LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Newsletter - Spring 2019

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year. You should all have your 2019 schedules by now. Please let me know what you think of our updated version. As usual this update has not appeared by magic. I would like to thank Gill Jones, Clare Wilson and Tim Richardson for all their hard work. You will see from the Show Schedule that there is a 'full programme' for 2019 and Rose Mortenson and Neil McNamara have organised seven Outings to a number of destinations - see pages 6 to 9.

The committee has been working hard to encourage more members to join. We will once again be having a recruitment stall on village day. It was very successful last year. Those of you who have access to our website will notice that our membership form has been updated with our bank details so that anyone who has online banking can now pay their subscription direct into to our bank account. Please be assured that you will still be able to pay by cheque or cash.

Now I come to my usual request for help at various events. Firstly, I would like to thank the members who contacted me offering their help when needed. However, **we still need a Treasurer** to replace Michael Elliott who is still handling the accounts for us. Members of the committee are helping with his jobs such as banking. It is not an ideal system but, for now, we have no choice.

Next year we will need a Catering Supervisor: There are 3 coffee mornings and 3 Shows during the year. Coffee mornings only involve tea or coffee and biscuits. For the 3 Shows the biscuits are replaced by cakes. Apart from purchasing the tea etc. you need to organise helpers for each event and cake makers for the Shows. I know Debbie Anscombe has a list of helpers and cake makers. If you are interested and want more information please speak to Debbie or me. Our contact details are in the Show Schedule. Perhaps there are two friends that could take on the job between them.

Also, we are looking for a Show Secretary: You need to book all the judges for the 3 Shows. For each Show you input the entries in the laptop and print the entry cards. During the Friday evening before each Show, spaces for the entries are set out on tables in the Newcombe Hall of the King Edward Hall. The Saturday of the Show you can accept late entries and, if need be, help exhibitors with entries. You welcome the judges on arrival. Judging starts at 10.30am. When the judging has finished you need to collate all the results and work out the cup winners. There is a Show Superintendent to help you on the Friday evening and on Saturday. Again, if you are interested, please contact me or our current Show Secretary, Deborah Novotny. Contact details are in the Show Schedule. Perhaps a couple or a group of friends might be interested in taking on this job.

If someone was to come forward now for these jobs he/she could work with the current Catering Supervisor/Show Secretary for this year and learn hands on. Also, remember that if you are willing to take on these roles in the LHS you are not alone as we have a brilliant committee who are invariably around at coffee mornings and the Shows to help.

Here's hoping we have a good summer, perhaps with a bit more rain that last year, and a great year for the LHS...... Pat Whetstone, 01444 483236

Forthcoming events

(for a full list, please see page 11 of the 2019 Show Schedule and Programme)

13 March - Talk by Peter Lovett on Native Orchids of Sussex - entry £1 for members - £3 for visitors

6 April - Spring Show - see below

10 April - Talk by Steven Moore of Rapkyns Nursery, Broad Oak, East Sussex on Spring Colour at Rapkyns. - entry £1 for members - £3 for visitors

8 May - Gardeners' Forum - see details on next page

11 May - Coffee Morning

1 June - Village Day

Spring Flower and Produce Show

King Edward Hall

Spring is just around the corner and a reminder that our Spring Flower and Produce Show, **on 6 April**, is fast approaching and hopefully, many of you will be (or already are) planning what to exhibit, whether you enter different types of Flowers, Vegetable, Fruit, Cookery and/or Handicraft classes. New for this year's Spring Show is a Photographic Competition. Also, anyone has the opportunity to enter a class with 'home made' compost. You will have seen from Pat Whetstone's comments above and in the 2019 Show Schedule and Programme, that the 'classes' have been updated and there are no longer 'members or open' classes ie each class is now open to anyone to enter although the junior classes do, of course, have an age limit.

The new look Schedule is aimed to encourage more entries and your support as entrants and/or visitors will be much appreciated. The efforts of the exhibitors and volunteers will, I am sure, create the usual colourful and lovely environment in the Newcombe Hall. Refreshments will be available in the Jubilee Room where I am sure the flourishing sociable and friendly atmosphere will, as ever, be in evidence. (Chris Gurr, Newsletter Editor - 01444 482739)

Sponsor a Class

I am appealing to Members to sponsor a Show class in 2019. Putting on a Show is really quite expensive and Members' sponsorship makes so much difference to the economics of our Shows. Just one class in one Show would cost £2.00, the same class in all three Shows £6.00 and a specialist class in one Show £5.00 and in all three Show's £15.00. If anyone could help we would be most grateful. You could, just for a bit of fun, sponsor a class and challenge your friends or relations to win it back or you could give it as a present for one of those people who already have everything. Whilst begging can I also ask for raffle prize donations. (Pat Whetstone)

Upcountry Garden Centre

Up Country Country Centre Lewes Road, Scaynes Hill, RH17 7NJG provided members of the LHS with a 10% reduction from purchases upon production of a current LHS membership card at the till.(conditions apply)

Gardener's Forum

8 May

Questions! Questions! Questions!

The Gardeners' Forum in 2017 was an unqualified success so we are doing it again.

Our Panel of experts are:-

JEAN GRIFFIN: Regular presenter on Radio Sussex & Surrey's Dig It and Judge of Britain in Bloom (many of you will remember that Jean was a member of the panel at the Forum in 2017)

DAVID FITTON: Garden advisor to Tates Garden Centres and plant doctor

VANESSA JONES: National Vegetable Society certified judge (many of you may recall the interesting and entertaining talk she gave us in January 2018)

PAUL SEABORNE: Nurseryman and expert on hardy herbaceous plants

There will also be plants on sale.

Tickets - £5 Members, (£6 visitors) which includes a glass of wine or beverage, can be purchased at the Evening Talk on 13th March, the Spring Flower and Produce Show on 6th April, at the Evening Talk on 10th April or on the door.

In case you are unable to attend these events, orders for tickets can be made by telephoning Pat Whetstone 01444 483236.

Bring a question in writing for the panel.

Doors open 7.30. (David Barrett)

Evening Talks

Wendy Dumbleton has again put together a varied programme of Talks this year. January's Talk was great, but then many of us know the excellent Barry Newman from his long association with the RHS Fruit, Vegetable and Herb committee and the National Vegetable Society and from his previous visits to us. As always, his talk was entertaining, inspirational and educational. Sally Preston's talk in February on 'churchyards as important areas for conservation' was also well received and no doubt inspired many of the audience to visit St John's Church in Burgess Hill to see the wild flowers in the churchyard. Sally has been nurturing the flowers in the churchyard for some years although she appears to put the success of the display down to 'managed mowing' and to the ideal soil of the 'ancient' farm land upon which the church was built. (Chris Gurr)

RHS Entry

LHS is an affiliated member of the Royal Horticultural Society and as such receives a number of benefits. One of these benefits is a reduction in the entrance fee of 30%, for two people at any one time, to any of the four RHS gardens. If you are thinking of going to a RHS garden and would like to borrow the card for a day, to take advantage of the reduction please phone me. We have only one card so it will be on a first come basis. Michael Elliott 01444 483039

A VIEW FROM THE SHED

February 2019

sundries@lindfieldhorts.org.uk

This time last year I was wishing you a Happy New Year, asking you to come and buy some Strulch and advising you to get your sweet peas planted. What I love about gardening is that you always have new things to learn. I always soaked my sweet peas, and got very good germination rates but I grow some Orange varieties (don't ask) and apparently you should NEVER soak them as they rot! They weren't wrong; I got a whole packet to germinate without any fails.

I also bunged in a load of seeds a few Autumns' ago and they thrived (despite the snow) and I concluded that sweet peas were hardy and no problem to overwinter. Is a little knowledge a dangerous thing I now ask myself? For example, I didn't realise that there are some specific Winter Varieties of Sweet peas that (basically) flower early. The clue is in the name of varieties like Winter Sunshine....... and then Spring Sunshine, or is that just a ruse to get us to buy more? You live and learn.

Shed Opening Times

Anyway, it's still a good time to plant these little beauties and we're still selling rootrainers and lots of other goodies. You will no doubt know that the Sundries Centre (aka The Shed) is next open on 10th March which is a Sunday, not a Saturday - see 'Corrections' - below. The great news is that Spring Lane is going to have lots of the pot holes fixed, but the bad news is that earlier this year, there was too much rain to complete the job. Despite this, our first day of opening was successful and it was lovely to see those who came, including a new member.

We'll continue to open as normal but we haven't been able to get any new deliveries, as the pile of 'material' being used to fix the lane would impede a delivery. In the meantime, we'll be operating off last year's price list for now so bear with us and come and bag a bargain before the prices go up. We'll be pleased to see you.

Volunteers

I didn't get any volunteers for my horsetail test (I'm amazed I'm the only one that has this stuff, or are you all shy) but ever the optimist, I'd like to have a look at seed composts. I'm currently sourcing some smaller bales of Peat so people can actually lift them. We have some coir bales which haven't been popular but I'd like to run some trials of various options versus Peat. If you're interested, please contact me to join in.

Organic versus non-organic

GROWING GREEN

Note from the Sundries Centre

With so much in the news about single-use plastics and the merits of repurposing, we at the Sundries Centre thought that together with your help we could try to do our bit towards saving the planet. Rather than us purchasing single-use plastic bags in which to sell our products to you, we are saving our empty household containers to use instead and would ask you to do the same for us. We are looking for the following items:



- Small glass jars (mustard/pesto/other)
- Large size (38 wash) washing pod boxes
- 1 litre plastic bottle
- Large lidded tubs with handles (bird fat balls/other)
- 4-compartment cardboard wine carriers
- Screw top plastic fruit jars
- Cream cheese tubs (and small butter tubs)

We will be pleased to relieve you of your empty, clean containers (complete with caps/lids) at any of the LHS Talks or at 'The Shed' when you visit.

Many thanks (Gill Jones and Heather Hitchcock)

Corrections - The Sundries Centre is open on:-

<u>Sunday</u> 10 March <u>Saturday</u> 25 May Sunday 15 September

Please amend page 56 of the 2019 Show Schedule and your membership card. The other dates for the Sundries Centre to open are correct.

Please also amend your membership card in respect of the Sundries Centre being open on 15 June and not 16 June to avoid the London to Brighton Bike Ride.

Outings 2019

Sadly the coach company we have used for many years has closed down, so this year we are trying out two new coach companies. This has unfortunately resulted in a slight rise in price. I would be grateful to receive your feedback on the comfort and service provided by these two companies before I plan for 2020. I also want to thank Neil McNamara for organising the outing in June - please apply directly to him - details are on the booking form towards the back of this newsletter.

The outings are listed below, followed by the 'application procedures' and then the individual application/booking forms. Details of the outings and booking forms can also be seen separately on the LHS website

Any problems, queries or comments do please contact me on 01444 483229 or rose, mortenson@gmail.com

Wednesday 1st May - Hole Park and Scotney Castle

Hole Park is famous for its bluebells and we are hoping, weather permitting, to be visiting at the height of its glory. This lovely 16 acre garden has wonderful formal areas with immaculate lawns, specimen trees and extensive topiary, a walled garden, pond, meadow as well as the bluebell woodland areas to explore. Disabled access is good and there is a picnic area, gift shop and plant stall. Tea/coffee and cake has been booked on arrival and is included in the fee. Members of the Historic Houses Association (HHA) will have free entry.

In the afternoon we will visit Scotney Castle. This is a National Trust property dating back to 1137. The house itself is fascinating and there are also the ruins or the original castle to explore. The gardens have many azaleas and rhododendrons and more bluebells so I hope there will also be plenty of colour here. We will be there in time for you to join a free, volunteer guided tour of the gardens if desired. NT members will have free entry to both house and garden whilst non-members can choose between house and garden or garden only entry.

Both venues have tea rooms, disabled access and wheelchairs

The fee includes coach travel, driver's tip, morning refreshments and entry fees as appropriate:

Members of both NT and HHA £19.75
NT members £26.75
Non NT members visiting Scotney Castle garden £34.55
Non NT members visiting Scotney Castle house & gardens £38.85

The booking form is towards the end of this newsletter

Thursday 6th June - Hardy's Cottage Plants & Whitchurch Silk Mill OR Laverstoke Mill

We are going to do a double visit with twist of lemon!!!

In the morning we will all visit Hardy's Cottage Plants. On arrival we shall be given tea or coffee prior to being shown around their propagation workshop and other parts of their nursery. There will be plenty of opportunity to buy plants! We will then move on to either:

<u>Laverstoke Mill</u> - now the home of the Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery, was once a paper mill pioneering the watermark process in the 1700s suppling the Bank of England and the British Empire with Bank Note paper until 1963. Our visit will be a self-discovery experience, culminating in The Mill Bar where you will receive a drink, (non alcoholic if preferred) "on the house". The mill is in a great setting and has been converted to its present use sympathetically with a very modern twist. The catering facility is new this year and offers a good range for lunch or afternoon tea.

Please note Laverstoke Mill is a working distillery so they insist that guests wear suitable footwear. Please do not wear open-toed shoes or high heels as you will not be admitted.

OR

Whitchurch Silk Mill, the oldest working silk mill in the UK still in its original building. A gem of industrial heritage in beautiful rural Hampshire by the River Test. The Georgian water mill still weaves silk using 19th century machinery. It was extensively refurbished last year and there is a shop and a café on site which offers light lunches and cakes.

Fees for this outing, to include coach travel, driver's tip, entry to 2 venues and tea/coffee and biscuits on arrival at Hardy's Nursery, are:

Hardy's Nursery + Laverstoke Mill £37.40 Hardy's Nursery + Whitchurch Silk Mill £29.00

This trip is organised by Neal McNamara, so please send applications direct to him and for further information Tel. 01444 451825

The booking form is towards the end of this newsletter

Friday 12th July - Leonardslee Gardens

Leonardslee has been closed to the public for the last 9 years and now, under new ownership, it is re-opening in March this year. For those who knew it in the past this will be a long-awaited opportunity to see how the garden has been restored and developed. For those who have never had the chance to see it, this is a beautiful 200 acre estate. It is a Grade I listed garden with wonderful planting, lakes, a rock garden and plenty of wildlife. There is a new café, a gift and farm shop and a Vineyard. As this is a local garden, people are welcome to drive themselves and, if possible, offer lifts to others. However, I am happy organise a minibus or small coach if there is the demand with the cost being dependent on numbers. The entry fee will be £9.50.

The booking form is towards the end of this newsletter

Thursday 8th August - Colwood House, Cuckfield Road, Warninglid

We are being offered an exclusive visit to this lovely private garden with proceeds going to local charities. This is a 12 acre garden with so much to see: mature and specimen trees, a formal parterre, rose and herb gardens, a huge terrace and herbaceous border. There is a cut turf labyrinth, forsythia tunnel, water features, statues, a lake with a temple on a small island the list goes on! The pathways are gravel and there are some slopes but generally access is good and by the time we have fully explored, we will be ready for our tea and cake.

There is parking for up to 14 cars and roadside parking in the village, but we will try and arrange shared lifts to minimise the number of vehicles.

Fee is £10 to include refreshments with all profits going to charity.

The booking form is towards the end of this newsletter

Thursday 5th September - Wisley Gardens and Flower Show

There has been huge investment in Wisley over the last couple of years. A new Welcome Centre opens this spring to include a shop, plant centre and new restaurant in what is being described as a world class building. A National Centre for Horticultural Science and Learning is being developed which will open up the scientific work that Wisley undertakes, to the general public. So we will be seeing a new face to this great garden. We are visiting when the RHS Flower Show will be running. This gives us the chance to explore all the delights of Wisley and visit the huge number of nursery and garden products stands, the National Dahlia Society Annual Show and exhibitions of Floral Artwork. This is going to be a full day!

As our Society is affiliated to the RHS, we get free entry so the fee for this outing, to include the coach travel and driver's tip, will be £14.75.

The booking form is towards the end of this newsletter

2020 - Kew Orchid Exhibition

I ran two outings to this spectacular event in February this year. These were publicised at the LHS events in November, December and January and to those members who have email addresses but it wasn't possible to contact every member. However, the Orchid Festival is an annual event at Kew Gardens and is always wonderful. It is held in the Princess of Wales Conservatory and provides a warm, vibrant and exotic experience in drab, cold February! If you missed out this year or would like to go again, I am happy to organise a similar trip in 2020 - just fill in the interest slip at the end of this newsletter and return it to me.

Application Procedure

- 1. Application forms can be found at the end of this newsletter. Please complete the specific form and send a separate cheque for each outing
- 2. I will acknowledge receipt of your application if you are able to include an email address. If this is not possible, I will bring a list to each of the evening talks.
- 3. Cheques will not be banked until it is certain that an outing is viable.
- 4. Tickets are initially only open to members of Lindfield Horticultural Society (LHS). If you have friends or family who would like to come on one or more of the outings, you are welcome to enclose a note giving me their names and I will put them on a waiting list for spare tickets.
- 5. This year I will send out 'virtual' tickets by email if you have provided an email address. If not, I will post tickets to you providing you enclose a self-addressed and stamped envelope with your application. If no envelope is provided, you can collect your ticket from me at any of the LHS events or from my house.
- 6. Tickets will show the departure and approximate return times. Coach pick up point is always the bus stop by the Lindfield Greengrocers.
- 7. Ticket price covers the coach travel, the driver's tip and entry to the venues. Unless stated nothing else is included.
- 8. If you have purchased a ticket based on your membership of the National Trust, RHS, HHA, Kew, Wakehurst or any other organisation, you must have your valid membership card with you on the day. If not, you may be liable to pay the full entrance fee.
- 9. Once your application has been received and acknowledged, if you then cancel, your fee is non-refundable unless we are able to resell your ticket.

Any problems, queries or comments do please contact me on 01444 483229 or rose.mortenson@gmail.com

Hole Park & Scotney Castle - Wednesday 1st May 2019

Details of the Outing:

Name(s)

- We will be leaving from the bus stop outside of the Greengrocer in Lindfield High Street at 9.00am
- Your ticket includes coach travel, driver's tip, entry to both venues plus morning refreshments at Hole Park.
- If you have purchased your tickets on the basis of membership of National Trust and/or HHA, you must have your membership cards with you, otherwise you will be required to pay for your entry.
- We will leave for the journey back to Lindfield at 4.30pm and should be back by 6.00pm
- Please note that if you should have to cancel, unless there are exceptional circumstances, we can only refund the ticket price if we are able to re-sell the ticket.
- Where possible, confirmation and a virtual ticket will be sent by email. If you don't use email or would prefer a card ticket, please enclose a stamped and self-addressed envelope with your application.

Please complete, cut and return the application slip below

Application for Hole Park & Scotney Castle - Wednesday 1st May 2019

...... ticket(s) at £19.75 as member of NT and HHA
...... ticket(s) at £26.75 as member of NT
...... ticket(s) at £34.55 for garden entry only at Scotney Castle
...... ticket(s) at £38.85 for house and garden entry at Scotney Castle

Contact details (telephone, email and/or postal address):

Special mobility or dietary needs:

I enclose a cheque for £...... made payable to LHS (separate cheques for each outing please)

Please send this form, your cheque and if necessary, a stamped self-addressed envelope, to Rose Mortenson, Shamrock Cottage, Gravelye Lane, Lindfield, RH16 2RY

01444 483229 / 07931 775675 - rose.mortenson@gmail.com

Thursday 6th June 2019 - Hardy's Cottage Plants & Laverstoke Mill or Whitchurch Silk Mill

Details of the Outing:

- Your ticket includes coach travel, driver's tip, entry to both venues plus tea/coffee and biscuits at Hardy's Nursery.
- We will be leaving from the bus stop outside of the Greengrocer in Lindfield High Street at 9.00am
- We will move on to either Laverstoke Mill or Whitchurch Silk Mill in time for lunch. There are cafes at both venues though you are welcome to bring a packed lunch if you prefer.
- Please note Laverstoke Mill is a working distillery so they insist that guests wear suitable footwear. Please do not wear open-toed shoes or high heels as you will not be admitted.
- We will leave for the journey back to Lindfield at approximately 4.00pm and should be back by 6.00pm
- Please note that if you should have to cancel, unless there are exceptional circumstances, we can only refund the ticket price if we are able to re-sell the ticket.
- Please enclose a **stamped and self-addressed envelope** with your application so that your ticket(s) can be sent to you.

Please complete, cut and return the application slip below

Application for Hardy's Garden Plants & Laverstoke Mill or Whitchurch Silk Mill Name(s)

Leonardslee Gardens - Friday 12th July 2019

Details of the Outing:

- Entry time for the group at Leonardslee will be 11.00 am.
- If enough people are interested, I will book a small coach or a minibus for this outing. Cost would depend on numbers but would not exceed £25 per person. If there not enough people to make this a viable option I will try to arrange lifts for those who need them.
- Please note that if you should have to cancel, unless there are exceptional circumstances, we can only refund the ticket price if we are able to re-sell the ticket.
- Where possible, confirmation and a virtual ticket will be sent by email. If you don't use email or
 would prefer a card ticket, please enclose a stamped and self-addressed envelope with your
 application.

Please complete, cut and return the application slip below							
Application for Leonardslee Gardens							
Name(s)							
ticket(s) at £9.50							
I/we will be travelling by car YES / NO							
I/we would like a seat on a coach/minibus at an additional cost of up to £25.00 (depending on numbers) YES / NO							
Contact details (telephone, email and/or postal address):							
Special mobility or dietary needs:							
I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to LHS (separate cheques for each outing please)							

Please send this form, your cheque and if necessary, a stamped self-addressed envelope, to Rose Mortenson, Shamrock Cottage, Gravelye Lane, Lindfield, RH16 2RY

01444 483229 / 07931 775675 - rose.mortenson@gmail.com

Colwood House - Thursday 8th August 2019

Details of the Outing:

- Entry time for the group at Colwood House will be 2.00 pm.
- The ticket price includes tea (or coffee) and cake and all profits are going to charity
- I will arrange lifts for those who need them as we need to minimise the number of vehicles .
- Please note that if you should have to cancel, unless there are exceptional circumstances, we can only refund the ticket price if we are able to re-sell the ticket.
- Where possible, confirmation and a virtual ticket will be sent by email. If you don't use email or
 would prefer a card ticket, please enclose a stamped and self-addressed envelope with your
 application.

Please complete, cut and return the application slip below

Application for Colwood House

Name(s)	١
---------	---

I / we require ticket(s) at £10.00	
I / we will require a lift to Colwood House	YES / NO
I / we can offer other people a lift to Colwood Ho	ouse
I / we are giving a lift to the following people who have	e applied separately for tickets:
Contact details (telephone, email and/or postal addres	ss):
Special mobility or dietary needs:	
I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to please)	LHS (separate cheques for each outing

01444 483229 / 07931 775675 rose.mortenson@gmail.com

Rose Mortenson, Shamrock Cottage, Gravelye Lane, Lindfield, RH16 2RY

Please send this form, your cheque and if necessary, a stamped self-addressed envelope, to

RHS Wisley - Thursday 5th September 2019

Details of the Outing:

- We will be leaving from the bus stop outside of the Greengrocer in Lindfield High Street at 9.00am
- Your ticket includes coach travel, driver's tip, and entry to Wisley. Refreshments are **not** included
- We will leave for the journey back to Lindfield at 4.30pm and should be back by 6.00pm
- Please note that if you should have to cancel, unless there are exceptional circumstances, we can only refund the ticket price if we are able to re-sell the ticket.
- Where possible, confirmation and a virtual ticket will be sent by email. If you don't use email or
 would prefer a card ticket, please enclose a stamped and self-addressed envelope with your
 application.

Please complete, cut and return the application slip below

Application for RHS Wisley
Name(s)
ticket(s) at £14.75
Contact details (telephone, email and/or postal address):
Special mobility or dietary needs:
I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to LHS (separate cheques fo each outing please)
Please send this form, your cheque and if necessary, a stamped self-addressed envelope, to:

Rose Mortenson, Shamrock Cottage, Gravelye Lane, Lindfield, RH16 2RY 01444 483229 / 07931 775675 - rose.mortenson@gmail.com

Kew	Orch	hi	Fxh	ihiti	on	20	20

The trip in 2019 cost £19 for Friends of Wakehurst and Friends of Kew card holders and £33.50 for non-members so prices next year will be broadly similar.

If you would be interesting in seeing this spectacular event or visiting the other iconic glasshouses at Kew, please give your contact details below and return this slip or email me at rose.mortenson@gmail.com

Rose Mortenson, Shamrock Cottage, Gravelye Lane, Lindfield, RH16 2RY

Tel: 01444 483229 / 07931 775675