

# LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

## Spring Newsletter 2009

### Thoughts from your Chairman

Welcome to a new horticultural year.

As this is a rather lengthy newsletter I will keep my contribution short. I am really looking forward to the Spring Show; it gives such a boost to the gardening year - so let us have all your entries rolling in! Also this edition has the details about the various outings that Ann has organized for us. Make sure you fill up the application forms quickly if you do not want to be disappointed.

Let us hope that having just had a colder winter than for several years all the “unfriendly” bugs and diseases have taken a battering.

*Sheila Hobbs*

### The Evening Talk 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009 by Fergus Garrett - Continuous Colour in the Herbaceous Border

Fergus is the Head Gardner at Great Dixter, and many of you will remember his previous most successful visit when he talked about the future of the gardens and his commitment to carry on the work and philosophy of the late great Christopher Lloyd. The gardens at Dixter are anything but formal, and reflect the interests of its creators taking styles and ideas from many sources to wonderful affect. Fergus’s talk in May will include examples of amazing mixtures of colour and incredible density of planting.

As this is somewhat of a special event the Committee has decided to limit entry by ticket only. The cost will be £1.00 per member with tickets being available to members only at any of our meetings from the beginning of March. If any tickets remain unsold after the Spring Show they will go on sale to non-members at £2.00. This event has all the hallmarks of being a fantastic meeting, so don’t forget to purchase your tickets early.

*Michael Elliott*

### Spring Show 2009

To be held on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2009 in the King Edward Hall, this is the Society’s first show of the year and will be a magnificent display of locally grown flowers, fruit, vegetables, floral art and children’s exhibits. The show will be open to the public from 2.00pm. Tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes will be available together with a large selection of plants.

The Society prides itself in being a small, friendly, village society and although our shows are staged under RHS rules everyone is encouraged to enter, whether it be a pot plant or a single daffodil, no one will be ridiculed or laughed at, just encouraged, so please have a go, we are always looking for new exhibitors. If you would like to enter for the first time, please speak to our show Secretary Pat Whetstone on 483236. During the closed season the Show Schedule has been completely revamped, thanks to the efforts of

Richard Hilson and his team. The schedule is now more user friendly, contains more novice and amateur classes and more detailed explanations, which should help new entrants. Richard is always willing to help with showing and staging exhibits, you just have to ask.

Exhibitors are reminded that as many entries as possible should be made by 10pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April and should be delivered to 25 Eastern Road, Clough's 27-31 Sunte Avenue or to Abbots Pharmacy (formerly Harmony) in the High Street. However, entries can be made by telephone to 01444 483236 or online to whets25@tinyworld.co.uk by 1pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>. All Exhibits can be staged between 7pm and 9pm on the Friday or between 8am and 10.30am on Saturday.

There are two misprints in the Schedule for which Martin apologises. Firstly in the Flower Arranging classes, arrangements in classes 74 to 76 inclusive which have to be completed in the Hall, can also be staged on the Friday evening as well as the Saturday morning; this will also apply to the Flower Arranging classes for the Summer and Autumn Shows. In addition for those classes the prize money will be 1<sup>st</sup> £2.50, 2<sup>nd</sup> £1.50 and 3<sup>rd</sup> £1.00. Secondly in class 207 in the Summer Show, it should read that it is restricted to Ladies only.

*Michael Elliott*

### **Garden Visits for 2009**

Set out below are the details for this year's garden 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.

#### **Coach Trip - Goodnestone Park – Wednesday 10 June**

Goodnestone Park Gardens are near Wingham, Canterbury, and have been the home of Lord FitzWalter's family since it was built over 250 years ago. Not surprisingly the grounds are very relaxing and reflect the fact that this is a family home which is not managed in accordance with the standard National Trust model. It consists of:

- 14 acres of gardens
- Arboretum
- Parterre
- Three linked walled gardens covering several acres which include shrubs, flowers and vegetables
- House built in 1700 to which Jane Austen was a frequent visitor (her elder brother marrying the daughter of the house) and a tour of which is included in the LHS entry price
- Tearoom offering refreshments and light lunches (picnics are allowed in the gardens)
- Small Nursery

The coach will leave Lindfield at 9am. 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.

*Coach Trip - RHS Wisley – Tuesday 14 July*

These gardens are so well known as not to need any description, but for the benefit of anyone who has not been there before there are several eating places within the main site and there is also a picnic area outside the gardens.

The coach will leave Lindfield at 9am. 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.

*Self Drive / Seek-a-Lift – Titsey Place – Wednesday 5 August*

This is an opportunity to visit to Titsey Place and Gardens, near Oxted, Surrey on a “self drive / having a lift” basis. It is an easy journey from Lindfield which takes no more than 50 minutes. The Titsey Estate is one of the largest surviving historic estates in Surrey dating back to the mid sixteenth century. Nestling under the North Downs the mansion house, Titsey Place, with its stunning garden, lakes, walled kitchen garden and park offers panoramic views, making an idyllic setting. Part of the house is open to the public and in addition to fine furniture and china includes paintings by Canaletto and Reynolds amongst others. There is a very nice new tea room serving mainly tea and cakes which opens at 1pm and a picnic area which can be used from 12 noon.

The garden is open from 1pm to 5pm and there are guided tours of the house at 1.30, 2.30 and 3.30pm, the latter last about 45 minutes (unaccompanied tours are not permitted). The cost of entering the garden only is £4 and for the house and garden is £7.50.

If you wish to come on this visit please complete the appropriate form at the end on the newsletter. Members having a car are asked to indicate whether they are prepared to offer a lift to those who do not and if so how many. Members not having transport should indicate accordingly on the form and I will attempt to link you up with someone, although obviously I cannot promise that there will be enough lifts available.

I will be there by 12.45pm there but will be no specific meeting time as members will pay individually when they are ready to go in. However if you wish to have a tour of the house the number of these tickets is limited and they are sold on a first come first served basis. Directions to the gardens will be sent out to those drivers who submit a form which will include the caveat: “Do not use a satellite navigation system after turning off the A25 as this will take you to the WRONG entrance to Titsey Place”.

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

**PLEASE ENCLOSE A SEPARATE CHEQUE TO COVER EACH COACH OUTING YOU WISH TO BOOK TICKETS FOR. PLEASE ALSO ENCLOSE A STAMPED SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR THE RETURN OF YOUR TICKETS AND/OR DIRECTIONS ETC TO TITSEY PLACE.**

I hope you find the outings enjoyable.

*Ann Higgins*

**Society's Website**

We are pleased to announce that due to some brilliant work by one of our members, Tim Richardson, the Society's Website has been updated and can be viewed at [www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk](http://www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk) Please let us know what you think about it.

*Committee*

**Sponsor a Class**

In 2009 for the first time in many years we have increased prize money, not by very much but mainly to improve the ratio between first, second and third and to encourage more entrants in the specialist classes. Putting on a show is really quite expensive and we are therefore appealing to those members who can afford to do so, to sponsor a class in 2009. Just one class in one show would cost £2.00, the same class in all three shows £6.00; or a specialist class in one shows £5.00 and in all three shows £15.00. If any one is prepared to help we would be most grateful.

*Michael Elliott*

**It's a Disaster**

At February's Committee Meeting our Membership Secretary for the last 18 years, Tom Hughes announced that he would be standing down from the post at the next AGM. Tom was adamant and could not be persuaded to reconsider.

We have therefore only a few months to find a successor and for Tom to teach them the ropes. If need be we feel that the job can be split into two with the collection of subscriptions and the keeping of records separated from the distribution of Schedules and Newsletters. Over the last few years the Committee has become smaller and smaller and ever more dependant on non-committee helpers. It is now impossible for those currently on the Committee to absorb any more work and consequently we are appealing for someone from our 450 member Society to come forward to take on this post in whole or in part. Please seriously consider if you can help. If you would like to discuss the post with any of the Officers please do so: Sheila, Martin, Michael or Alison would be only too pleased to hear from you.

*Committee*

**Sundries Centre**

Spring is in the air, the birds are singing, buds are forming and your Sundries Centre has a nice new shiny shed full of nice new shiny stock – same old site, but new shed. The latest price list can be found at the end of the newsletter. I am sorry about the price

increases but it is of course outside our control; we buy directly from the wholesaler and remain a lot cheaper than the Garden Centres.

You will find many new items on the price list since now that we have a new home we can stock those additional items you have been asking for over the last 12 months or so. I draw your attention to: Peat-free compost – Cocofibre, Groworganic Manure (Growmore without the chemicals), Vermiculite and Maxicrop by the litre (bring your own bottle for Maxicrop – it's half the price). Many other items can be obtained from the wholesaler to order: trowels, forks, rakes etc. If you have any particular needs call in at the shed or give me a ring (482097) and I will give you a price.

As many of you will have noticed the Sundries Centre opening dates on the membership card do not line up with the dates in the Schedule. The ones in the Schedule are the correct ones.

*Opening Dates for Spring (9.30 to 11am)*

<b>March</b>	Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>April</b>	Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>
<b>May</b>	Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>

*Noreen Smith*

**Christmas Social**

We would like to thank all those who attended the Christmas Social on the 5<sup>th</sup> December for their many words of appreciation and thanks. It was not all down to us; 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 these are the people who should have your and our thanks. It is really a team effort, although this year it was the Sussex Harmonisers that made it extra special. They provided wonderful entertainment and the ovation and cheering at the end of their performance showed just how much it was enjoyed. You will all be pleased to know that they will be performing again this year, so book the date - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009. The numbers were better than last year although it was unfortunate that nine members had to drop out at the last minute (there were some nasty bugs doing the rounds.) The only downside of the event was the cost, especially that of the food. The price of the Social has been £7.50 for the last five years and unfortunately it will have to go up this year. Finally can we thank all the people that made a donation to the exit collection, as we were able to make a £100 donation to the Sussex Air Ambulance.

*Alison & Michael Elliott*

**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 favourable 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*

### **Village Day**

We are having an extra stall next to the plant stall this year. There will be a display of pictures and general information showing what goes on in the Society in the hope that we can encourage more members. To attract people to the stall we are raffling a hamper kindly donated by Mrs Sheila McIlwain, one of our show sponsors. The hamper will be filled with gardening goodies and the proceeds will be donated to a local charity.

*Pat Whetstone*

### **Burgess Hill Gardens and Allotments Association**

The above have asked the Society to publicize some of their events and they will be reciprocating in their own newsletter.

Wed. 1st April: Illustrated talk by Paul Templeton - "Wildlife and Environmentally Friendly Gardening". Cyprus Hall, Cyprus Road, Burgess Hill, 7:45pm - Admission: members free, visitors £1.

Sat. 18th April: Coffee Morning and Plant Stall, Martlets Hall Foyer, Burgess Hill. 9:30am - 1pm.

Wed. 6th May: Illustrated talk by Neil Robertson - "Container Planting for the 21st Century" & sale of plants. Cyprus Hall, Cyprus Road, Burgess Hill, 7:45pm. Admission: members free, visitors £1

Sat. 27th June: Summer Flower and Vegetable Show, Cyprus Hall, Cyprus Road, Burgess Hill. 2pm - 4:30pm.

### **Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society**

It is always interesting to visit other local horticultural shows so below are the details of Hurstpierpoint's, the staging times are included in case anyone is interested in entering. The shows are held in the Village Centre in Trinity Road and open to the public from 2.15pm apart from the Autumn Show which opens at 1.00pm.

Sat. 14<sup>th</sup> March - Spring Show [Staging 9.30am-10.45am]

Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> June - Summer Show [Staging 8.30-10.45am]

Sat. 26th September - Autumn Show [Staging: Fri 25<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm-9.30pm  
Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> 8.30am -10.45am]