

LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Spring Newsletter 2008

Thoughts from your Chairman

Well here we are in March already! Last month on the 16th February we had a very happy occasion on a beautiful sunny day; Michael and Alison got married. David and I had the privilege to be there and sign the register; it was a lovely experience to see two people so happy. Later we joined their family and friends at the King Edward Hall for a celebration and a good time was had by one and all.

David and I also had another happy event in February as the 28th was our 40th wedding anniversary, and our daughter Alison cooked lunch for us and a few friends – another lovely day. On Christmas Eve Alison got engaged to Max Eggert and will be getting married on August Bank Holiday Saturday, we have never had so many happy happenings in succession, let us hope this continues.

Now back to business. Daffodils are coming out quite early this year and as March has been forecast to be a cool month let us hope we have plenty for the Spring Show. Some Camellias are in full flower, many other spring flowers are popping their heads up and on the allotment the vegetables are looking good. So flower arrangers start thinking about what you are going to do, cooks check out the recipes, children and handicraft experts remind yourselves about the classes and decide what you want to enter. That only leaves the photographers, so whilst the dark evenings are still with us sort out your photographs or take a stroll on a sunny afternoon and see what you can record. Let us make this a great Spring Show. (I nearly forgot the wine and beer section – can someone please give Tom some competition?)

Sheila Hobbs

A warm thank you from Alison and Michael

My Wife has asked me to write this note to express our most heartfelt thanks to the wonderful members of Lindfield Horticultural Society who have been so generous with their good wishes for our future life together. It is nearly ten years since we started stepping out and virtually all that time we have served on your Committee, which has been an absolute pleasure, especially under the leadership of Sheila and David, who were kind enough to be our witnesses at the wedding. We would also thank you for the Garden Vouchers and those individuals who have made donations to Cancer Research.

Mr and Mrs Elliott

Change of Speaker for the May Talk

Unfortunately, our old friend Hilary Newman cannot make our meeting on the 7th May 2008 due to family commitments but we are pleased to say that Ken Turner will be coming in his place to talk on Ponds, planting, maintenance and construction.

Wendy Dumbleton (Talks Organiser)

Garden Visits Programmed for 2008

Set out below are the details for this year's visits as referred to on the back of the Show Schedule. Because of the popularity of these outings only members of the Society may purchase tickets. This means that tickets may not be brought either by members for their guests or by non-members of the Society.

Michelham Priory –Tuesday 10 June

Situated near Hailsham in East Sussex, Michelham Priory offers a range of attractions including:

- The Priory – surrounded by England's longest water-filled medieval moat, the Priory dates back to 1229 and is open to the public
- Walks and Gardens - there are seven acres of relaxing gardens and a Nature Trail
- Watermill – milling can often be seen from 2 pm and Michelham flour is offered for sale
- Iron Age Centre – replica Iron Age roundhouses and buildings used for archaeology courses
- Working Forge
- Rope Museum – reflecting the history of rope making in Hailsham
- Restaurant
- Picnic area

The coach will leave Lindfield at 9.30 am. The cost of a ticket covers coach travel, tips and entrance. Please use the attached application form at the end of this newsletter to order tickets.

Rye and Great Dixter – Wednesday 16 July

This trip will first call at Rye at approximately 10.30 am where after enjoying a morning stroll around this historic town you will be able to take lunch in one of the many eating places. The coach will then depart at 1.45 pm to travel to Great Dixter which is about seven miles away. Those of you fortunate enough to have heard Fergus Garrett's talk last year will know what horticultural delights await you at this internationally famous garden. You will also be able to see part of the House which dates from 1450. There is no restaurant at Great Dixter (although there are toilets) which is why the visit has been linked with Rye.

The coach will leave Lindfield at 8.30 am. The cost of a ticket covers coach travel, tips and entrance. Please use the attached application form at the end of this newsletter to order tickets.

THERE WILL NOT BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CIRCULATE ANOTHER APPLICATION FORM. TICKETS WILL BE ALLOCATED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS.

PLEASE ENCLOSE ONE CHEQUE TO COVER ALL THE OUTINGS YOU WISH TO BOOK TICKETS FOR. PLEASE ALSO ENCLOSE A STAMPED SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR THE RETURN OF YOUR TICKETS.

I hope you find the outings enjoyable.

Ann Higgins

Sundries Centre

Yet another year's reprieve sees your very own Sundries Centre still in its unique cosy slanting home. The centre is very well stocked for the new season and our early ordering means that many prices have not yet increased.

BUY NOW WHILE STOCKS LAST!!

I draw your attention to a new item - Roottrainers. We have managed to buy Ronaash Roottrainer directly from the manufacturers and are offering 32 roottrainers with trays and lids for only £3.40. I feel sure this price cannot be beaten; so give your plants the best start in life by using our roottrainers, composts and fertilisers.

Opening Times for Spring / Early Summer

9.30-11.00

March	Sat. 1 st	Sun. 23 rd	
April	Sat. 5 th	Sun. 20 th	Sat. 26 th
May	Sun. 4 th	Sat. 17 th	
June	Sun. 1 st	Sat. 14 th	

I look forward to seeing you.

Noreen

Spring Show

Once again we are at the start of our horticultural year. Our show diary starts a week later than normal this year. The Spring Show is on Saturday 29th March. I hope we can start the year off with a bumper number of entries, especially from our new members. For those who have not exhibited before please have a go. We are a very friendly society and there is always someone who is willing to give advice if you need it. For members entering the photographic classes can I just remind you that photos must have no writing or headings on their mounts.

I look forward to seeing you all in March.

Pat Whetstone

Christmas Social

I would like to thank everybody for their very kind appreciation of the last Christmas Social. I cannot however accept all the praise for myself as I had so many wonderful helpers who really made light work of it all. The Noel Singers also added to their own touch to the evening.

We have however learnt one thing and that is that numbers will have to be limited to 114 in future to keep the seating comfortable. This year the tickets will go on sale at our October meetings and will be sold strictly on a first come first served basis.

Alison

Plants bred for Supermarkets

We often read about the alleged undue influence that supermarkets have on what we can eat, so it should not have been a surprise to be told that some of them are also trying to decide the height and shape of the plants that we grow in our gardens. At a recent talk to the Sussex Group of the Hardy Plants Society the subject was “Plant Breeders Rights” and what had seemed as if it might be a rather dull topic was full of interest. However I did not enjoy being told about the “encouragement” that plant breeders receive to ensure that the plants which they breed are low and compact. The latter is not because this is what gardeners are asking for, but to enable the maximum number of plants to be fitted onto the giant lorries which bring them over from Holland which is where they are usually grown. B and Q it should be remembered sell more plants than any other retail outlet.

Martin

Appeal to help the KEH

One of the reasons why our Membership subscription is so low is that the King Edward Hall charges us very preferable rates for our meetings and shows. The KEH does not make large profits and relies on the income from Village Day to help maintain the fabric of the building. As usual we will be running a tombola stall on Village Day to help raise funds for the Hall and would ask members whether they could contribute a prize for that stall. Any small unused, unwanted gift would be fantastic, we will even allow you to come and try to win it back!

Many thanks

Alison and Michael