

# LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

[www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk](http://www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk)

## Autumn Newsletter 2011

### Thoughts from your Chairman

If you had strictly followed a traditional horticultural calendar, this year you would have needed a pneumatic drill and plenty of sun screen lotion during your spring planting, and a lifeboatman's waterproofs whilst hoeing during the summer. But despite the climatic challenges members managed to fill the King Edward Hall for the Summer Show and likewise for the Rose Evening. What two lovely events they both were, I really did enjoy them. So let us round off the "showing year" in style by bombarding Pat with our entries for the Autumn Show.

*Sheila Hobbs*

### Appeal

As you may know, LHS is the largest and most successful gardening group in the area. Our shows usually attract 300 – 400 entries with many visitors. There is an interesting programme of talks, plant sales, outings and social events throughout the year. To help us maintain all this we are looking for a few more committee members. No special skills are required, just lots of enthusiasm for plants and people; the committee only meets five times a year so there are not too many meetings! If you would like to talk about what it involves please contact Alison or Michael Elliott on 01444 483039.

*Rosemary Humphreys*

### Christmas Social

Tickets for the Christmas Social on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December will be on sale at the Coffee Morning on 8<sup>th</sup> October and at the October and November evening talks. The ticket numbers will be limited to 114 and will be sold on a first come first served basis to members only. The ticket price remains as it was last year at £10. Our entertainment this year will be by a local vocalist Ms Jo Kimber who will entertain us with tunes that you will know well. The format of the evening as always remains the same, plenty of food and drink and lots of jolly good company.

*Alison Elliott*

### Summer Show 2011

Once again a great show. I think that the entries in the rose classes suffered because of the weather but we had a wonderful display of them at the rose evening. The special 'Winston' potato class was well supported; unfortunately the entries for the junior classes were down although the exhibits that we had were excellent.

With reference to class 207 The Thornberry Trophy, the judge made a comment that the schedule states that the exhibit should be staged for all round effect. This

means that they are judged from the “front, back and sides” and not just “front on”. Perhaps exhibitors could make note of this for next year and Martin will highlight it in the 2012 Show Schedule. I think the entries in this class are one of the most colourful parts of the summer show.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you all at the Autumn Show.

### **Results**

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| The Lemmey Cup                                 | Ann Higgins      |
| The Savill Cup                                 | Jim Stockwell    |
| RHS Banksian Medal                             | Jim Stockwell    |
| The Filmer Cup                                 | Gill Jones       |
| The Fruit Cup                                  | Brian Fitzgerald |
| The Thornbery Trophy                           | Gill Jones       |
| Kieron James Toys Shield                       | Emily Sutlow     |
| Heart and Soul Shield                          | Ruby Anscombe    |
| The Blue Riband of the British Fuchsia Society | Michael Figg     |
| The Askew Cup                                  | Tim Richardson   |
| The Don Booker Fuchsia Cup                     | Michael Figg     |
| The President’s Cup                            | Tim Richardson   |

### *Best in Show*

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Vegetable            | Richard Hilson  |
| Pot Plant            | Michael Figg    |
| Cookery              | Margaret Carter |
| Handicraft           | Rita Pickett    |
| Flower               | Jocasta Fearn   |
| <i>Pat Whetstone</i> |                 |

### **Rose Evening**

Where was there a sea of rose blooms and a raft of perfume on the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June? Why at the King Edward Hall on the occasion of Lindfield Horticultural Society’s first ever Rose Evening. The date was chosen as in a normal year this would have been the height of the rose season but as always the English weather had other ideas, so despite the first flush of roses being earlier than anyone can remember, not to mention all the heavy rain, residents responded magnificently. The Society had challenged local residents, whether members of the Society or not, to help us fill the Hall with roses as part of the Hall’s Centenary celebrations, and they responded triumphantly.

The Hall was packed with over 170 people enjoying not only all the blooms which their neighbours had brought along, but the wonderful display of rose bushes provided by Wych Cross Garden Centre. There was also a superb arrangement of roses in a basket created by Bob Tunks, and live music played so professionally by a very talented local young violinist Corey Wickens. As well as having a drink and a chat there was the opportunity to partake in the rose themed raffle. So well done

residents, not to mention some visitors we had from further afield, including Australia. If you missed the event there are some photographs on our website ([www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk](http://www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk)).

So a big thank you is due to all those who helped on the evening itself and to the organising sub-committee, particularly Alison and Rosemary. The Committee feel that the event might be worth repeating in a year or two, so if you agree (or not) perhaps you would be kind enough to let us know.

Committee

### **Special 2012 Spring Show Daffodil Competition**

Once again, the committee has decided to include a special daffodil class for members in the 2012 Spring Show schedule as follows:

*“One stem of ‘Rosemoor Gold’ from a bulb purchased from Lindfield Horticultural Society exhibited in a vase provided by the Society.”*

Two hundred bulbs of the cultivar ‘Rosemoor Gold’ have therefore been ordered and these will be on sale to members only, during the Autumn Show at the King Edward Hall on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. ‘Rosemoor Gold’ is a Division 7 jonquilla-type daffodil producing up to three flowers to a stem. They can be grown either in pots or in the ground. The bulbs will be sold singly, although five bulbs would be the ideal number to grow in a 10 litre pot. Bulbs will cost 50p each and a ‘growing hints’ sheet will be supplied.

***A change has been introduced to this class for 2012 in that any member entering the open classes for daffodils will not be able to enter this special daffodil class.***

Richard Hilson

### **Autumn Show 2011**

This will be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September in the King Edward Hall. It is the Society’s most prestigious show of the year and will 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 and tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes will be available together with a selection of plants. The awards will be presented at 5pm and will include the annual trophies for the most points obtained over all three shows and at the conclusion be followed by the raffle and an auction of any donated exhibits.

Exhibitors are reminded that written entries should be delivered to 25 Eastern Road, Clough’s in Sunte Avenue or to Abbots Pharmacy in the High Street by 10pm on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August. Entries can also be made by email to: [whet25@btinternet.com](mailto:whet25@btinternet.com) (**please note this is a new email address**), up to 1pm on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September. Exhibits may be staged between 7pm and 9pm on the Friday or between 8am and 10.30am on the Saturday. It is exhibitors’ responsibility to collect any prize money from the Treasurer between 3.30 and

4.30pm on the day of the show and no exhibit may be removed from the show bench until 4.45pm.

*Committee*

### **Membership**

Membership fees for the New Year are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> October at a cost of £5 per individual member and of £8 for a couple living at the same address.

Renewals for the New Year can be made at the Autumn Show on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September and at any of our events after that date. Renewals can also be made by post to our Membership Secretary Mrs Joyce Gladwell at 7 Brookway, Lindfield RH16 2BW but please remember to add an additional 75p for postage and packing.

*Committee*

### **The Talks Programme**

Many thanks once again to Wendy Dumbleton for organising our talk's programme, which will recommence this October. The following Wednesday evenings should be entered in your diary:

2011

12<sup>th</sup> October – Unusual Winter Plants – Bob Brown

9<sup>th</sup> November – Designing with Plants – Annie Guilfoyle

2012

11<sup>th</sup> January – An Impression of Wakehurst Place – Chris Clennett

8<sup>th</sup> February – Brightwater Holidays a World of Gardens – Graeme Mitchell

14<sup>th</sup> March – Demonstration of Floral Art – Bob Tunks

11<sup>th</sup> April – Kidnapped in Colombia whilst Plant Hunting – Tom Hart Dyke

9<sup>th</sup> May – The Tale of the Tulip – Russell Bowes

10<sup>th</sup> October – A Lavender Collection – Simon Charlesworth

14<sup>th</sup> November – Vegetable Growing, Techniques, Ideas and Advice – Barry Newman

With the exception of the talk by Tom Hart Dyke on the 11<sup>th</sup> April, which will be by ticket only, admission remains at 50p for members and £1 for guests.

### **2011 Coach Outings**

#### *Merriments & Lullingstone*

For our first coach trip in 2011 we visited two gardens; first of all we called in at Merriments, where we also took lunch and in the afternoon went on to visit the World Garden at Lullingstone Castle.

Although it has featured on television as well as appearing in several gardening magazines, Merriments is not nearly as well known as it should be. In a word, it is “magnificent”. It comprises of four acres of interconnecting gardens with a vast array of plants, shrubs and trees providing a riot of colour. Although weeds are not permitted it skilfully avoids having that “over manicured look”. In addition to

the large number of choice specimens in the innumerable beds, the whole site has been most skilfully landscaped to provide interesting vistas, an imaginative use of water and different styles of layout – the whole coming together like an orchestral symphony. If you have never been, set forth towards Hurst Green as soon as possible for you will enjoy yourself, we all did.

Lullingstone Castle has a beautiful setting and is the site of the two acre World Garden. This aims to show where many of the plants we use in our own gardens come from by being planted in their respective country of origin. It was planned by Tom Hart Dyke during his captivity when he was held for nine months by guerrillas in the Panamanian jungle whilst on a plant hunting expedition that went dangerously wrong. Tom was much in evidence during our visit and is coming to talk to the Society next year.

Although the garden has had some losses due to the previous two very cold winters, there remained much to interest us and stimulate discussion. The Hot and Spikey House, which displays the diversity of Cacti, Succulents and Bromeliads, contained many fascinating specimens of diverse shape and sizes for us to wonder at, some of which were in flower. We also had the opportunity to enter the family's lovely Norman church, to visit the nursery and therefore fill up the coach's luggage bay with our selections, and to sample the lovely cakes over a cup of tea. Then it was time to journey home and to reflect on two very contrasting gardens and to ponder on where on earth we were going to put all the plants we had bought.

#### *Audley End*

Our second coach outing took us to Audley End, near Saffron Walden which is an English Heritage site with a spectacular Jacobean mansion and a park laid out by Capability Brown. The house is considered to be one of the most magnificent in England and once you have been round it you can understand why. Although it is very grand and packed with outstanding pictures and furniture it still manages to give the feel of a family home where the children are likely to be encountered running down one of the corridors at any minute.

The Parterre to the rear of the house was designed to be viewed from the first floor rooms and looks magnificent when you do so, with imaginative planting for looking good over a long season. Also very impressive is the extremely large walled Organic Kitchen Garden which boasts a variety of fruit, vegetables and flowers, including 120 apple trees of both ancient and more modern varieties. We admired the parkland with its ponds and lake, the Vine House and the very grand Stables with the chance to say "Hello" to the horses; also very impressive were the various multimedia displays about life in the house and the estate. There was much to see but fortified by one or two visits to the café we were up to the challenge and had a most enjoyable day.

*Exclusive World Horticultural Reporter*

### **Sundries Centre**

Your Sundries Centre in Spring Lane will be open after the summer break on:

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October

*Noreen Smith*

### **Suttons and Dobies Catalogues**

The Suttons and Dobies Catalogues for the 2011 season should be available at our October meetings. Members ordering their seeds and plants through the Society will receive a 20% discount on seeds and a 10% discount on other items. It does not matter how much you order, £5 or £50 it all adds to the total on which the Society itself gets a commission. So if you purchase Sutton's or Dobies seeds please do it through the Society.

*Alison and Michael Elliott*

### **Society's Website**

This is a reminder that details and photographs of many of our events are posted on our website ([www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk](http://www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk)) and it is well worth visiting. Also all members who are on email are offered the opportunity to have their newsletters on the day they are published. If you would like to avail yourself of this facility just go to [www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk](http://www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk) and click on 'email us' on the shed door and ask for your newsletter to be sent by email.

And now for a little moan. Over a year ago we asked for members to send photographs of their gardens, allotments or favourite plant(s) for posting on the website. Knowing what keen photographers we have amongst the membership we prepared for the deluge, but in the event received none. Now come on surely you can do better than that.

*Committee*

### **Garden Pride Discount Scheme**

As members will be aware, they receive a 10% discount at Garden Pride, Ditchling whereas members of the general public only get 5% when using the Garden Pride loyalty card. If you do not use this facility, once in every nine months the discount will drop to 5%. So if you have not used your card for sometime, it is suggested that next time you visit Garden Pride you go to the Customer Services Desk and have your card checked and if necessary altered. Just to be on the safe side please take your Membership Card with you.

Members who have not got this facility should join the scheme as an ordinary members of the public and then when they receive their loyalty card they should have it updated as per above.

*Michael Elliott*