetable stock
2 tablespoons of olive oil	3 bay leaves
2 lbs of courgettes halved & sliced	black pepper

Heat the oil in a large saucepan, add the onion and garlic and cook until beginning to soften but not colour. Mix in the courgettes and potatoes; cook for 1-2 minutes. Add the stock and bay leaves, bring to the boil and then simmer for 20 minutes.

Remove the bay leaves, cool a little and then puree if desired. Season with black pepper and serve hot.

Ann Higgins