

LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk

Summer Newsletter 2013

Editorial

Gardening fortunately offers compensations for its extremes, and so after a rather trying winter and delayed spring, the latter burst into action with spectacular vigour. Not only did the weather conditions seem to prolong the floral displays, the preceding cold spell meant that the snowdrops, daffodils, primroses, tulips, and magnolias were all out together. It was as if they were trying to outdo their neighbour in a floral riot, in which the individual players were reluctant to leave the stage.

Talking of primroses mine seem to have been particularly promiscuous this year. One of the joys of growing them is that they decide to appear in all sorts of positions which you never thought of or intended, and look better for it. This year for the first time though they seem to have taken a particular affinity for the lawns. Now freedom to roam can be taken too far, but as fast as I pull them out their friends appear. Perhaps I should settle for a primrose lawn? But I see I am not alone in this dilemma, an Essex Hardy Plant Society member has written that his “are primroses on steroids, primroses with unstoppable territorial ambitions”.

Many of you bought some of the special fuchsia plants the LHS was recently selling for entering in the special fuchsia category in the Autumn Show. So how is/are your Celia Smedley(s) coming along? Have you been following Noreen Smith's guidance notes? After an initial sulk mine seem to be doing well and I shall follow the additional tip which Derek Dexter gave at his recent talk on Fuchsias. Now, not all of you who will be entering Celia in the Autumn Show will have this additional information, but if you promise not to tell everyone else here it is. Derek who shows fuchsias nationally and wins more first prizes for them in a year than I get hot dinners said: “Two weeks before showing cut all **open** flowers off”.

I very much enjoyed the displays at the Spring Show and the magnificent response of members to the challenge of finding entries. Remember to look on the LHS website where as usual you can see photographs of all our shows. So now I am really looking forward to the Summer Show on Saturday 13th July; good luck with your entries and I will try not to eat all the cake.

Spring Show Results

Once again the weather has not been kind to us for the beginning of the horticultural year. However as usual the members of LHS pulled out all the stops to produce some fine exhibits for the spring show, so a big thank you to all of you. I was particularly pleased to see more entries in the floral art categories. The skill and interpretative ability of the arrangers is one of the highlights of each

show. Unfortunately I am one of those people who are hopeless at arranging flowers; but I do enjoy listening to the comments made by Bob Tunks after he has finished judging. He is a very knowledgeable man.

Hopefully the weather will improve and things will begin to grow before the summer show. Whatever happens I look forward to seeing you all there.

Results

The Daffodil Society Bronze Medal And Certificate - Jim Stockwell
The Fisk Cup - Richard Hilson
The Lea Cup - Jim Stockwell
The Jeeves Cup - Michael Elliott
The Daffodil Cup - Richard Watson
The Evelyn Drew Floral Art Cup - Anne Skinner
The Dawson Cup - Tom Hughes
The George Murrell Photographic Cup - Carolyn Nurse
The Junior Shield - Ella Armstrong
The Keiron James Toys Shield - Liam Jolly
The LHS Junior Cup - Natalie Armstrong

Best In Show

Vegetable - Michael Elliott
Pot Plant - Rosemary & Neville Humphreys
Flower - Rosemary & Neville Humphreys
Cookery - Margaret Wells
Handicraft - Sue Stockwell
Floral Art - Anne Skinner
Pat Whetstone

Your help is needed

Hon Secretary

Since it was announced at the AGM that Alison would be giving up the role of Honorary Secretary as from October 2013, several appeals have been made for a replacement but to no avail. As the date for Alison's "retirement" draws ever nearer our need for a volunteer grows more urgent. Are you prepared to help us fill the post? If so please contact Martin Higgins (484120 or martin.lindfield@btinternet.com)

Show Schedule Advertisements

Following David Macmillan's decision to stand down as our Show Schedule Advertising Manager, Ann Marsden has kindly volunteered to take over the role. It would be very helpful however if she had someone to assist her, hence this appeal. The role basically entails contacting the local businesses which advertise in our show schedule to confirm that they wish to continue to do so in the 2014 edition. If you might be able to help us please contact Martin Higgins (484120 or martin.lindfield@btinternet.com).

Tim's Road to RHS Daffodil Triumph

[After much arm twisting I managed to eventually persuade Tim Richardson to give his account of showing daffodils at the national level – Editor.]

As a result of the encouragement of the LHS with the introduction of the special daffodil class in 2010 (which to my surprise I won with my Pink Silk daffodils) and with the 'mentoring' from daffodil enthusiast Richard Hilson; I started to grow and show daffodils in a small way. To start with I grew a few pots for the LHS 2011 Spring Show and then grew even more for 2012. I did quite well at the LHS show, and then because the RHS Daffodil Show was on straight after the same weekend, Richard persuaded me to enter it. After nursing my blooms over the Sunday and then carefully boxing them up, on Monday I took them on the train with Richard to the RHS Horticultural Hall at Vincent Square, Westminster. I entered most of the Novice classes and was delighted when we returned on the Tuesday to discover I had, very narrowly, won the Blanchard prize for the most points in the Novice classes. I was (eventually!*) awarded an inscribed crystal trophy, which I get to keep. That was it - I'm now hooked!

This year however has proved to be very challenging for daffodil growers and showers due to the very cold, late start of the season. Unfortunately I had nothing ready for the LHS Spring Show, and with few facilities for 'forcing' the blooms I decided to wait until they were ready. Eventually, I entered them for the last RHS show of the year at Wisley on 29th April – which was over four weeks later than Linfield's! Despite the difficult start to the year I was very pleased with my exhibits and I managed to put some good entries in the amateur collections. I was awarded places in some of the open classes for single blooms, most notable was a 2nd for a rather fine *Lilac Charm*.

I enjoy the challenge of trying to get perfect blooms ready for showing. Although it can be quite hard work and takes quite a bit of time - moving large quantities of pots around the garden from warm sunny spots to cool shady ones to try and bring things on or hold them back; and yes, sometimes into the lounge for a night or two and into the garage - I find it very rewarding and enjoy the processes. I get particular pleasure from the way it makes you concentrate for hours on the beauty of individual blooms. And the scent is something else!

Now I have the delight of facing the 'child in a sweetshop' task of choosing which bulbs to buy for next year, and hopefully, with a more 'normal' season I will have plenty of blooms to show at the 2004 LHS Spring Show, and maybe one or two others....

Tim Richardson

*(Editor's footnote - What Tim only hints at is how the RHS nearly "robbed him" of his trophy. On checking his "points awarded" tally he found that he should have been first and not the second he was originally given. Fortunately he had photographed each of his entries and so was able to demonstrate on appeal that he should have been first. It took months for the RHS to rectify their mistake.

Now anyone can make a mistake, but this was the second time it had happened in respect of the same trophy, and not only that but the sufferer then was another LHS member, namely Richard Hilson! What has the LHS done to upset the RHS I wonder?

Calling all Photographers

A new photographic competition has been launched which is open to all LHS members, both adults and juniors as follows:

- You are invited to submit a photograph on a horticultural theme (garden, plant, vegetable, landscape, shed, gardener, wheelbarrow etc) representative of the particular month of the year in which it was taken.
- You can submit just one, or up to one for each month, or some number in-between.
- **They should be sent in as they are taken** using the following email address and will then be posted on the LHS website: photos@lindfieldhorts.org.uk
- At the Spring Show the best of photographs would be exhibited and the show's visitors invited to vote for the one they like best, which would be awarded a prize. There would be a separate prize for best junior exhibit not otherwise winning a prize.

So come on all you photographers show us what you can do.

Any spare tools and gardening equipment for a good cause?

Headway Hurstwood Park is a charity based at Newick which helps those who have suffered a brain injury by providing support and rehabilitation services to individuals and their families. It is seeking donations of any surplus gardening tools and equipment for use in restoring their Victorian walled kitchen garden. If you can help please contact them direct on 01825724323.

Sales of Greeting Cards

Members will have noted that we have not had John or Neil selling their cards at our events this year. Unfortunately for us but fortunately for him Neil's holiday business is thriving and so he does not have as much time and John has had a very difficult time in hospital with a heart condition, hopefully he will be back this autumn.

Committee

Sundries Centre

Do not forget that your Sundries Centre continues to offer a wide range of horticultural products not only at very competitive prices, but superior quality. The opening dates are listed on both your membership card and show schedule.

Gardens open in aid of St Catherine's and St Peter and St James Hospices

Visiting gardens is a great way to gain new ideas, meet fellow gardeners, raise funds for charities and often have tea and home-made cakes! Enthusiasts are familiar with the National Gardens Scheme 'Yellow Book' but our 2 local hospices have open gardens too. Below are some fairly local ones coming up soon, for more details and wheelchair access phone the hospice or visit their website.

St Peter and St James

Sunday 23rd June (1.30 – 6pm) Ansty Five Garden Trail

Parking in field opposite the lane leading to Whydown Cottage. Refreshments available. Admission: £5 for all gardens, children free. Directions: 3m West of Haywards Heath on A272, post code RH17 5AS.

Saturday 6th July (2 – 5pm) Orchard House, Staplefield Road, Cuckfield

Large family garden, stalls, plant sales and refreshments. Admission: £3, children free. Directions: From Cuckfield, take B2114 Staplefield Road, pass Cuckfield Golf Centre on your right, turning for house is soon after on left, parking in adjacent field. Post code RH17 5HY.

Sunday 14th July (1.30 – 5pm) Burgess Hill in Bloom – Burgess Hill Safari

Various gardens, refreshments available. Admission £3, children free. Directions: from website [www.burgesshill.gov.uk/burgess hill in bloom](http://www.burgesshill.gov.uk/burgess%20hill%20in%20bloom), or cathybarnett@sky.com, or 01444 244617

Sunday 14th July (2 – 5pm) Ditchling Village Trail

Variety of different gardens in the village; tickets and refreshments at The Barn on the Green and at 37 Shirleys. Admission: £5, children free. Directions: The Barn on the Green is accessed from the War Memorial just west of the church on the B2116, post code BN6 8SP.

Sunday 28th July (2 – 5pm) Three Hassocks Gardens

6 & 6A Woodsland Rd Hassocks, 14 Church Mead Keymer, refreshments available. Admission: £4. Directions: For Woodsland Rd, approach via B2116 Keymer Road, Hassocks, or from Hassocks Station, 1st turning on left, post code BN6 8HE. For Church Mead approach via Ockley Lane from Hassocks, first turning right, post code BN6 8BN.

Sunday 4th August (2 – 5pm) Four Gardens in Hurstpierpoint

15 & 25 Orchard Way and 109 & 133 College Lane, refreshments available. Admission: £5, children free. Directions: For Orchard Way, off Albourne Road, B2116, Hurstpierpoint, post code BN6 9UB. For College Lane follow signs to Hurstpierpoint College which is on College Lane. (Parking in field adjacent to 109 College Lane) 133 is a semi-detached white dormer bungalow on the left, post code BN6 9AF.

St Catherine's Hospice

Sunday 16 June (1-5.30) Ten Gardens in Hurstpierpoint
41, 49, 59 & 63 Wickham Hill; Little Washbrook Cottage,
Little Washbrook Farm, Hampton Lodge Cottage and Pierpoint Lodge (all on
Brighton Rd); 5 Lawrence Way and 3 Weald Close. Admission £5, children free.
Refreshments available and plant sales. Hurst and Hassocks Community Bus will
be running a hop-on, hop-off bus service around the gardens, starting at Trinity
Road car park at 1pm and then on the hour, every hour. The bus ticket only costs
£1, so it's great value. For further information visit
www.hurstsecretgardens.org.uk (a really great website) or call Bec on 01273
834169.

Sunday 7 July (1 – 5pm) Turners Hill Village Gardens

Admission: £4, from first garden. For further information phone Thelma on 01342
714858.

Rosemary Humphreys