

# LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

[www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk](http://www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk)

## Spring Newsletter 2013

### Editorial

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2013, may you all have a successful horticultural season.

This is the edition of the newsletter in which you get the opportunity to apply for one of the trips which our new Outings Organiser Rose Mortenson has arranged for us. They look very interesting and I am looking forward to them. If you want to go it is best to get your application in as soon as possible.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Joyce Gladwell and Anne Peters who so efficiently organise our membership secretariat for us. Thank you for all your hard work girls. And whilst on the subject of saying thank you, Audrey Kite wishes to thank all the cake bakers and her band of willing helpers for their assistance. You all do such a good job that rest assured Audrey will be contacting you again. A big thank you on behalf of the membership.

After many years of staying unchanged the cost of entry to our shows and talks has been increased. For both events it is now £1 for members and £2 for a visitor which still represents very good value for money.

As many of you will know Alison Elliott has been our stalwart secretary for a considerable time and would like to hand over to someone else by the AGM in November. She is happy to retain responsibility for the Christmas Social and talk through with anyone who is interested what is involved in performing her other duties. We did ask for volunteers at the AGM but to date no one has come forward. Now members there must be someone out there who is prepared to help; the Society cannot run by itself, it needs **you**. So please contact Alison and have a chat (483039).

The first of our shows will soon be with us, so a timely reminder that you can help by offering to sponsor a class or classes. You can either opt to do so and have your name displayed adjacent to the appropriate class, or remain anonymous. The potential cost ranges from just £2 for an individual class, to £5 for a championship class and £9 for a trug class. You can sponsor for just one show, two shows or all three. If you are interested please contact Michael Elliott (483039 or [michaelelliott6@googlemail.com](mailto:michaelelliott6@googlemail.com)).

Talking about shows I am sure you all have been avidly studying the new Show Schedule ready to get your entries in for the Spring Show, I look forward to seeing you there.

### **Special Members Fuchsia Class for the 2013 Autumn Show**

It was announced in the last newsletter that for 2013 there would be a Special Members Fuchsia Class. A rooted fuchsia cutting would be offered for sale to members at the Spring Show for growing on and subsequent entry in the Autumn Show. The fuchsia which Noreen Smith has selected is "Checkerboard" which is a super plant, very free flowering having a profusion of single flowers with long red tubes, red sepals turning white and dark red skirts (corollas). It has an upright habit and has been given an Award of Garden Merit (AGM) by the RHS.

For the bargain price of 50p you will be able to buy: one rooted cutting, a suitable 9cm flower pot in which to pot it up and an instruction sheet. You will not be restricted to buying a single plant if you would like more than one. You will also have the opportunity to buy a bag of Noreen Smith's very own best potting compost. All you will then have to do is to plant the fuchsia, grow it on following the instructions and enter it in the Autumn Show. If you are unable to get to the Spring Show, and do not know anyone to ask to buy some plants for you, do not despair for as part of LHS's super service you have two options. Either you can contact Martin who will reserve some for you, but you will need to collect them from him at 39 Dukes Road (484120 or martin.lindfield@btinternet.com). Alternatively you can arrange to collect them from the Sundries Centre, in which case contact Noreen Smith (482097 or noreen.smith010@btinternet.com).

So let us have a forest of fuchsias (is that the right expression?) in the KEH this Autumn.

### **Rapture update**

How are your Rapture bulbs? Here are a few tips for looking after them and also to help you make the most of the flowers on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March, the day of the Spring Show:

- Keep your pots well-watered, especially when the bulbs are in flower
- Rapture has narrow foliage which will require staking. It has a single flower to a stem
- Don't expose the pots to too much warmth as this is likely to result in poorer quality blooms
- Your best bloom is one that has a long narrow and round cup, swept-back petals and a short neck. The bloom should be looking downwards
- Cut the flowers on the morning of the day before the show. Place in water in a cool place out of direct sunlight
- A couple of daffodil leaves will enhance your exhibit. Vases are provided by the Society to stage your entry. Some paper or moss used as packing in the vase will aid its presentation

The special members' class for one stem of Rapture is Class 12 on page 20 in the schedule. 'Rule 17' has been waived for this class to enable two or more members of the same household who purchased Rapture bulbs from the Society to make their own entries in this class. You may have more than one stem of Rapture to

show. As it is classified as a Division 6 daffodil, it may also be entered into one or more of the following classes:

- o Members' Class 13      Five stems (can be mixed with other daffodil cultivars)
- o Members' Class 18      Three stems (can be mixed with other Division 6 cultivars)
- o Members' Class 24      One stem

If you are a member who has not previously won a first prize in any daffodil class, you could also enter Rapture stems in Classes 1, 2 and 7.

I am looking forward to seeing your blooms at the Show and if you need any advice beforehand, please contact me (440148).

*Richard Hilson*

### **Spring Show**

It will soon be time for the first of this year's shows and what a welcome sight it always is to see all the spring flowers in the King Edward Hall. But there is so much more to enjoy as well both floral and edible, not to mention the junior exhibits, handicraft and photography. Some people it is rumoured make straight for the tea room and seeing all the lovely cakes and scones just asking to be sampled who can blame them.

This year there are two new classes. For members not having previously won a first prize for a houseplant:

- 11. One pot of a flowering or foliage houseplant;  
and for **all** members:
- 45. One pot of one or more growing hyacinths

So good luck with your entries.

### **Outings 2013**

Set out below are the details for this year's visits. Because of the popularity of the outings only members of the Society may purchase tickets. This means that tickets may not be bought either by members for their guests or by non-members of the Society. Application Forms are available at the end of the newsletter, a separate one for each visit and *please could you also send a separate check for each trip*. Do contact me if you have any queries and I will be happy to help (Rose Mortenson 483229).

### **Thursday 25 July - Woolbeding Gardens and Uppark House**

Woolbeding is an extensive modern garden developed by a member of the Sainsbury family. Although a National Trust property, it has only recently been opened to the public and all visits must be pre-booked so we are likely to have the garden more or less to ourselves. The planting is dramatic and constantly

changing and they warn us that plants are not labelled but the gardeners are really happy to be asked about them! The highlights included:

- Colour themed garden 'rooms'
- greenhouse and vegetable garden
- ruined abbey
- woodland walk
- small lake with a Chinese bridge
- summer house and an orangery where you can browse gardening magazines and articles

There are no visitor facilities beyond toilets and as it is not possible to visit the house, you may want to bring a flask! We will move on to Uppark House and Gardens in time for lunch.

Uppark is in a beautiful setting high on the South Downs with stunning views to the sea. The gardens are Regency and have been recently restored to their original style. The house which dates from 1690 is open to the public, and although it was seriously damaged by a fire in 1989 it has since been restored. This is also a National trust property and offers:

- Woodland walks and wonderful views
- Summer bedding borders
- 2 Neolithic burial grounds
- Collections of paintings, ceramics and textiles
- Restored servant's quarters and subterranean passages
- An amazing 18<sup>th</sup> century dolls house

The properties are relatively close so we would be leaving Lindfield at 9.00am and expect to arrive home by 6.00pm. The fee for National Trust members will be £13.00 or £27.00 for non-members. The fee covers coach fare plus tip and entrance to both properties.

#### ***Thursday 12 September – Bletchley Park***

Bletchley Park near Milton Keynes, is famous for its wartime role as a centre for code breaking and as the birthplace of the modern computer but yes, it does have a garden. It is a fascinating place to visit with so many exhibitions and activities including:

- Enigma, Turing, Bombe and Colossus projects
- Collections such as: Churchill Memorabilia; Toys from the 30's; Pigeons at War; the Wartime Post Office and a Home Front display
- Gardens and a lake

- o American Garden Trail celebrating the links between the UK and the USA

A short film and a conducted tour taking between 60 and 90 minutes are included leaving plenty of time to explore further. This trip does include a lot of walking. The journey time is about two and a half hours so we are scheduling in a short comfort break on route. We will leave Lindfield at 8pm and arrive back by about 7pm. There is a café on site and wheelchairs are available. The fee is £28 and this includes coach travel and tip, entrance, a film show and guided tour. It does not include entrance to the National Museum of Computing which is also on site and costs approximately £2.50.

*Rose Mortenson*

### **Pumpkin Cup**

For the Autumn Show in future we will be awarding a new cup , the LHS Pumpkin Cup which has kindly been donated by Ian and Margaret Cooper. It will be awarded to the member showing the pumpkin having the largest diameter. This is always a class which provokes much comment and interest by our visitors, so get prepared members to see if you can be the first winner.

### **Can you help?**

In an earlier Newsletter it was mentioned that St Peter and St James Hospice would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in opening their garden to raise funds for the charity. Sue and Jim Stockwell would like to support this idea by opening their garden in Denmans Lane, so long as we can find a few more gardens to make up a garden trail. Surely there must be a few Lindfield gardeners out there who could join us. Gardens don't need to be large or manicured, people love to wander round any interesting garden. If you would like to find out more, please contact the Stockwells (jamesastockwell@aol.com or 459363).

*Jim Stockwell*

### **Fantastic Bargains and quality at the Sundries Centre**

Attached to the newsletter is a copy of the latest price list for the Sundries Centre. Once more Noreen will be enabling us to benefit from wholesale level prices but with top quality products. This year she is also offering the potato sacs which Barry Newman, chairman of the National Vegetable Society, waxed lyrical about during his talk to us after our AGM. The Sundries Centre offers unbeatable value so do yourself a good turn and get down to Spring Lane....

### **Sundries Centre Spring Opening Dates (from 9.30am-11.00am)**

March	Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>
March	Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>
March	Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>
April	Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>
April	Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>

April	Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>
May	Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>
May	Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>
May	Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>
May	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>

### **Village Day Show**

Building on the success of the first Village Day Show organised last year by Claire Fuller she will be holding another one this year on the 1<sup>st</sup> June. The LHS will again be supporting it and I would urge as many of you as possible to try and enter something. Full details about the individual classes will be available shortly at our events and Martin will email the information to those of you on our email list.

### **Advertisement amendments**

Our Advertising Manager has asked that your attention is drawn to two amendments regarding the advertisements in the show schedule. Firstly in the list of "Our Advertisers", our valued advertiser 'The Book Guru' has been incorrectly described on p8, the entry should read:

**"Book Guru"**, Book writing & publishing advisor, Haywards Heath.

On p62 please add to the Clough's advert: "now open every Sunday from 8am until 2pm".

### **Hospice**

St Peter and St James Hospice again have coppiced cuttings suitable for use as pea and bean sticks, available for collection from the Hospice. Several members availed themselves of this opportunity last year. The preferred collection times are either Friday or Saturday mornings, but please telephone Bob Jacobs first (451682) to make the necessary arrangements. A donation to the Hospice in exchange would be appreciated. Also available shortly for collection will be bags of logs, which are priced at £5 a bag. If you wish to order these please contact Ian Cooper (482526). Last year the volunteer gardeners raised £300 for the Hospice as a result of the donations for the bean sticks and the sale of the logs.

*Sally McBirney*

### **Open Gardens**

We will be helping to promote local 'Open Garden' events this year – they're a great way to have a day out (often with tea and cakes!), give you some new gardening ideas and the chance to chat to fellow gardeners – all for a small donation to charity. Copies of the National Gardens Scheme 'Yellow Book' will be available soon. We will also have leaflets at our events advertising the gardens open in aid of our local hospices, St Catherine's and St Peter and St James.

*Rosemary Humphreys*

### **Other Talks**

Worthing Theatre has started as a new venture, a series of gardening talks the first of which was by Monty Don, but before you get too excited this was too early to publicise here. The next two speakers are Christine Walkden on 7<sup>th</sup> March and Tom Hart Dyke on 11<sup>th</sup> April; both will be in the Ritz Studio at 7.30pm, but members may consider a cost of £12.50 each (with £1 off for concessions) to be rather expensive compared with the value which the LHS provides. Bookings may be made via the box office (01903206206) or online ([www.theatres.worthing.gov.uk](http://www.theatres.worthing.gov.uk)). If the talks are successful they are likely to be continued later in the year.

### **Became a TV Star**

The Society has been asked to publicise the following email which is self explanatory. Will we be seeing our members on BBC Two...?

“I hope this email finds you well. My name is Bella and I’m contacting you from Silver River Productions where we’re producing a new primetime Gardening Programme for BBC2. I was wondering if the programme I am working on at the moment would appear of interest to all passionate gardeners, florists and creative people who enjoy working outside.

The programme will be an exciting and stimulating series which will reveal all the wonderful possibilities that can be unlocked from one patch of earth. From vegetables to fruits and flowers, this programme will illustrate that gardens aren’t just for sitting in!

We are looking for pairs of contestants who have the skills and the dedication to compete to be the nation's best kitchen gardener. Someone who can cultivate the perfect carrot, make their green tomatoes into award winning chutney and turn their dahlias and sweet peas into floral arrangements fit for a Queen.

We would like to hear from people who believe they have the skills to compete and are interested in featuring in our series. It couldn’t be easier; all you need to do is email [grow@silverriver.tv](mailto:grow@silverriver.tv) for an application form. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate in contacting me.

Bella Lloyd  
Researcher  
Silver River”