

LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk

Summer Newsletter 2010

Thoughts from your Chairman

Well this has been a difficult spring for us growers, cold and wet to start with, followed by long dry periods and finishing off with late frosts. The recent rain has been most welcome, who would have thought that we would be pleased to have some wet weather.

Following on from the superb Spring Show, Village Day has now been and gone – but what lovely day it turned out to be. All the helpers on the stand were very grateful to be able to have some shade from time to time under the gazebo. A big thank you to them all including those who supplied plants.

It will soon be the Summer Show and I hope to see you all then, meantime enjoy your gardens.

Sheila Hobbs

Your Garden or Allotment or Kitchen Garden

On the LHS website if you click “gardens” on the “shed door” you will find some pictures and brief text about three members’ gardens. Two of them have been there for a little while now so it seemed like a good idea to try and get them some company. They have now been joined by a third and an invitation is being extended to any member who would like to send in a few pictures of their garden, allotment or kitchen garden.

We would like to have a few lines of text going with them telling our website viewers something about your garden etc, such as: what you like about gardening or your specific garden/allotment or kitchen garden, any techniques you use, favourite plants or varieties of vegetable etc. So do not be shy, email your contributions to us using the “email us” on the LHS website “shed door”.

Spring Show 2010 Results and Report

The 2010 Spring Show was judged to be a resounding success by both competitors and visitors. It was a record year, with 412 entries and probably a record number of visitors too, to judge by the number of teas consumed right up to the end of the show.

Last autumn the Society invited members to purchase Pink Silk daffodil bulbs from a bulk order, with the aim of growing them over the winter and showing the results in a special class at this year’s Spring Show. For those of you who did not grow a bulb, the unusual Pink Silk has a trumpet in a subtle shade of pink and white petals – so not the traditional daffodil! Given the weather conditions the number of perfect flowers presented for this class – which was won by Tim Richardson – was impressive. Pink Silk was also shown in a number of other classes.

An enormous number and range of other perfect daffodils filled the hall with colour and scent. Did the poor winter mean that in fact there were more blooms to show this year? How on earth does the judge choose between them? Local daffodil specialist Dave Vivash won a number of awards including the Daffodil Society Bronze Medal for his 'Terminator' bloom. Margaret Carter won the Daffodil Cup, having gained most points in the classes for members who had not previously won a first prize for daffodils.

Predictably, there were fewer vegetables than usual after the appalling winter but Brian Fitzgerald produced two very healthy leeks to win best exhibit in the vegetable classes, while Tim Richardson even managed to find enough to fill a trug. Gill Jones won the Floral Art Cup with several firsts for her flower arrangements. There were some outstanding entries in the annual photographic section and the special 'Sussex Snow Scenes' category attracted a variety of entries, with Margaret Nicolle's chilly country scene taken on the outskirts of the village winning first prize. The cookery classes seem to be attracting more delicious-looking entries but there are still very few for the handicrafts and children's classes – although what there is entered is of a high standard.

Awards

Daffodil Society Bronze Medal & Certificate - Dave Vivash
The Fisk Cup - Dave Vivash
The Jeeves Cup - Tim Richardson
The Evelyn Drew Floral Art Cup - Gill Jones
The George Murrell Photographic Cup - Tim Richardson
The Lea Cup - Dave Vivash
The Kieron James Toys Shield (Junior 10 and Under) - Emily Sutlow
The Heart And Soul Shield (Junior 11 –15) - Katherine Cameron
The Daffodil Cup - Margaret Carter
The Dawson Cup - Tom Hughes

Best in Show:

Vegetable - Brian Fitzgerald
Pot Plant - Wendy Dumbleton
Flower - Rolf Lloyd-Williams
Cookery - Flo Whitaker
Handicraft - Clare Imms
Trug - Tim Richardson

Rosemary Humphreys

Richard Triumphs –read all about it

Our intrepid investigator has reported to us on the latest successes of our own Richard Hilson. He recently entered both Daffodil Society shows (the first held in Warwick and the second in Harrogate) and not surprising was delighted to have gained "Best Bloom" rosettes for division 8 and division 12 daffodils at both shows; in addition to winning sundry other prize cards - some of them red. The daffodil called 'Avalanche' was his entry in division 8 and from one of the items below you will see that this is the bulb that is going to feature in the Special Class at our Spring Show in 2011.

Richard also entered all three RHS Daffodil Shows, the first in Westminster and the other two at Wisley. They have a class for seven blooms in a vase which as you can imagine is very hard to stage. He had further triumphs, gaining first prize for a vase of seven Pink Silk at the first show and for seven Maya Dynasty in the third show. I am reliably informed that they looked stunning.

In all of these events he was in competition with the top growers and exhibitors in the country. Well done Richard.

Summer Show – Saturday 11th July 2010

Are you thinking about entering some produce from your garden or allotment at the show? If so here are a few hints and tips for showing three popular vegetables.

Broad Beans (Classes 155 and 225)

Choose long, straight and fresh pods of uniform size, shape and colour with unblemished skins. The seeds should be of good size with no black eyes. The judge will open one pod of every exhibit to check the condition of the seeds. Place your entry straight onto the show bench (no plate is required).

Potatoes (Classes 165, 166, 167, 238 and 239)

Cut the foliage off one week before lifting so that the skins of the tubers can set. When lifting, take care to avoid damaging the skins and store the potatoes in peat or compost until the day before the show. Select uniform sized tubers (ideally weighing approximately 200 grams each) of good shape with shallow eyes and showing no greening, pest or disease damage. Gently wash the tubers in water using a soft sponge and dry them. Use a plate provided by the Society to put your potatoes on and place it on the show bench.

Peas (Classes 164 and 245)

Harvest your pods with approximately 25mm of stalk and only handle the pods by the stalks to avoid damaging the natural bloom. The judge will be looking for long, fresh, well-filled pods of uniform size, shape and colour. Place your pods directly onto the show bench.

General

Don't forget to name the cultivar exhibited using a small card. Doing so makes the show of more interest to both visitors and other exhibitors. Naming your exhibit correctly could favour your exhibit in a close competition. Finally, make sure your exhibitor's card is placed face downwards on the show bench next to your entry and check in the schedule that you have entered the correct number of specimens in each exhibit.

Good luck!

Richard Hilson

Landshare

Clare Wilson has drawn my attention to the Landshare website at: www.landshare.channel4.com . Landshare brings people together who have a passion for home-grown food and who want to:

- Grow vegetables but do not have anywhere to do it
- Have a spare bit of land they are prepared to share
- Can help in some way – from sharing knowledge and lending tools to helping out on the plot itself
- Support the idea of freeing up more land for growing
- Are already growing and want to join in the community

Landshare came out of TV's River Cottage. It began when Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall helped some Bristol families grow vegetables on derelict council land. The experience was so inspiring, that River Cottage decided to see if it would work nationwide. So now Landshare is a national movement of more than 45,000 people.

Some members may find the website of general interest but it particularly might be useful if you or someone you know has a garden, or part of a garden they cannot manage or do not want to use.

Lindfield Life

We are seeking contributions to the LHS column in Lindfield Life, and it does not even need to be a whole article. Do you have special knowledge/expertise about an aspect of gardening or growing vegetables? Or maybe there is a plant you really hate? Perhaps you don't like gardening at all – so how about some anti-gardening comments? Tell us about it. If you don't feel confident about writing Auntie Rosemary, our publicity guru will do it for you all you have to do is to ring her up and talk to her! So let us have your contributions, whether orally or in writing by contacting Rosemary Humphreys (telephone 451363 or email RNHumphreys@aol.com).

2010 AGM and November Talk

Members are asked to note that the arrangements for this years AGM on the 10th November will be slightly different from normal. The AGM at 7.30pm will be followed by a talk by Graham Gough, a Sussex Nurseryman with a national reputation, and will be by ticket only at a charge of £1 for members and £2 for a guest. All members will be welcome to the AGM but if they have not purchased a ticket for the talk they will be expected to leave after the AGM has concluded.

Graham Gough was introduced to gardening at a very early age, confronted by Fuchsias and 'Superstar' roses in his Mum's flower borders and being weaned on huge 'Webbs Wonderful' lettuce from his Dad's vegetable plot. Following a short career in classical music, his eyes were opened to the artistic and creative processes of gardening at its highest level and was both inspired and pointed in the right direction by his visits to Sissinghurst. He changed profession and by a stroke of luck gained a job working at the

renowned Washfield Nursery in Kent. Here over a period of 16 years he learnt his nurseryman's skills and in doing so gained a formidable knowledge of plants.

In addition to his working life Graham has gained a reputation as one of the country's finest and most entertaining talkers on gardening, plants and plant travels. In 1998 he established his own nursery, Marchants Hardy Plants at Laughton in Sussex. As a hands on man he loves to grow all his own plants and to breed, raise and select new varieties. Marchants has gained recognition as one of leading small nurseries in the country especially for its range of herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses. He is particularly proud of the fact that virtually all of his plants are home grown: no mean feat in this age of commercialisation. Marchants garden and nursery is open to the public and being on our doorstep just the other side of Ringmer is well worth a visit.

Michael Elliott

Spring Show 2011 – Special Daffodil Class

Following this year's most successful Pink Silk competition which really added a new dimension to our Spring Show, the Committee has decided that we should try something similar in 2011. The Society has therefore purchased 120 Avalanche bulbs, which for those of you who are technically minded is a division 8 tazetta, multiheaded variety with up to 20 highly scented florets on a stem. But don't worry about that, for those of us who are mere mortals it is a beautiful multi-headed daffodil that should be grown in a pot. The rules will be similar to the Pink Silk competition. Bulbs will be on sale, together with growing instructions at the 2010 Autumn Show costing £1 each and be limited to three per member. There will be a specific class for entering your best stem in the 2011 Spring Show and the prize money will be £5 for first, £3 for second and £2 for third. This will be a special class and will not attract points towards other cups or prizes. Please do have a go, the pink silk competition was great fun and brought us all up - or down - to the same level!

Michael Elliott

Summer Show 2011 – Special Potato Class

For the 2011 Summer Show there will an additional class for potatoes of "One dish of three potatoes grown from a seed potato purchased from Lindfield Horticultural Society in a potato bag supplied by the Society". Seventeen litre size potato bags will be on sale to members at the Spring Show together with a seed potato. The potato will be Winston, a first early and quick-maturing variety and one of the best for exhibiting purposes which, if planted as soon as possible after the Spring Show, should be ready in time for exhibiting at the Summer Show. The potatoes will have already been chitted by Richard Hilson and be ready for planting. A potato with bag and growing instructions will come at the bargain price of £1.

We would like to thank our Show Superintendent, Richard Hilson for organising both the potato and daffodil special classes.