

LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk

Spring Newsletter 2010

Thoughts from your Chairman

Twelve months ago when welcoming you to the first newsletter of a new year I remarked that “we had just had a colder winter than for several years”. Well we now know that it was just preparing us for all that snow we have just had. On many days skates seemed more appropriate footwear than shoes.

Never mind spring is now with us and we have lots to look forward to which is why this is a bumper newsletter. So get your applications in quickly for the outings if you want to avoid being disappointed and I look forward to seeing you and your entries at the Spring Show.

Have a good horticultural year

Sheila Hobbs

Newsletter by Email

Many members have now opted to receive their newsletter by email which means they get it the day on which it is published. If you would like to join them just go to our website: www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk and on the shed door click on ‘email us’ and then ask for your newsletter by email. You can also make any other suggestions that you want to about the Society using the same email link. Why not at the same time view our website, which is really great thanks to the efforts of our Webmaster Tim Richardson. Amongst the things which you will find there are photographs of last year’s shows and outings. Let us know if there is anything else which you would like to see added and we will see what we can do.

Committee

Spring Show 2010

This will be held on Saturday 3rd April. It is the Society’s first show of the year and if previous experience is anything to go by it is sure to be a magnificent display of locally grown flowers, fruit and vegetables, floral art, photographs and children’s exhibits.

We pride ourselves on being a small, friendly village society and although our shows are staged under RHS rules everyone is encouraged to enter, whether it is a pot plant or a single daffodil. We are always looking for new exhibitors so please have a go. If you would like to enter and have not done so before please feel free to speak to our show secretary Pat Whetstone on 483236 who will be delighted to give you advice. Throughout the period of setting up the show our Show Superintendent Richard Hilson will be present and he is always only too pleased to help you with your exhibit(s), you just have to ask.

There is a new class in the members section this year - Class number 10: One bloom of "Pink Silk" from a bulb purchased from Lindfield Horticultural Society. This is an idea suggested by Richard and we are hoping to have a beautiful display of "Pink Silk" daffodils. So if you bought some of these bulbs read the next item and do not forget to send in your entry!

All exhibitors are reminded that as many entries as possible should be made by 10pm on Wednesday 31st March and may be delivered to 25 Eastern Road, Clough's 27-31 Sunte Avenue or to Abbots Pharmacy in the High Street. However, entries can be made by telephoning 483236 or by email to: whets25@tinyworld.co.uk up to 1pm on Thursday 1st April. Exhibits can be staged between 7pm and 9pm on the Friday or between 8am and 10.30am on the Saturday of the show.

For this year as an experiment in order to encourage more entrants in the Floral Art section, it has been decided to make a contribution of £2 for each exhibit towards the cost of the flowers (with the sole exception for obvious reasons of the petite classes). So please have a go.

The show will be open to the public between 2.00 and 4.45pm on the Saturday. Tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes will be available together with a large selection of plants.

Pat Whetstone

Pink Silk Update

So how are your Pink Silk bulbs? Mine are about two weeks behind this season but I am hoping that members will be able to stage a good number of blooms at our Spring Show. Pink Silk is a mid-season variety, has bloomed in time to make an appearance on the show bench at Lindfield for the past three years – so it is fingers crossed for this year.

Here are a few tips for caring for your bulbs and also to help you make the most of your bulbs on the day:

- Keep your pots well-watered, especially when the bulbs are in flower.
- Don't expose the pots to too much warmth as this is likely to result in poorer quality and smaller blooms.
- Cut the flowers the day before the show with a good length of stem. Place in water in a cool place out of direct sunlight.
- A couple of daffodil leaves (not necessarily from your Pink Silk bulbs) will enhance your exhibit. Vases are provided by the Society to stage your entry. A little paper or moss used as packing in the vase will aid its presentation.

The special members' class for one Pink Silk bloom is Class 10 in the schedule. There is no entry fee for this class. With a bit of luck, you will have more than one bloom of Pink Silk to show. It is classified as a Division 1 daffodil so why not consider also entering one or more of the following classes:

Championship Class 5

Three blooms

Members' Class 11	Five blooms (can be mixed with other daffodil cultivars)
Members' Class 12	Three blooms (can be mixed with other Division 1 cultivars)
Members' Class 18	One bloom

If you are a 'Novice' (that is a member who has not previously won a first prize in any daffodil class), you could also enter Pink Silk blooms in Classes 61, 62 and 63.

Normal entry fees apply to all classes other than 10.

I am looking forward to seeing your blooms at the Show. If you need any advice beforehand, please contact me on: 440148.

Richard Hilson

STOP PRESS – Spring Show Additional Photographic Class

Following the exceptional weather we have had recently, our Chairman Sheila Hobbs has offered to sponsor a special photographic class at the Spring Show entitled "Sussex Snow Scenes of 2009/10". The class which will be open to all will not count towards the Photographic Cup. It will be judged by Sheila and will attract prize money of £5, £3 and £2 for first, second and third place respectively. The same conditions will apply re sizes etc as are set out at the top of page 35 of the Show Schedule. To enter this particular class just note on the entry form "special class". So please start downloading those snaps and printing them off.

Committee

Garden Visits for 2010

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 the 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. Last year there were plenty of unallocated lifts available on the self drive / seek a lift trip, so please do not be put off from applying just because you do not have transport.

Coach Trip - Waterperry Gardens – Wednesday 23 June

Waterperry Gardens are at Wheatley in Oxfordshire and were originally the site of the famous Waterperry Horticultural School which was opened in 1932 by Beatrix Havergal as a residential horticultural college for women. It still provides a range of horticultural and craft based courses and offers:

- 8 acres of gardens - including herbaceous borders, water lily canal, rose gardens, alpine garden and knot garden
- Tea Shop serving excellent lunches
- Picnic area
- Nursery
- Garden Shop

- Country Life Museum
- Art Gallery
- Gift Shop
- Saxon Church

The coach will leave Lindfield at 8.30am and it is anticipated that it will return by 6.30pm. The cost of a ticket will be £18.00 which covers coach travel, tips and entrance. Please use the attached application form at the end of this newsletter to order tickets.

Coach Trip - RHS Hyde Hall – Wednesday 14 July

RHS Hyde Hall is near Chelmsford, Essex and was previously visited by the Society in 2006 but since then new facilities have been added. Last year the gardens looked magnificent and in the summer made Wisley look like a poor relation! Although I am not over fond of dry gardens, the one at Hyde Hall was stunning, it made its more famous cousin in nearby Beth Chatto's garden look second rate, which is a compliment to the former rather than a criticism of the latter. The garden offers:

- A 360 acre estate
- Individual gardens
- Water garden
- New Robinson garden
- New café
- Picnic area
- Garden library
- New plant centre and gift shop

The coach will leave Lindfield at 8.30am and it is anticipated that it will return by 6.30pm. The cost of a ticket will be £12.50 which covers coach travel and tips (no entry fee is payable as the LHS is a member of the RHS). Please use the attached application form at the end of this newsletter to order tickets.

Self Drive / Seek-a-Lift – Great Comp Gardens – Tuesday 3 August

Great Comp Gardens are at Platt, Borough Green near Sevenoaks in Kent. Surrounding an early 17th Century Manor (which is not open to the public) the garden extends to 7 acres. The curator William Dyson with his wife Karen also runs Dyson's Nursery which is based here and specialises in salvias. In view of the latter, it is not surprising that in the summer the gardens have not only a fine display of colourful rare and exotic shrubs and perennials, but an excellent show of salvias. These include many unusual and long flowering varieties whose display extends from May to October. It is a very relaxing garden with a non institutional feel about it which offers:

- Herbaceous borders
- Woodland walks
- Nursery

- Tea room (which serves light lunches)

The garden is open from 11am to 5pm and the tearoom from 11.30am to 4.30pm. Although there is a very nice tearoom which serves light lunches as well as teas etc, picnics are not permitted in the gardens. The cost of entering the garden is £5.50 for adults and £5.00 for OAPs or the disabled.

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, based on last year's experience there should be more than enough.

I will be there by 11.00am and staying until mid afternoon, but there will be no specific meeting time as members will pay individually when they are ready to go in. Directions to the gardens will be sent out to those drivers who submit a form. Time wise if travelling on the M25/26 the journey takes about one hour or alternatively about an hour and twenty minutes if you go via the A25. Please use the attached application form at the end of this newsletter if you wish to go on this trip.

You may also be interested to know that since 1973 a festival of chamber music concerts has been held here during the summer months on a non-profit making basis. These take place in a converted stable which has 80 seats. Drinks and ice cream are available during the interval; you may wander around the gardens before the concerts begin and usually have an opportunity to meet the artists over coffee after the performance.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CIRCULATE ANOTHER APPLICATION FORM FOR ANY OF THESE TRIPS. 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 GREAT COMP.

I hope you find the outings enjoyable.

Ann Higgins

Recommending Speakers

Wendy Dumbleton works very hard to provide us with our interesting programme of speakers; she would like to hear from anyone who has recently heard a speaker on a horticultural or horticultural related topic, who they consider would be suitable to give a talk to the LHS. If you know of anyone please contact Wendy (tel 482633 or email: wendy162@uwclub.net).

Back copies of the Garden

Graham Buck has copies going back to 2008 of the RHS monthly “Garden” magazine which he is offering to anyone who would like to collect them from him. Graham’s telephone number is 454277.

Sundries Centre

Spring is here and the Sundries Centre is once again well stocked and ready to go. Early ordering has allowed us to buy the new stock at the old VAT prices so you will find many prices either unchanged or very little different to last year. The new price list can be found towards the end of this Newsletter. So the message is:

BUY NOW WHILST STOCKS LAST

By popular request more new products are being stocked, for example:

- *SB Plant Invigorator* – this is an environmentally friendly pesticide, mildewcide and foliar feed for use on all edible and ornamental crops. It controls many pests including Whitefly, Aphids, Spider Mite, Mealy Bugs etc, as well as mildew and is available as a ready to use product for only £2.20.
- *Maxicrop Mosskiller and Lawn Tonic* – this provides Maxicrop weed and mosskiller all in one and is offered at the bargain price of £4.10 for 1 litre. As with all Maxicrop products please remember to BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLE.

The opening dates and times are shown on both your membership card and in the show schedule but are repeated below for spring and the early summer for your convenience:

Sunday	7 February	Saturday	1 May
Saturday	20 February	Saturday	15 May
Sunday	7 March	Sunday	30 May
Saturday	20 March	Sunday	6 June
Sunday	28 March	Saturday	19 June
Saturday	10 April	Sunday	4 July
Sunday	25 April	[All open 9.30 to 11.00am]	

If you have any particular requirements for growing, or products you would like us to stock, give me a ring or email me, and I will see what we can do (tel 482097 or noreen@nhsmith1.fsnet.co.uk). Together we can grow better and stronger! - so here is to a successful 2010.

Noreen Smith

AGM Report

The AGM was again a very long-winded affair lasting a little short of 25 minutes! The Chairman gave her annual report, saying what a good year it had been especially the Autumn Show and thanked all the many helpers who make the Society so special.

Michael Elliott gave his financial report on the accounts, which showed a small surplus in the year. He specifically thanked Noreen and Alan Smith for all their hard work in renovating, running and turning round the Sundry's Centre and David Macmillan for selling the advertising space in the Show Schedule.

The majority of the Committee were re-elected with Sally McBirney joining them as a very welcome addition. Martin Higgins was appointed Vice Chairman and following Tom Hughes standing down as Membership Secretary he was replaced by Joyce Gladwell. In appreciation of his 18 years service in the post, Tom was presented with a garden bench on which to take his leisure now that he has the time, and his wife Jose was given a beautiful bunch of flowers and thanked for her support.

It was agreed that the subscriptions should increase from the 1st October 2010 to £5 for an individual and £8 for a couple living at the same address. Two members felt that in addition to the subscription increase a major recruitment drive should be undertaken. Most members felt that this was a good idea but appreciated that it would be difficult to organize within the resources available to the Committee bearing in mind the present workload.

Finally, Alan Spicer our Honorary Examiner had indicated that he wished to retire after having held the position for more than 20 years. Alan was thanked and made an Honorary Life Member of the Society. We are extremely pleased to announce that Malcolm Springall has agreed to take over the position.

Committee

Recruitment

Following on from the suggestion at the AGM that a recruitment drive be undertaken, the Committee has given the matter some thought. We felt that as the Committee is still currently under strength that it would be difficult to give one of us the specific task of Recruitment Officer. However, it was agreed that we should ask all members to talk to their neighbours and tell them of the benefits of joining the Society. There is therefore an application form for membership attached to the newsletter which we hope you will pass on. We would also welcome hearing from any volunteer who would be prepared to undertake the role of Recruitment Officer. If you are interested please contact one of the Committee.

Committee

New Membership Secretary

As mentioned in the item about the AGM Joyce Gladwell has now taken on this role. She is being assisted by Anne Peters who will be available to collect your subscriptions at our talks. We welcome them both.

Committee

Christmas Social

Many members have told us how much they enjoyed the Christmas Social, some even saying that it was the best ever, but to our mind the evening was made by the

entertainment provided by the Sussex Harmonisers. However a tremendous thank you must go to all those that 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. We are concerned that at present we have no entertainers booked for next year, so if anyone has any suggestions please let us know quickly.

Alison & Michael Elliott

Garden Pride Discount Scheme

As members will be aware, they receive a 10% discount at Garden Pride, Ditchling whereas members of the general public only get 5% when using the Garden Pride loyalty card. If members do not use this facility at least once in every nine months the discount will drop to 5%. So if you have not used your card for sometime, it is suggested that next time you visit Garden Pride that you go to the Customer Services Desk and have your card checked and if necessary altered. Just to be on the safe side please take your LHS Membership Card with you. Members who have not already got this facility should join the scheme as an ordinary member of the public and then when they receive their loyalty card they should have it updated.

Committee

Life Members Membership Cards

Some Life Members Membership Cards may now be getting a little worn so if you would like a new one please contact Alison (tel 483039). Life Members will also be pleased to note that from next year we will be sending them an annual membership card with the AGM newsletter, so that they have the programme for the New Year before it starts.

Committee

Out and about

Saturday 27 March 2.00pm to 4.15pm – *Spring Show* Burgess Hill Gardens and Allotments Association – Cyprus Hall

Do try to visit what will be the first ever Spring Show to be held by our near neighbours. Admire the flowers, floral art, vegetables, cookery and photography. Sample the afternoon teas and buy from the produce stall. Entry is only 50p for adults, children are free. The dates of their longer standing Summer and Autumn Shows are Saturday 26 June and Saturday 4 September respectively.

Our Sister organisation Haywards Heath Horticultural Society has asked us to inform you of the dates of their Shows in 2010 these are: Spring 10th April, Summer 26th June and Autumn 28th August. They will be open to the public between 2.00 and 4.30pm at St Wilfrid's Centenary Hall, please give them your support if you can.

The dates of two other local Spring Shows are:

Hurstpierpoint and District Horticultural Society - Saturday 20th March in the Village Centre in Trinity Road from 2.15pm.

Ardingly Horticultural Society - Saturday 27th March from 2pm

The latter unfortunately clashes with the date of the new show at Burgess Hill.

Sponsor a Class

As usual I am appealing to members to sponsor a class at one of our shows in 2010. Putting on a show is really quite expensive and members' sponsorship makes so much difference to the economics of running them. As examples of what the potential cost would be:

- just one class in one show would cost £2.00
- the same class in all three shows £6.00
- a specialist class in one show £5.00
- a specialist class in all three shows £15.00

If anyone could help we would be most grateful. You could, just for a bit of fun, sponsor a class and challenge one of 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.

Michael Elliott

Appeal to help the KEH

The King Edward Hall 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 the 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 Elliott