

LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Autumn Newsletter 2016

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We have changed the date of the AGM. Joe Swift, the television gardener, is coming to Clair Hall on 9 November 2016 and we suspect that a number of you will wish to hear him talk, so we have brought the AGM and the talk by Bob Tunks forward to **2 November 2016**, so please make the change in your diaries.

EDITORIAL

The Summer Show was a great success. As usual, the quality of the entries was excellent. Sadly, for me, my roses had been decimated by the rain before the show and most of my vegetables were not ready, but it was pleasing to see that many of you managed to avoid my 'local' difficulties. I'm convinced that the KEH looks at its best at each of our shows, closely followed by when 100+ of us fill the hall for the Christmas social. (See below for details of this year's party.)

I shouldn't have a favourite at our Shows but I love the smell of sweet peas at this time of year and, given half a chance, all the vegetables and fruits on display would have been more than acceptable for my breakfast, lunch and/or dinner. Andrew Harding's wonderful trug display of vegetables was tempting but no doubt he would have noticed if the trug and/or its contents had disappeared. Andrew deservedly received a National Vegetable Society 'Judge's Outstanding Exhibit' certificate.

Many other exhibits were eye-catching and all who attended will no doubt have favoured some more than others. I am always happy to agree with the judges' decisions but I do find it interesting to hear the 'informal' views of others.

Rose Mortensen's LHS coach trips continue to be excellent. We visited Savill Gardens on 20 July. Hot drinks, cakes and scones welcomed us. There is so much to see at these lovely gardens. Far too many things to list although I must mention the magnificent bed of Prince William roses in full bloom. Well worth a full day visit as is our next 'port of call', Wisley. There is so much to enjoy there. I'm sure many of you will have visited Wisley or be aware of its wonders. The shade in the fascinating wild garden was a great place to be on such a hot day: another great day out.

The visit to Sarah Raven's Cutting Garden on 18 August was excellent. Very different to the large gardens we visited on 20 July. We were the only visitors and were welcomed with a drink and large chunks of delicious home-made fruit and chocolate cake which soon disappeared. I thoroughly enjoyed strolling around the various themed garden rooms and greenhouse with plenty to see and enjoy, all within a short walk of the shop and café. Sarah and her staff were very approachable.

We then went on to Groombridge Place where there is also much to see. I loved the quiet aura of the formal gardens and there are lovely walks and many attractions for families spread out over a large area. During the birds-of-prey display, I even discovered why a North American bald-headed eagle is so named even though it has a full head of feathers. All in all, another great day out, many thanks to Rose.

SUMMER SHOW RESULTS

Congratulations to the following:

Liz Hinze and Ian Cooper shared The Savill Cup
Graham Buck: The Don Booker Fuchsia Cup
Rolf Lloyd Williams: The Gilbert Cup
Wendy Dumbleton: The Lemmy Cup
Doreen Orton: The Thornbery Trophy
Liz Hinze: The RHS Banksian Medal
Ian Cooper: The Fruit Cup
Graham Buck: Blue Riband of the British Fuchsia Society
Florence Fearn-Hughes: The Kieron James Toys Shield
Liam Jolly: The Junior Shield
Pauline Parkyn : Flower Arrangement in a Tea Cup.

Best in Show awards went to:

Vegetables: Joyce Gladwell
Pot Plant: Graham Buck
Cookery: Helen Dunlop
Handicraft : Janis Dyer
Fruit: Ian Cooper

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Tickets for the Christmas Social on **2 December 2016** will be on sale at the October coffee morning, the October evening talk and at the AGM. 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 like last year will be £10. The entertainment this year will be provided by a local group 'Sister Sister' who will be singing a range of songs from the 60's to the present day. Sister Sister support the St Peter and St James Hospice and there will be a retiring collection for this very worthwhile charity. Come along and enjoy yourselves, the format of the evening as always remains the same, wine, food and song and very good company.

OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

10 September Autumn Show I look forward to seeing most of you on 10 September. Hopefully, many of you will already be planning your entries.

11 September Visit to Great Comp Gardens, near Sevenoaks. This is a beautiful house and seven-acre garden particularly famous for its wide variety of salvias and the renowned Dyson Nurseries which are within the garden. We are running this trip as a self-drive or we have a mini-bus booked to take those who prefer to be chauffeured. At the time of writing, there are three places left on the minibus. Fee, including entry, mini-bus travel and driver's tip will be £24.00. Enquires please to Rose on 01444 483229.

16 September Visit to Kew Gardens, Richmond The great border has been entirely re-planted and should be looking good with late summer colour and the new Hive structure is apparently fascinating. If you have a Friends of Wakehurst Kew card then fee is £16, if not it will be £29.50. Again just 3 places left at the time of writing. Enquires please to Rose on 01444 483229.

The Sundries Centre is open on **4 and 25 September, 15 October** and finally this year, on **23 October**.

8 October COFFEE MORNING AND PLANT SALE starting at 10 am.

12 October Talk on Victorian Gardens by Carolyn Ikin starting 8 pm.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Membership fees for the new year are due on 1 October 2016 and, as agreed at the last AGM, will increase to £6 per individual member and to £10 for a couple living at the same address. Renewals for the New Year can be made at the Autumn Show on 10 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.

SPRING SHOW 2017: Special Daffodil Class. We have decided to have a special daffodil class in the Spring Show 2017 which will be open to Members who purchase bulbs from the society at the Autumn 2016 show. This year we have purchased the cultivar 'Uncle Duncan' which is a Division 1 yellow daffodil with an orange trumpet. (Division 1 is a daffodil with one flower to a stem where the trumpet is as long as or longer than its petals). The class in the schedule will read: 'One stem of Uncle Duncan from a bulb purchased from Lindfield Horticultural Society exhibited in a vase provided by the Society.'

The bulbs will be on sale at the Autumn Show at the cost of 50p each. It is suggested that members purchase at least three bulbs although purchases will be limited to a maximum of five bulbs. The bulbs will be on sale from 2 pm and will be sold on a first- come first-served basis. As it is a special class the prize money will be £5 for first, £3 for second and £2 for third. It will be separate from the main show and so will not attract points towards other cups or prizes. There is a full list and description of all the daffodil divisions on pages 16 to 20 of your show schedule.

TALKS FOR 2017 Dates for your diaries:

11 January: Heritage Gardening

8 February: Garden Sage Garden Centre and plants

8 March: Revival of Arts and Crafts Garden at Standen

12 April: Bringing on \flowers to sell (alstroemeria)

10 May: Secrets of Hever Castle

11 October: Gardens of Great Windsor Park

8 November (AGM): Historic Gardens of Sussex and the work of the Sussex Gardens Trust

These all sound very interesting and I am sure will be well supported. Many thanks to Wendy Dumbleton for organising these talks.

SUTTON'S AND DOBIES' SEEDS Catalogues for the 2016/17 season will, we hope, be available at our October meetings. Members of the Society ordering their seeds and plants through this scheme will receive a 25% discount on seeds and a 15% 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, dependent on the total amount of seeds ordered. So if you purchase Sutton's or Dobies' seeds, please do it through the Society. If you would like to reserve a catalogue please ring 483039, leaving your name and address and which catalogue you would like.

SUNDRIES CENTRE

Gill Jones has volunteered to organise the Sundries Centre and she has asked me to forward the following to members:

After volunteering to help out with the Sundries centre over the summer I had such fun that I'm going to be running the centre next year. It was really nice to meet so many people that I haven't come into contact with before and we want to make the centre as good a resource for everyone as we can.

We can provide products at really competitive prices as we can source directly. Also, if you have difficulty getting hold of something or you think whatever you need is expensive in the garden centres or would like to make any suggestion as to what could be done to improve what the Sundries Centre has to offer, please let me know and we can see what we can do.

Before Gill volunteered we had made a plan of action for 2017 including a stocktaking in the autumn. A few items of stock have not been selling well and therefore will not be re-ordered for 2017. Based on what has been going on this year, we have just about enough volunteers to help Gill, but we could do with a few more, including at least two more volunteers to occasionally help with the 'heavy' lifting.

NEW FOR 2017. The coffee morning on Saturday, **4 February 2017** will include a seed swap, where you will be invited to bring along seeds you have saved and to leave with something different from another member. So now is the time to start saving your seeds, making sure that they are dry and putting them in small envelopes clearly marked with the name and colour of what you have saved. If you have a lot of seeds please bring them along so that members can purchase seeds where they do not have any to swop. (All proceeds will of course be donated to the Society.) As usual we will still have coffee and biscuits, plants for sale, the raffle and time to natter to friends.

Also new for 2017 on **14 June 2017** we are proposing to hold a 'Gardeners Question Time' where an invited panel of knowledgeable horticulturalists will answer your questions. Tickets will be on sale early in the New Year when details of the panellists are published.

Finally, thanks to the hard work of various members, plans are well in hand for a full 2017 programme of events and the membership cards for 2017 have been ordered from the printers. I would appreciate members' comments (good or critical). Any suggestion for new events and/or how things could be improved relating to the Society would be more than welcome.

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