

LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

New Year Newsletter 2007

A happy New Year to you all

Annual General Meeting

As usual our AGM was a reasonably modest, quick affair. A large number of people were thanked for their help, the Annual Report and Accounts were presented and accepted, Leon Baker and Tony Lambert left the Committee and thankfully Rita Pickett has joined. In addition Valerie Jackson has agreed to administer the Garden Pride Scheme and Ann Higgins our Outings, although neither has taken up the option to serve on the Committee.

In winding up the meeting our Chairman, Sheila Hobbs, expressed concern that the Committee was somewhat thin and that a number of important posts remained unfilled. Although she was extremely grateful to all those, whether from within the Committee or from outside it, who covered for the vacancies additional help is urgently needed. We are therefore asking whether there are any members who would be able to assist in the following areas:

Evening Talk Organiser – Everyone will know the fantastic work undertaken by Peter Day in organising Speakers for our seven evening meetings each year. Peter gave notice two years ago that he now wished to do less for the Society and would like to give up this post, one of his many jobs. Peter has completed the 2007 programme and would be willing to work closely with anyone taking on the job and preparing the 2008 programme. He feels we need someone younger having a computer. **If no one comes forward we will not be having evening talks in the future.** So please give it some consideration.

Press Officer – The Society would like to establish a post for someone to pull together the advertising of our events. The duties would include: - creating posters (the format for which is already available) and passing them in a timely fashion to the distributor, contacting local radio stations and free newspapers to obtain publicity, advertising the shows and AGM in the Mid Sussex Times and writing articles about our event for the Lindfield Times. These jobs are currently either spread among the Committee as best we can, or not done at all. It would not be a particularly arduous job, but is one of considerable importance to us. Access to a computer would also be needed for this role.

Show Superintendent – This is a specialist job and has not been filled for sometime and has been covered by the Committee or previous Officers. It does require some knowledge of how Shows are organised and how to follow the RHS rulebook. If there is a member out there who has been involved in shows previously we would be most grateful for your help.

Michael Elliott

The Evening Talk on Great Dixter in May 2007

As some of you will know we have a very special talk in May, to be given by Fergus Garrett on the gardens at Great Dixter. This has a Tudor house dating back to the 1450's with a famous twentieth century Arts and Crafts garden. Great Dixter was bought in 1910 by Nathaniel Lloyd, author of books on brickwork and topiary, and was restored by Edwin Lutyens. Nathaniel designed the framework of the garden and his son, Christopher Lloyd; gardener, journalist, author of many good books on plants and planting and a great supporter of the RHS, has planted with great flair.

The garden reflects the interests of its creators taking styles and ideas from many sources to wonderful affect, which are anything but formal. Christopher Lloyd who had lived at Great Dixter from 1921 and had an international reputation, died on January 27th 2006 aged 84. All the team at Dixter, headed up by Fergus Garrett the head gardener and Christopher's closest friend, are greatly saddened by this enormous loss. The team is committed to carrying on Christopher's work and keeping Great Dixter and its garden open for the public to enjoy.

Fergus Garrett has himself been actively involved with the RHS for many years and is held in high regard in horticultural circles both in the UK and overseas. So a talk by him is going to be a special event for the Society and your Committee has therefore decided to have entry by ticket only. The cost will be the same as usual at 50p per member, and tickets will be available to members only at any of our meetings from the beginning of February. If any tickets are left by mid April they will then go on sale to non-members at £1. As this event has all the hallmarks of being a fantastic meeting do not forget to purchase your tickets early.

Michael Elliott

Christmas Social

Alison and I would like to thank all those who attended the Christmas Social on the 1st December for their many words of appreciation and thanks, it was not all down to us as there were many unsung heroes who, laid the tables, cut up the food, made up the plates, made mince pies, served at the bar and waited on tables and it is those people who should have your and our thanks. It is really a team effort.

Apart for the antics of the oven and the disintegration of the corkscrews it all went very smoothly even though we were a little late starting. The break in the singers programme worked well from the organisation point of view as it allowed tables to be cleared and the washing up started earlier. The singers were extremely pleased that with the Society's donation and your generosity as you left, their charity the Triangle Healing Centre benefited by over £200.

The Committee will be considering what arrangements to make for next year, although we may have to limit numbers, as catering for more than a 100 was rather difficult. If anyone has any ideas as to how to improve the evening or knows of some entertainers, or would like ones back that we have had in the past, please let us know. Also if anyone has any idea as to how we can reintroduce home made puddings, similar to the trifles that used to be organised by Christine Giltrow, please come forward.

Michael Elliott