

LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Winter Newsletter 2008

Thoughts from your Chairman

It is the end of another busy year for the Horticultural Society in which all the usual events have gone smoothly and successfully thanks to the hard work of the committee and a good band of very helpful members. I would like to thank them all and hope that like me you have enjoyed all our efforts.

The rain has made growing flowers, fruit and vegetables rather difficult at times, so taking this into consideration the shows have been great. This particularly applied to the September show which had a violent hail storm during the day before which inevitably led to a reduction in the number of flowers on display. It was a good job that vegetables are made of sterner stuff for there were some high quality vegetable entries.

I have had an up and down year with a very painful swollen knee making both life and gardening difficult. However I was very grateful that on August Bank Holiday Saturday, when Alison and Max got married, we had a wonderful summer's day with sunshine and no rain, we were so lucky. The Bride looked beautiful and Groom handsome!

Sheila Hobbs

AGM 19th November 2008 at 7.30pm

The Agenda for the AGM is attached at the end of this newsletter and all members are asked to attend if possible. The meeting starts **30 minutes earlier than normal** and usually only lasts about half an hour. The Society is always keen to receive nominations for officers or committee members, so if you can help please put your name forward. The AGM will followed by a talk entitled "Plant Hunting around the World" which will be given by Harry Townsend.

Michael Elliott

Autumn Show 2008 cups and awards

Our shows seem to get better and better. Despite the terrible weather we have had this summer the entries for the autumn show were up from last year; the display of vegetables being particularly wonderful. I think I must have had an abundance of slugs and snails in my garden as they have eaten more of my vegetables this year than I have!

Thank you all for your continued support. To members with children or grandchildren - please encourage them to enter the junior classes. To new members - please enter some of the classes; there is always support available from Richard Hilson or myself. See you all in the spring.

CUPS AND AWARDS AUTUMN SHOW 2008

THE BOB LACEY SALVER
THE MASSEY-DAWSON CUP
THE HELENA HALL CUP
THE DAHLIA CUP
THE HUDDART CUP
THE NATIONAL CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY'S
CERTIFICATE & BRONZE MEDAL
THE PRESIDENTS SALVER
THE DAHLIA CUP
THE PENNEY CUP
THE HARRY TESTER CUP
FORGET-ME-NOT SHIELD
HEART & SOUL SHIELD

PETER DAY
NOT AWARDED
RICHARD HILSON
RICHARD HILSON
SHEILA HOBBS
NOT AWARDED

NOT AWARDED
MICHAEL FIGG
JANET BUCK
SALLY MCBIRNEY
EMILY SUTLOW
KATHERINE CAMERON

BEST IN SHOW

VEGETABLE
FRUIT
FLOWER
POT PLANT
COOKERY
HANDICRAFT

RICHARD HILSON
MICHAEL ELLIOTT
SHEILA HOBBS
MICHAEL FIGG
MARGARET WELLS
NORA PENFOLD

ANNUAL CUPS AND AWARDS

THE LADY WILKINSON SILVER TRAY
THE DAWSON CUP
THE MORECOMBE WHITE CUP
THE PROCTOR CUP
THE SHEPHERD CUP
THE RON PICKETT TROPHY
THE LHS JUNIOR PERPETUAL SHIELD
THE SHEPHERD PERPETUAL SHIELD

GILL JONES
TOM HUGHES
YVONNE BEE
M MIGHALL
MICHAEL ELLIOTT
MICHAEL ELLIOTT
ALEXANDER CAMERON
KATHERINE CAMERON

Pat Whetstone

Outings 2009

Here is advance provisional notice of the dates of the two main trips for 2009 (full details in the next newsletter):

Wednesday 10th June – Goodnestone Park Gardens, near Canterbury (Jane Austen was a frequent visitor)

Tuesday 14th July - Wisley
Ann Higgins

Seed Orders - Reduce the Costs of your Seeds

The Society will again this autumn be making arrangements with Suttons and Dobies to purchase seeds in bulk. Members will therefore have the opportunity to make savings of up to 20% on seeds and 10% on plants and accessories. This saving is available to everybody, whether you buy one packet of seeds or fifty so do not be frightened to take advantage of this offer, every little helps.

You can pick up a catalogue and information as to how the system works from me at any of our autumn events and you will have until the 6th December 2008 to place your order. The seeds will be delivered to you in early January and your plants at the appropriate time in the season. We must stress that this discount can only be received if we achieve a certain volume of sales. So the message is if you are going to buy seed or plants from Suttons or Dobies please do so through your Society.

Alison Elliott

Show Schedule 2009

In order to review the show schedule and make recommendations to the main committee a sub committee was established comprising of Richard Hilson (chairman), Sheila Hobbs, Pat Whetstone, Michael Elliott and Martin Higgins The sub committee's recommendations have now been accepted. This note sets out the most important changes which are going to be made. The changes set out below apply to the horticultural classes only (changes have not been made to the cookery, junior, flower arranging or handicraft sections).

The committee considered that the show schedule needed to be reviewed in order to:

- Encourage first time entrants
- Ensure that the number of entries is kept as high as possible

First time entrants represent the future life blood of any show and although Lindfield still attracts them from time to time, there are still not enough. Those of us who do enter know that it is a very sociable and friendly experience, with plenty of help, encouragement and guidance available to "first timers". The problem is getting first timers to enter so that they can find this out for themselves.

We are aware of the need to strike a balance between those who are nervous of entering and competing against long established competitors, and those who walk round our shows and remark "I have got a better plant etc than that a home" but somehow always fail to let us see it for ourselves on the show bench. A new class is therefore being introduced for each show for "Novices Only" which will be open to any member of the Society who has not previously won a first prize.

There has been a trend for some years for the number of entries to drop and the LHS has not been alone in experiencing this. In addition some six or so exhibitors provide a high proportion of the entries. If several of them ceased to enter the King Edward Hall would look rather empty on show days. Encouraging more first time entrants is an important part of trying to rectify this, but by itself is unlikely to be sufficient. It was considered to be important therefore to try to remedy this situation whilst Lindfield still puts on a show of which we can rightly be proud. It is particularly important to attract more floral entries as any show's "wow factor" depends on the public walking into the hall and seeing a large array of blooms before them.

In order to try and accomplish this it has been decided to replace the existing "Open" and "Amateur" sections with a single list of "Members' Classes". The previous distinction between "Open" and "Amateur" arose at a time when there were many professional gardeners in the Village who tended residents' gardens, and they were only permitted to enter the "Open" classes.

There will also from next year be "Championship Classes" which will be open to all, members and non members alike (and for which the entry fee will be higher for non members). All the neighbouring societies which we contacted enable non members to exhibit, whilst retaining classes for members only to enter. We do not envisage that our shows will be inundated with non members' entries, but do consider that they will provide the opportunity to arrest the decline in the number of entries, and also enable LHS members to compete against non members should they so wish. We will try to gently persuade any non members entering our shows to join the LHS.

All of the changes which we will be making will be reviewed after one year.

On behalf of the committee I would like to express our appreciation for all the hard work which Richard Hilson undertook whilst carrying out the review. The main burden fell on his most capable shoulders and despite this I am pleased to report that he still seems to be talking to the rest of us! I would also like to thank Lorelei for all the typing which she so expertly undertook for him.

Martin Higgins

The Plant Exchange

The Plant Exchange is a new website (www.theplantexchange.co.uk) that gives their members the opportunity to buy and sell surplus plants and other garden-related items for profit or charity, by listing members by postcode. It also offers Seasonal Tips, an online Plant Encyclopaedia, and a Gardeners Forum etc. It is building a directory of gardening clubs and societies. Membership costs £10 year but LHS members are offered free membership for a year. LHS is registered on its society database but cannot be held responsible for any transactions members may undertake. Ask for a flyer when you renew your LHS membership or log on to www.theplantexchange.co.uk/gardeningclubs_

Rosemary Humphries

Lindfield Horticultural Society
(Affiliated to the R.H.S.)

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Please reply to: -
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October 2008

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting** of the above named Society will be held on Wednesday the 19th November 2008 at 7.30pm in the King Edward Hall, Lindfield.

AGENDA

- 1) Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence
- 2) Minutes of the 2007 AGM.
- 3) Matters arising there from.
- 4) To consider the Chairman's report for the year 2007/2008.
- 5) To adopt the Statement of Accounts for the Year ending the 30th September 2008.
- 6) Election of Chairman.
- 7) Election of Officers: -

Vice-Chairman	Show Secretary
Secretary	Flower Arranging Steward
Treasurer	Catering Supervisor
Show Superintendent	Sundries Centre Supervisor
- 8) Election of a Committee of not more than nine members
- 9) Appointment of an Examiner
- 10) Any Other Business

Alison Elliott (Mrs)

Honorary Secretary

N.B.

Nominations for Chairman, Officers or Membership of the Committee should be made on the form below and must reach the Honorary Secretary by Wednesday 12th November 2008.

NOMINATION FORM

I propose the appointment of

.....

as..... of the Society for the
forthcoming Year.

Signature.....Address.....

.....

I second the proposal

Signature.....Address.....

.....

If appointed I am willing to serve

as.....

Signature.....Address.....

.....

Lindfield Horticultural Society

(Affiliated to the R.H.S.)

Minutes of the AGM of the Society held on the 14th November 2007 in the King Edward Hall.

- 1) The Chairman, Mrs Sheila Hobbs opened the meeting and welcomed the Members attending.
Apologies for Absence were received from Richard and Lorelei Hilson, Anne Peters, Pat Whetstone, Mrs Macklewain, Martin Higgins and Hazel Gubbins.
- 2) Minutes of the meeting of the 2006 AGM were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record
- 3) Matters Arising. There were no specific items not on the agenda.
- 4) The Chairman presented her report and stated that it had been another busy year with a very full programme. The weather had again been the Society's worse enemy but the three Shows had all been successful. She specifically thanked Peter Day who was retiring as Talks Organiser for all his hard work over many years and then welcomed Wendy Dumbleton who was going to take over talks, Rosemary Humphreys who had been co-opted as Publicity Officer and Richard Hilson as Show Superintendent. She also thanked Ann Higgins on completion of her first year as Outings Organiser and David Macmillan for selling the advertising space in the schedule. She apologised to all the other helpers who she had not thanked individually because without them the Society would not function properly. Finally however she felt that she must thank her family and friends for putting up with her.
- 5) The Treasurer gave an overview of the accounts and the position as at the 30th September 2007. The accounts showed a surplus of £149. He explained that the accounts were virtually a mirror image of those of the previous year, with hardly any variances worth noting. In fact the reduction in surplus of £250 was the exact amount that we had donated to the Great Dixter appeal in order to save the gardens. Before asking for the adoption of the Accounts the Treasurer thanked the Examiner Alan Spicer. The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his report and hard work.
- 6) Election of Chairman The President took the Chair. Mrs Sheila Hobbs was elected unanimously.

- 7) **Election of Officers** The following Officers were elected: -
- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Vice Chairman | Vacant | Secretary | Alison Coburn |
| Treasurer | Michael Elliott | Show Secretary | Pat Whetstone |
| Flower Arranging & Cookery Steward | | Gillian Macmillan | |
| Sundries Centre Supervisor | | Noreen Smith | |

The position of Show Superintendent remained vacant but would be filled by Richard Hilson for at least the next year; similarly the meeting was pleased to note that Audrey Kite would continue to act as Catering Supervisor, although neither she nor Richard would not be sitting on the Committee.

- 8) **Election of the Committee** The following existing Committee were elected on block: -
 Anne Marsden, Tom Hughes (Membership), Peter Day (Raffles) Rosemary Humphreys (Publicity) Rita Pickett and Martin Higgins (Newsletter) were proposed, seconded and duly elected. It was also noted that Wendy Dumbleton (Talks) and Ann Higgins (Outings) would assist the Society but would not be on the Committee.
- 9) **Appointment of Examiner** Alan Spicer had offered to stand again and was duly elected.
- 10) **Any Other Business** There was no other business and the meeting closed at 7.45pm