

# LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

## Winter Newsletter 2013

### Editorial

In this edition of the newsletter you will find your papers for the AGM including the formal notice. I hope that as many of you as possible will attend; please remember that the meeting starts at **7.30pm**, with the talk following on shortly afterwards.

I was always advised never to start anything with a moan, and preferably do not moan at all, which I think is very good advice; however I am about to have one. It is extremely disappointing that after many appeals for someone to come forward to fill the post of Honorary Secretary, nobody has done so. The Society does not run itself; it depends on the efforts of its band of helpers. So please will someone out there step forward? Help will be available, and the role will not include all the other jobs which Alison undertakes for us. If no one offers their services, as from the AGM the Society will be without a Secretary.

The high point of Lindfield's social calendar is the LHS Christmas Social which this year is on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets are now on sale, but hurry up if you have not already got yours for they sell out very quickly (contact Alison or Michael Elliott on 483039). Alison and Michael have also asked me to let you know that Suttons and Dobies seed catalogues are now available if you want to take advantage of the discounted prices, please contact them if you would like one.

What a lovely fuchsia *Celia Smedley* proved to be, we have received many favourable comments from those members who took advantage of the plug plants Noreen obtained for us. Rumour has it that she will be getting us an equally impressive variety for 2014. For those wanting guidance on how best to over winter the lovely *Celia* see Noreen's tips below.

If at the Autumn Show you purchased from the Society *Arkle* Daffodil bulbs THEY should by now have been planted. We meant to give you a copy of the growing hints to go with your purchase but in the rush to set the show up they got left at home. Sorry about that, but on the basis of "better late than never" a copy is attached at the end of the newsletter, to give you post planting advice if you need it.

Finally, the Society is always anxious to recruit new members and is seeking your help in doing so. Perhaps you know of a neighbour, or have a friend who might be interested in joining us – if so why not bring them along to one of our events.

Alternatively our Membership Secretary will be happy to send you a form to give to them (Joyce Gladwell 456509).

### **Autumn Show**

Despite the ups and downs of the British weather we again had a successful Autumn Show, and the hall looked very inviting with all the flowers, vegetables, fruit and other exhibits. Bob Tunks was particularly impressed by the standard of the floral art exhibits he judged. The special fuchsia class attracted some excellent entries, and we are grateful to Noreen Smith for not only obtaining the original plug plants, but for judging the resulting exhibits. Then there were the two monster pumpkins from Richard Watson and Ian Cooper slugging it out to be the largest in the show. We literally have to put them on extra strong tables to bear their weight!

A particular concern to me is the continual downward drift in the entries in the junior sections and the adult handicraft classes. I know I keep asking but if anybody has any ideas for these classes please email them to me (whet25@btinternet.com).

At the conclusion of the showing year there are many people I need to thank for all their hard work, but there is one person in particular that I would like to thank, and his name is Peter Buck. Peter takes all the trophies after each show to be engraved, and once this has been done he delivers them back into the hands of the individual winners. This makes my life a lot easier, so thank you Peter.

Thank you to all those who have supported the shows in whatever way, winter well and I look forward to seeing you at the Spring Show 2014.

### *Results*

The Bob Lacey Silver Salver	Ben Smith
The Massey-Dawson Cup	Ian Cooper
The Helena Hall Cup	Ian Cooper
The Dahlia Members Cup	Alison & Michael Elliott
The Huddart Cup	Alan Smith
The National Chrysanthemum Soc's Cert & Bronze Medal	Jim Stockwell
The Dahlia Open Cup	Michael Figg
The Penney Cup	Julie Hewitt
The Harry Tester Cup	Jim Stockwell
Kieron James Toys Shield	Liam Jolly
LHS Junior Cup	Florence Fearn-Hughes
The LHS Pumpkin Cup	Richard Watson

### Best in Show

Vegetable	Rosemary & Neville Humphries
Fruit	Janis Dyer
Pot Plant	Michael Figg

Cookery  
Handicraft

Jocasta Fearn  
Sue Stockwell

#### LHS Annual Cups & Awards

The Lady Wilkinson Silver Tray  
The Morecombe White Cup  
The Proctor Cup  
The Shepherd Cup  
The Ron Pickett Trophy  
The LHS Perpetual Shield  
The Shepherd Perpetual Shield  
*Pat Whetstone*

Margaret Wells  
Sue Stockwell  
Julie Hewitt  
Alison & Michael Elliott  
Gill Jones  
Lian Jolly  
Ella Armstrong

#### **Overwintering Celia Smedley**

It was delightful to see the well grown Celia Smedley fuchsias on the bench at the Autumn Show –well done everybody! Celia Smedley is half hardy so it is best to keep it frost free over the winter and there are several methods of doing this.

- The best method if you have a heated greenhouse is simply to keep it in there over the winter (min temperature 40F – max 50F). Cut it back to the second or third break, remove all the leaves and flowers as well as some of the compost to free its roots. Re-pot it into a pot that looks to be too small using new compost and give a spray with an anti-fungicide such as SB Plant Invigorator. Over the winter keep it just moist enough to keep it alive but not wet.

When the days start to lengthen and the roots have filled the pot it is in, pot on to a slightly larger pot. Pinch out the growing tips of the plant when the new shoots have made two or three pairs of leaves to encourage bushy growth. Feed it weekly with a high potash fertilizer such as Maxicrop or Phostragen.

- If you do not have a heated greenhouse but have a frost free, but not too warm, conservatory or window ledge, proceed as above but remember to turn the plant regularly to avoid it growing one-sided towards the light.
- If you heat your greenhouse or conservatory from mid-February you can bring your fuchsia into it and let it dry out. When completely dry wrap it in a good blanket of newspaper and put it under a bench. When the days start to lengthen unwrap it and follow the instructions in the second paragraph above. (I had a friend who did this with all her fuchsias and she always swept the board for prizes at her local show!)
- If you have planted your fuchsia in the ground and do not want to dig it up to overwinter it inside, when the frost has blackened the leaves remove them all. Do not cut it back but spread old compost or bracken over it, and cover it with fleece if you can. On mild days remove the fleece during the

day to let the air get to it to try to avoid mildew, then recover it. As from the middle of April uncover it and cut it back and proceed as above.

All the recommended fertilizers, fungicides and compost are obtainable from the Sundries Centre. If you have any queries feel free to contact me by email, telephone or at the Sundries Centre (noreen.smith010@btinternet.com – 482097). Celia Smedley will reward you for many years to come.

*Noreen Smith*

### **Poppy Seeds**

Next year is the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. It remains a contentious subject for a variety of reasons, not least with historians. What is not contentious is that many hundreds of thousand UK citizens were killed or wounded serving their country. Your committee feel that it is appropriate for the Society to pay tribute to them by encouraging as many members as possible to sow red poppy seeds in their front and back gardens and anywhere else that they have authority to do so. This simple gesture is meant as a mark of respect to those who gave their lives, or were wounded. Members will therefore be receiving a complimentary packet of red poppy seeds when the new show schedule is delivered after Christmas. We appreciate that some members may prefer to obtain for themselves white poppy seeds to sow instead.

# Lindfield Horticultural Society

(Affiliated to the R.H.S.)

Please reply to: -  
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Email: alisonelliott6@googlemail.com

October 2013

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting** of the above named Society will be held on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at 7.30pm in the King Edward Hall, Lindfield.

## AGENDA

- 1) Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence
- 2) Minutes of the 2012 AGM.
- 3) Matters arising there from.
- 4) To consider the Chairman's report for the year 2012/2013.
- 5) To adopt the Statement of Accounts for the Year ending the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.
- 6) Election of Chairman.
- 7) Election of Officers: -
  - Vice-Chairman
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Show Superintendent
  - Show Secretary
  - Flower Arranging Steward
  - Catering Supervisor
  - Sundries Centre Supervisor
- 8) Election of a Committee of not more than nine members
- 9) Appointment of an Examiner
- 10) Any Other Business

Alison Elliott (Mrs)  
Honorary Secretary

### **N.B.**

Nominations for Chairman, Officers or Membership of the Committee should be made on the following form and must reach the Honorary Secretary by Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013

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**NOMINATION FORM**

I propose the appointment of:

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as..... of the Society for the  
forthcoming Year.

Signature.....Address.....

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I second the proposal

Signature.....Address.....

.....

.....

If appointed I am willing to serve as.....

Signature.....Address.....

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# Lindfield Horticultural Society

(Affiliated to the R.H.S.)

## Minutes of the AGM of the Society held on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012 in the King Edward Hall.

- 1) The Chairman, Mrs Sheila Hobbs opened the meeting and welcomed the Members attending. She also apologised for the absence of the President, her husband David, who was recovering from illness.

**Apologies for Absence** were received from Pat Whetstone, Debbie Anscombe, Tracey Adams, David Hobbs, Glenise Buck, Ralph and Betty Lloyd Williams.

- 2) **Minutes of the meeting of the 2011 AGM** were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record. Proposed by Richard Hilson and seconded by Rosemary Humphreys.
- 3) **Matters Arising.** It was noted that Richard Hilson had continued to help with the Shows acting as Superintendent on Saturdays when he was available.
- 4) **The Chairman** presented her final report as she was standing down from the position although she intended to continue with the Society as an ordinary Committee Member. She commented on the ups and downs of a very challenging gardening year due to the weather and the fact that we managed to put on three excellent shows. She thanked all those who had helped the Society during the year, especially her Committee and her Family. She felt that credit must be given to all the helpers who really made the Society work. She was thanked unanimously for all her years as an Officer of the Society and her report was accepted by the meeting, proposed by Rosemary Humphreys and seconded by Neal McNamara.
- 5) **The Treasurer** presented the accounts for the year, which showed a deficit of £877 something that had not occurred for a number of years. The shows had cost more mainly due to the lower number of visitors and the associated sale of teas and raffle tickets, together with the purchase on new cups for the junior section. Membership income was down mainly due to fewer Life Members, overall membership had not altered greatly. Measures were to be discussed in AOB to help reduce the deficit in future years.

The Treasurer thanked Malcolm Springall for his help and assistance as examiner and also Joyce Gladwell and Anne Peters the Membership Secretaries for their hard work.

The accounts for the year were accepted, proposed by Gill Jones and seconded by Rosemary Humphreys.

- 6) **Election of Chairman** In the absence of the President Neal McNamara proposed the nomination of Martin Higgins as Chairman, who was then elected unanimously. Martin then took the Chair.

- 7) **Election of Officers.** The following Officers were elected on block proposed by Richard Hilson and seconded by Wendy Dumbleton:

Vice-Chairman	Rosemary Humphreys
Secretary	Alison Elliott
Treasurer	Michael Elliott
Show Secretary	Pat Whetstone
Sundries Centre Supervisor	Noreen Smith

The position of Catering Supervisor would be filled by Audrey Kite, although she would not be joining the Committee. The positions of Flower Arranging Steward and Show Superintendent remain vacant (although Richard Hilson covered Shows whenever he was able).

- 8) **Election of the Committee.** The following Committee were elected: Sheila Hobbs, Anne Marsden, Sally McBirney (Raffles), Debbie Anscombe and Tracey Adams who were existing members and Heather Martin who was standing for the first time, proposed by Martin Higgins and seconded by Ann Higgins

It was also noted that Wendy Dumbleton (Talks) would assist the Society but would not be on the Committee. The meeting was also grateful that Rose Mortenson had come forward and offered to run the Outings similarly she did not wish to be on the Committee.

- 9) **Appointment of Examiner.** The Treasurer thanked Malcolm Springall for his work as examiner and agreeing to undertake the job again, he was duly elected proposed by Michael Elliott and seconded by Sheila Hobbs.

- 10) **Any Other Business**  
The Chairman then thanked two volunteers who were standing down this year. Ann Higgins was presented with a bouquet of flowers, to thank her for all the trips she had arranged for the Society. David Macmillan was also retiring from collecting adverts for the Schedule. The Treasurer paid tribute to all David's hard work over many years which has been of considerable benefit to the Society's finances. David was also thanked for offering to assist his successor.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Committee had decided, that in the light of the Society's worsening financial position entry fees to Coffee Mornings, Talks and Shows should increase from 50p to £1.00. Although no vote was taken on this proposal, there was clearly general agreement that this was the right course of action.

Martin made a general appeal for help for the Committee.

Dorothy Brown wanted to thank the Society for the support during her illness and to say what a wonderful Society she thought we are.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 7.43pm.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Once again throughout the year the LHS was a hive of activity. It was the first year that Rose Mortenson organised our outings for us, and what a contrast they proved to be in all the right ways. First of all we visited Woolbeding a garden which embraced great beauty, wit, stunning planting, British quirks and lovely views. If you have never been there promise yourself a visit for next year and check the National Trust web site for opening details and booking arrangements. The Woolbeding trip was linked to visiting Uppark House and Garden with its interesting history of, rare for the times, social mobility.

The second trip was to Bletchley Park the site of the Second World War code breakers. This was a fascinating visit and what surprised most of us was the extent of the exhibits. I know I was not alone in deciding to make a further visit as it proved to be such a stimulating day out. Well done Rose we are looking forward to 2014 already.

We had a great variety of talks to enjoy courtesy of Wendy Dumbleton's hard work. To highlight but two of them; our own Richard Hilson gave a very well received one on growing and showing daffodils, it was enjoyed so much that members have demanded he returns in 2014 to talk about one of his other specialities - dahlias. Derek Dexter let us have a peep into the very different world of fuchsias, and as a top exhibitor it was no surprise that the plants he brought with him rapidly disappeared into members' hands. If you have never been to one of our talks you will never know what you are missing, so try one or two at least in 2014.

The Sundries Centre was busier than in the previous year and thanks to Noreen Smith's expertise continued to offer high quality products at very competitive prices. There were the two usual coffee morning and plant sales and in June a very busy plants stand on Village Day. On Village Day we again provided advice and assistance, but did not organise, the Village Day Show. The latter attracts a large number of exhibitors who we never see at our own shows, with a markedly younger age profile. This is something we need to try and tap into. The Christmas Social was greatly enjoyed thanks to Alison Elliott's guiding hand.

Our own three shows represent the centre of our activities and were a great success. They are very friendly occasions, as much social as horticultural, and long may they continue to be so. We do need however to try and attract more entrants into the junior classes, perhaps we need a major rethink about these.

Being able to deliver such a large and diverse programme of activities is only possible due to the support and hard work of the committee and our band of helpers. To you all I say a heartfelt thank you.

*Martin Higgins*

## TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REVIEW

It is difficult, at the time of going to press for this newsletter, to say exactly how we have done financially this year. What I can say however, is that it looks as if we will, more or less, break even. As you are all aware we made a loss last year of £877 and your Committee took the decision to increase the entry charges for Coffee Mornings, Talks and Shows and as yet we have not had the full year benefit of those increases. The Society is not in difficulties at the moment, it has £8000 in the bank and £5000 of Sundry Centre Stock but we feel that we should warn Members, that another increase in Membership fees **may be** required from October 2015. In hindsight we left the Membership fees at £3.00 for far too long, which made the increase to £5.00 seem high, especially now, as only three years later we may need to make another increase.

Every effort will be made by your Committee to control costs but without changing what we do there is little scope. If however, any Member has any suggestions, especially when it comes to raising additional income, perhaps they would contact me or the Chairman.

*Michael Elliott*

## **Growing Hints for your 'Arkle' Daffodil Bulbs**

Keep the bulbs stored in a cool, dark and airy place until planting. Aim to plant the bulbs by early October.

### **Growing in Pots**

Choose deep pots. Depending upon the number of bulbs being planted, the suggested size of the pot is:

- no more than 2 bulbs in a 18 cm (7") pot
- no more than 3 bulbs in a 23 cm (9") pot
- no more than 5 bulbs in a 29 cm (11") pot

Use multi-purpose compost and plant the bulbs with their noses just below or just showing above the level of the compost having placed a little grit under the base of each bulb. Water the pot thoroughly and bury it in the ground so that the top of the pot is covered with about 12.5 cm (5") of soil/compost to protect it against frost. Alternatively, place the pot in a cool, dark and frost-free position in a garage or outbuilding and ensure that the compost remains slightly moist.

At the end of January/beginning of February, the pot should be lifted from the ground or removed from storage and placed into a sheltered position outdoors or into a cool and well-ventilated greenhouse. Place newspaper over the top of the pot to protect any young shoots from strong sunlight and leave covered until they turn green. Make sure that, at all times, the compost in the pot does not freeze. Give the pot one feed using a balanced or low nitrogen fertiliser. Try to avoid extremes of temperature and move the pot to a more favourable position if necessary. Keep the pot well watered and give it a liquid feed with a potash-rich fertiliser once a week. The stems and leaves may require some support.

### **Growing in the Ground**

Choose a sunny site where there is good drainage and the soil will not become waterlogged.

Plant the bulbs so that the nose of the bulb is about 10 cm (4") below the surface. A little grit placed underneath the base will help drainage. The bulbs should be planted about 15 cm (6") apart.

Once growth appears in early Spring, give the bulbs one feed of high potash fertiliser. The stems and leaves may need supporting.

**Good luck!**

**If you have any questions, please feel free to ring Richard Hilson on 01444 440148.**

*Richard Hilson*

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