

LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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Autumn Newsletter 2015

Editorial

Rose organised two drive your self or have a lift trips this year, the first of which was to Orchard House in Cuckfield. This delightful garden extended to nearly two acres and was a visual treat. What amazed the thirty six members who made the trip was that the garden although maintained to a very high standard was looked after by the owner and no one else!

The LHS coach trip to Walmer Castle was a very pleasant surprise to me as I had not expected the castle to be such an interesting place: it has a fascinating historical connection with Wellington of Iron Duke fame, it is a very well restored building with lots of interesting content and once you are inside you forget that it is a castle, it has lovely well maintained gardens and enjoys superb views straight out to sea. We then travelled a few miles along the coast to the Secret Gardens of Sandwich where the 3.5 acres of garden were well worth exploring.

The second drive yourself or have a lift trip was to Ham Cottage, near High Brook in Ardingly. The owners rightly call their garden “a mini Wakehurst” and apart from not having a Seed Bank (or at least not yet) this is an accurate description of the range of attractions it contains and the standard to which they are maintained. This eight acre garden is looked after by the two owners and one half a day a week helper. How they and the owner of Orchard House do it I do not know for they seemed human enough!

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday 11th November and your agenda etc will be attached to the Winter Newsletter. However now is the time to consider whether you would be prepared to stand as either Chairman or Vice Chairman as both positions will be vacant. We also are still in need of an organiser for our raffles. Please give serious consideration as to whether you might be able to help and if you would like to discuss the matter please contact Martin Higgins (484120 or martin.lindfield@btinternet.com).

I am sure that 2015 will go down as the year of the watering. For although we have not had many lovely warm summers evenings this year we have not had much rain for months either. My gardening regime includes doing the minimum amount of watering; this usually means patio pots and plants recently planted,

although most of the latter I feel should normally survive with just a good soaking after they have been put in. The only exception to this is trees, in their case they get a periodic soaking during their first season in the garden. But this year so many of my favourites have been looking at me and imploring a visit from the watering can that I have had to succumb.

2015 Summer Show

The 200 visitors to our Summer Show found a King Edward Hall full of wonderful flowers, vegetables and soft fruit. They were amazed at the height of Neal McNamara's deep blue delphinium spikes, and the size of the pitchers on George Adams's Pitcher Plant. But to prove that size is not everything there were eleven teacups with delightful arrangements of garden flowers in them, with the visitors being invited to vote for their favourite one, which was not an easy decision to make. In the end Jane Harding's entry gained the most votes. Heather Martin's large architectural looking allium head could not be missed and duly impressed the judge.

In the Flower Arranging classes there were some stunning entries, which truly were like works of art. Claire Wilson's interpretation of "Wimbledon" was much admired and unsurprisingly gained her a first prize; although it needed much self control not to sample some of her "Wimbledon" strawberries. On a completely different scale Jeff Essen triumphed with his "Flowers in a Flowerpot", a petite exhibit which combined wit and artistry. Combining flowers, fruit and vegetables were the garden trugs filled with all three, which not only were a visual delight, but also stimulated your appetite. The entries in this class from Andrew Harding and Andrea Fall were superb.

Ian Cooper's twelve pea pods accomplished the difficult feat of being truly identical, and Tim Richardson showed some superb potatoes. Joyce Gladwell had a monster cabbage, which unusually managed to combined size with edibility. Alison and Michael Elliott gained a first with two fine aubergines, as did Andrea Fall for her well named small tomatoes – "Jelly Bean Hybrid". Helen Dunlop won that visitors favourite, "The most misshapen or humorous vegetable", with an entry which looked like a mouse on steroids!

In the junior classes' two new entrants, Sarah and Ruth Bewick, both won awards (see below) which was particularly pleasing. The "best handicraft award" went to Jacqui Essen's lovely pin cushion.

One of the cookery classes was to decorate a cake to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the LHS. Gill Jones and Glenise Buck each entered such magnificent cakes that the judge could not decide between them, so rightly jointly awarded them the first prize as well the best entry in the cookery classes. Margaret Carter showed some fine Gooseberry Jam, and Debbie Anscombe some perfect Scotch Eggs. Then there were Lorelei Hilson's dish of chocolate truffles which looked as if they would melt in your mouth, but regrettably I was not invited to try.

If you have never been to one of our shows try to get to the Autumn Show on Saturday 12th September 2pm to 4.45pm in the King Edward Hall.

Results

The Lemmey Cup	Alison & Michael Elliott
The Savill Cup	Ian Cooper
The Don Booker Fuchsia Cup	Michael Figg
The Gilbert Cup	Rolf Lloyd-Williams
The Thornbery Trophy	Doreen Orton
RHS's Banksian Medal	Andrew Harding
The Filmer Cup	Jacqui Essen
The Fruit Cup	Ian Cooper
Blue Riband of the British Fuchsia Society	Michael Figg
The Keiron James Toys Shield	Sarah Bewick
The Junior Shield	Liam Jolly
The LHS Junior Cup	Ruth Figg
Flower Arrangement in a Tea Cup	Jane Harding

Best in Show

Vegetable	Andrea Fall
Pot Plant	Michael Figg
Cookery	Gill Jones & Glenise Buck
Handicraft	Jacqui Essen
Fruit	Ian Cooper

Thursday 3rd September – Kew Gardens, Richmond

There are a few tickets still available for this trip which is open to both members and their friends. If you would like to go please contact Rose Mortenson at: rose.mortenson@gmail.com or 483229

The cost will be:

Friends of Kew member - £12.50

Wakehurst Season Ticket holders - £12.50 (if you have not already used your one free entry entitlement)

Over 60's concession - £24.50

Under 60's standard entry - £25.25

Optional Hop on / Hop off Bus - £3.50

Christmas Social Tickets.

Tickets for the Christmas Social on Friday 4th December will be on sale at the October Coffee Morning and the October and November Evening Talks. The ticket numbers will be limited to 114 and will be sold on a first come first served basis to members only. The ticket price remains as it was last year at £10. The entertainment this year will be provided by the very talented Tania Robb, who is returning by very popular demand, she will be singing songs that we all know and

love. Come along and enjoy yourselves, the format of the evening as always remains the same; wine, food, song and very good company.

Alison Elliott

Membership Renewal

Membership fees for the New Year are due on the 1st October and remain unchanged at £5 per individual member and at £8 for a couple living at the same address. Renewals for the New Year can be made at the Autumn Show on the 12th September and at any of our events after that date. Renewals can also be made by post to our Membership Secretary, Mrs Joyce Gladwell at 7 Brookway, Lindfield RH16 2BW but please remember to add an additional 75p for postage and packing.

Committee

Sundries Centre

The final three opportunities to obtain your end of season horticultural items from the Sundries Centre are nearly here, the last opening dates in 2015 are:

September
Saturday 26th

October
Sunday 11th
Saturday 31st

Newsletter by email

All members who are on email are offered the opportunity to have their newsletter on the day it is published. Just go to our website (www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk) and click on 'email us' on the shed door and ask for your newsletter by email.

Committee

Suttons and Dobies Catalogues

The Suttons and Dobies Catalogues for the 2015/6 season **may** be available at our October meetings hopefully. Members of the Society ordering their seeds and plants through this scheme will receive a 25% discount on seeds and a 10% discount on other items. It does not matter how much you order £5 or £50 it all adds to the total on which the Society itself gets a commission (dependent on the total amount of seeds ordered). So if you purchase Sutton's or Dobies seeds please do it with the Society. If you would like to reserve a catalogue please ring 483039 leaving your name and address and which catalogue you would like.

Michael Elliott

LHS a 'Potted' History

According to Helena Hall's 'Lindfield Past and Present', Lindfield Horticultural Society started in 1955. However, within the LHS archives dating back to 1945 there are the minutes for what then was The Village Produce Association (VPA).

VPA's were introduced during the Second World War to boost food production as part of the 'Dig for Victory' campaign. Associations were set up country wide and were co-operatives for gardening and livestock keeping, enabling members to take advantage of bulk buying through their local association.

After an initial meeting called by Mrs. E.C.E Blake-Mason (County Organiser to the Ministry of Agriculture) to decide on the formation of a VPA and the composition of its committee, a date of 19th February 1945 was set for the inaugural meeting to be held at the Vicarage. In attendance were Rev. Buckingham (Chairman), S.H Edmonds (Treasurer), A.J Shepherd (Secretary), together with members of the committee: Messrs T.Elder, Miss. Abbay, A.W Heaseman, E.Pucknell, and T.V Palmer. Mr. K.F.R Barrow was co-opted as assistant secretary.

The founding committee had much to decide on and organise – the Association's Rules, the subscription fee, the bulk ordering of lime, hop manure, fertiliser, seed potatoes, etc. along with a programme of visits to gardens, talks, lectures and film/lantern shows. A suitable venue to hold talks and film shows was a matter for some thought as the Congregational Rooms were lit by gas and The Tiger was not available due to military requirements. The King Edward Hall Library became the venue of choice, it having electric lighting, and so rationing permitting, refreshments of tea and buns were to be offered at the first talk.

Membership subscription was priced at 2/6d per annum (30p) and to help fund the cost of sundry expenses the committee agreed that a draw be introduced at talks, with members donating prizes. The prizes donated were certainly a reflection of the times, ranging from the desirable to the (one assumes) difficult to acquire, for example: bottle of whiskey & basket of fruit (Mr Mighall), 1lb of tea (Mrs Huddart) a box of peaches (Mrs Box); to the practical: logs, brass syringe (Mr Shepherd), razor & handbag (Mrs H S Charman), eggs, cigarettes and , my own personnel favourite - for the 1945 Christmas Party raffle, from Mr T Elder (Head Gardener, Old Place) - the offer of two rabbits!

Of course, no Village Produce Association would be complete without a Village Produce Show and a date for July 1946 was very soon set for Lindfield's first. Much planning went into the show which, reading through the minutes, was more akin to a small fete. A celebrity guest was invited to open the show and to help advertise the show notices were placed in The Mid Sussex Times. Mr S H Edmonds offered to display The Challenge Cup in his newsagent shop window (where Tufnells Home Shop now trades). However, Mr Huddart would only agree to this on the proviso that the cup be insured and removed from the window at night! Mr A T Shepherd donated a prize of a spade for the largest marrow, side shows were arranged for the less ardent enthusiast and to ensure all those working late could attend, the show remained open to the public after 7pm.

Debbie Anscombe

Editor's footnote - LHS pre 1945

When recently discussing the cancellation of the LHS 70th Birthday Social with one of our members, Nita McNamara, she happened to remark that her grandfather had sung at a concert held in 1898 to clear a Horticultural Association debt. I was aware that there had been a predecessor to the LHS but there did not seem to be any records relating to it. However, Nita referred me to Gwyn Mansfield's book "Lindfield a Village Scrapbook" in which Gwyn reproduces a copy of the programme for a concert held in the Assembly Rooms in Lindfield on the 17th May 1898, and on the programme it says: "To clear an unpaid debt of the 1897 Horticultural Show"!

Nita's grandfather's name was Frederick Alfred Hume, and the soloist listed on the programme for two of the songs is Mr F A Hume. One of the songs he sung was "Alice, where art thou?" so it is no surprise that he married Alice Bristow who was in the audience. Frederick was working for Masters at this time in their furniture store in Lindfield

Gwyn also reproduces a notice for "GREAT ATTRACTION" Lindfield Flower Show to be held on the 18th August 1885. Clearly flower shows in Lindfield at this time did not conform to the typical English flower show stereotype, for the notice makes it clear that as part of the show there would also be a sale of "Surplus Articles from the Wakehurst Fete" – nothing wrong in that but in addition it says that the sale will be held by "Bill Jarley, The Celebrated Cheap Jack".