

LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk

Summer Newsletter 2012

Thoughts from your Chairman

This has actually been a rather difficult spring for growing plants. April had nice days but cold nights, and although germination was good, small plants stood still. May you will not need reminding was rain, rain and more rain, with very poor light levels. The latter meant that my runner beans with eight seeds per pot had only two germinate.

Many of you may have already noticed that as its contribution to this year's Jubilee Celebrations the Society has sponsored the display in the King Edward Hall garden. There is a red, white and blue representation of our national flag, with golden coloured beds either side. In order to keep the display bright and alive we would ask all members to dead head or weed it each time they are passing or visiting the Hall. In this way many hands will make light work of ensuring that passersby enjoy the display.

Sheila Hobbs

Spring Show 2011 Results and Report

Wow what a great start to the show year, a big thank you to you all. We had new exhibitors in nearly every section of the show which is very encouraging, please keep it up. I hope you enjoyed the wonderful floral arrangements to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We decided that they deserved pride of place in the hall as you walk in.

More spectacular exhibits to celebrate the diamond jubilee were in the junior sections. The portraits of the Queen were great; the exhibitors must have taken a lot of time and effort to catch the likeness to Her Majesty, well done. The other junior exhibits that particularly caught people's attention were the scarecrows. Not only did the visitors enjoy looking at them at the show but I think they are going on to earn their keep afterwards on mums' and dads' allotments! Watch this space for more large exhibits in the future. And if any juniors have any suggestions for things they would like to grow, bake or draw etc. for future shows, please let me know.

Awards

Daffodil Society Bronze Medal & Certificate – Richard Hilson

The Fisk Cup – Richard Hilson

The Jeeves Cup – Tim Richardson

The Evelyn Drew Floral Art Cup – Pat Pickworth

The George Murrell Photographic Cup – Jocasta Fearn

The Lea Cup – Jim Stockwell
The Heart and Soul and Perri Winkle Shield – Emily Sutlow
The Kieron James Toys Shield – Cerys Fruin
The Daffodil Cup – Helen Dunlop
The Dawson Cup - Tom Hughes
The LHS Junior Cup – David Adams

Best in Show:

Vegetable – Tim Richardson
Pot Plant – Flo Whitaker
Flower – Josie Hughes
Cookery – Margaret Carter
Handicraft – Pat Whetstone

Finally I have a Hozelock easy clear and fountain pond pump for sale at £50. It is brand new and still in the box, I bought it a couple of years ago and then decided to do away with my pond. If anyone is interested please call me (483236) or email me (whet25@btinternet.com). See you at the summer show.

Pat Whetstone

A Thank You

The Spring Newsletter reported that as a result of recent coppicing at St Peter and St James Hospice suitable material was available for use as pea sticks and/or bean poles. Several members took advantage of the opportunity and over £60 was donated for which the Hospice is very grateful. There will be another opportunity next year so watch this space.

Rapture is coming to the LHS

Congratulations to the winners of the Rosemoor Gold daffodil class in the Spring Show – and well done to all of those who were able to show a multi-headed stem. Next year's bulbs have already been ordered by the Society and 'Rapture' will be on sale to members at the Autumn Show. Further information will be included in the Autumn newsletter.

Richard Hilson

A Bouquet for Gill

As a small token of our appreciation for all the help Gill Jones has given the Society with its formerly errant projector, she was presented with a well deserved bouquet at the May talk. Before her intervention it was a close run thing whether Wendy or Martin would be the first to hurl the projector through the nearest window!

Talks Programme 2011/2

Wendy Dumbleton provided us with a very wide range of speakers and topics for the talk's programme which has just ended. We kicked off with the irrepressible Bob Brown from Cotswold Garden Flowers, who gave us an insight into "Unusual Winter Plants". It was easy to appreciate why he is a leading "mover and shaker" in horticultural circles. He was followed by Annie Guilfoyle's talk "Designing with

Plants” in which she illustrated all too clearly for some of us what does not quiet work in our own gardens. We will try to do better Annie.

Next up it was Chris Clennett from just down the road giving us “An Impression of Wakehurst Place”. He reminded us of things we had forgotten in this lovely garden as well as mentioning some we had not heard of. We now look forward to reading his book on “Cyclamen” – so just get on and finish it Chris. Graeme Mitchell then told us about all the superb gardens you can visit with Brightwater Holidays, and he was followed by Bob Tunks giving us as usual very inspiring floral demonstrations. Words of warning however for those of you who were not there; do not travel in a car if Bob is driving unless you are doing the navigating!

We then had Tom Hart Dyke with his talk on “Kidnapped in Columbia (in the process of plant hunting)”. What a horrific nine months he had as a hostage and what a bundle of energy he is! If you have not seen his World Garden at Lullingstone Castle do try to get there this summer. The programme concluded with Russell Bowes telling us “The Tale of the Tulip”. It cannot be very often that a horticultural talk embraces bulbs, the ongoing international financial crisis and lessons for the Euro. And yes we did learn a lot about tulips, but unfortunately for us all our “Lords and Masters” did not learn, or want to know, the lessons arising from the bulbs history. Life is never dull if you belong to LHS!

Speakers

Whilst on the subject of our talk’s programme Wendy Dumbleton would like to thank all those people who give her suggestions for speakers. These have been most useful and where possible she takes them up, so please keep them coming and let her know when you hear a speaker who is great on garden matters.

Can you help?

The Society is desperate to find someone to maintain our computerised membership records. Currently the records are held in an excel spread sheet which contains name, address, membership number, round number and email address. These records are then sorted by name for the Membership Secretary and by email address and round number for newsletter and show schedule distribution. Excel is probably not the best format in which to keep records but the Treasurer who currently maintains the records does not have any data base skills. This is really a vital job and once it is set up would not be that arduous. Please consider this request and if you can help would you please contact Michael Elliott on 483039.

Committee

Discounts

In addition to the arrangement at Garden Pride in Ditchling, two other nurseries are now offering discounts to members.

Wakehurst Plant Centre

On the last full weekend of every month (that is when both the Saturday and Sunday fall in the same month) on production of your LHS membership card you will be entitled to 10% off all plant, bulb and seed purchases.

Southon Plants

Southon Plants are offering a 10% discount on sales **at their nursery, on production of your LHS membership card**. The nursery is a family run business in Dormansland, near Lingfield; the full address is:

Mutton Hill, Dormansland, Surrey RH7 6NP

Tel: 01342 870150

Open every day: Mon – Fri 9am – 5.30pm, Sat, Sun, 10am – 5.30pm.

They also have a plant stall in the Orchards, Haywards Heath on Thursdays and Saturdays and on Farmers Market days **but the discount is not available there**.

As they may not be so well known to members here are comments about them from one of the LHS committee:

"We buy a lot of plants from them and without exception they have all been excellent quality, very long-flowering and extremely good prices. They sell a wide range of plants and have some new and unusual perennials as well as seasonal bedding, interesting heucheras, fuchsias etc. David Southon is a real plantsman who will always give good advice on suitability and cultivation."

A full list of plants is on their website: www.southonplants.com, as is a map showing the exact location.

Wakehurst Place

Nursery area

Keen eyed recent visitors to the walled garden at Wakehurst will have noticed that the door to the nursery area is now open for the public to enter from 10am to 4pm up until October. Of particular interest is the display of various varieties of wheat and the information panel emphasising the importance of wheat, rice and potatoes to the world's diet.

Secret Wakehurst

Most of you will be aware that the Mansion at Wakehurst was used to billet Canadian troops during the Second World War, but did you know that there was

also a secret bunker in the grounds which would have been part of a national nerve centre in the event of us being invaded? The government realized that if the anticipated invasion took place there would be the need for a national communications network to monitor the enemies' movements and provide escape routes.

One such station was located at Wakehurst, and known as Ardingly Zero. It was staffed by nine women officers from the Auxiliary Territorial Service working in shifts in rather uncomfortable conditions. The bunker had no link to the mansion, and was entered via a shaft hidden beneath a manhole cover. The radio aerials for the bunker were hidden in the bark of three neighbouring oak trees and it is alleged that on close inspection the eagle eyed can still see traces of them (your editor has to admit that so far he has failed miserably to do so).

The site was decommissioned in 1944 but following investigatory digging last year an information board has been erected. To find it; take the path past the mansion on the way to the walled garden, do not enter the latter but continue on, pass the toilet block and the area set aside for old tree trunks etc until you come to a path on the right with barriers around an oak tree. Go up the path and you will find the notice board next to the barriers.

Salvias Part 2

In response to my request in the last edition for you to share with the editor your favourite perennial salvias I have had two responses. Firstly I was urged to recommend the merits of *Salvia* 'Indigo Spires', and I am very pleased to do so as I grow it myself and enjoy its displays. It has very long flower spikes which are a fantastic shade of indigo blue, and are produced in profusion from July to November. It is 1.3m in height, and a fast grower but is prone to wind damage. The reason it was not on my initial list is that I have not been able to get it through a winter, and so have to replace it annually.

The second recommendation was for *Salvia microphylla* 'Hot Lips'. In May it has white flowers with red tips, as summer nights get warmer you get a mixture of all red, all white, as well as bi-coloured flowers on the same bush. Come the autumn the flowers revert to bi-coloured and the foliage turns dark red. It reaches about 90cm in height, is hardy in the south eastern corner of the country and again it is one that I have grown myself but no longer do so. To tell the truth it was the name which first attracted me and it is more than an apt description, which is more than can be said for many of the plant names which the trade bestows in an attempt to seduce us into buying. The reason I stopped growing it was that it is so difficult to place with other plants, it shouts so loud on its own behalf. Perhaps others have found some suitable companions which so far have eluded me.