

LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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Summer Newsletter 2015

Editorial

The Spring Show was a great success and if you were unfortunately unable to get there, there are some lovely photographs of the occasion on the website. And talking about the website you will notice from the top of this newsletter that, courtesy of Heather Martin, the LHS is now on Facebook and Twitter!

It gives me particular pleasure to be able to report that we have five new committee members: Deborah Novotny, Jenny Samuels, Susan Barrett, Barbara Hoy and Andrew Harding. I am sure that you would like to join me in giving them a warm welcome. I am also pleased to be able to announce that Pat Whetstone will become our Secretary as from the AGM, and that Heather Martin has already taken over as our Publicity Officer. All these changes are subject to formal confirmation at the AGM.

Two plants new to our garden have been giving me a lot a pleasure this spring - **Rosa xanthina "Canary Bird"** and Clematis "Guernsey Cream". The rose is one of the earliest to flower and has buttery lemon flowers, an arching habit and is musk scented. Some consider it a drawback that it has an irregular second flush around September time, but who cares when it is such a joy to behold in the spring. The clematis has large genuinely Guernsey cream like flowers with a subtle hint of green about them. Both have looked magnificent.

Now maybe it is a sign of my age but I have also been enjoying reading a book called "Old Herbaceous" by Reginald Arkell which was first published in 1950. It is about the memories of an old retired head gardener, well laced with nuggets of garden wisdom and much gentle humour with a dash of social commentary. A very relaxing read which made me smile, a book well worth seeking out.

As we were unable to sufficiently fill the coach to Chartwell, Rose responded to members' disappointment by hiring a minibus and we had a most enjoyable trip. Chartwell was not too busy so we were able to enjoy the house and gardens at our leisure. The weather was very kind to us so I enjoyed sitting on a bench enjoying the setting, something that like many gardeners I rarely seem to do at

home. The new exhibition about the death of Churchill and his funeral fifty years ago was very moving.

At our talk on the 13th May we said goodbye to Rosemary and Neville Humphreys, and Alison Elliott (Vice President) made them a presentation on behalf of the Society to thank them for all their hard work. Rosemary served for many years on the committee, was our Publicity Officer as well as being Vice Chairman. Neville worked away in the background for us being a particularly valued member of our “show preparation team”. They say their own goodbye at the end of this newsletter.

The Shows Go On

It doesn't seem possible that we are already well into 2015 and the spring show has been and gone. Although the entries for the spring show were down slightly we still had a great show. Once again we had some new exhibitors which is great to see. If we can encourage at least one new exhibitor at each show it will be a big boost for the future of LHS.

This is my last year as show secretary and some of you will have met my successor Deborah Novotny at the spring show. There is a lot of work involved in being show secretary and I am glad to say that Barbara Hoy has volunteered to assist Deborah. I am sure that between them they will make a great team.

I hope all the “first timers” enjoyed the exhibiting experience and will be taking part in future shows. Thank you to all our regular exhibitors and I hope that the summer and autumn shows are as successful.

I look forward to seeing you at the summer show.
Pat Whetstone

Outings Update

We still have a few places left on each of the remaining outings this year. Application forms can be found on the society's website: www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk or obtained directly from Rose Mortenson on 483229 or email rose.mortenson@gmail.com. Here is a reminder of where we are going:

Orchard House, Cuckfield on Wednesday 24th June – a beautiful local garden being opened just for us with all proceeds going to St Peter and St James Hospice

Walmer Castle and the Secret Gardens of Sandwich on Wednesday 15th July – the castle was built in the reign of Henry VIII and it is surrounded by a lovely 10 acre garden: the Secret Gardens were designed by Gertrud Jekyll and have been recently restored.

Ham Cottage, Ardingly on Thursday 6th August – another wonderful local garden opening just for us.

Kew Gardens on Thursday 3rd September – the world's best known Botanic Garden with rare and interesting plants, amazing glasshouses, historic buildings, a Henry Moore Sculpture and the famous Treetop Walkway.

More information on all these visits on the website, in your Spring Newsletter or direct from Rose. Remember these outings are also open to non-members so your friends and family would be welcome to come along.

Rose Mortenson

Spring Show Report

There were a large number of visitors to the show and, together with the judges, they made very favourable comments on the exhibits.

The Spring Show emphasises the many varieties of daffodil which exist, and this gives many of us ideas about trying some of them ourselves. It was good to see plenty of entries in the novice classes with some blooms as good as those of more experienced exhibitors. Andrea Fall, Pat Whetstone, Polly McDonald and Doreen Orton all did particularly well. The LHS special daffodil class showing blooms grown from bulbs purchased last autumn had a disappointingly low number of entries – but what a superb daffodil 'Bravoure' is! Andrea Fall took first prize while Ann Higgins put three into a different class for another first. Tim Richardson was awarded the Daffodil Society Bronze Medal for 'Honeybourne' in class 21. In the Open classes as usual there were displays of superb, high quality blooms, with experts Tim, Richard, and Dave all having a first but Dave Vivash had the Fisk cup for the best exhibit.

Camellia blooms included Brenda Houghton's lovely deep pink double and Rosemary and Neville Humphreys' enormous stem of pink 'Donation'. In the shrubs class, Graham Buck produced delicate pink rhododendrons in flower. Newcomer Jacqui Essen had first prize in the orchid class. Her specimen had extraordinary white aerial roots and enormous blooms. Sheila Hobbs' best pot plant was a bowl of deep blue grape hyacinths.

The class for Hellebores floating in a bowl continues to be popular, with ten entries this year, Doreen Orton's perfect greeny-white blooms being judged the best. The class for garden flowers showed informally in a jam jar also continues to be popular and it was interesting to see the range of flowers and foliage that exhibitors chose. The 'Mother and Child' class (a parent plant and one grown from a cutting of the same) was given a new twist this year by first prize-winner Barbara Hoy. She showed a begonia with 'twins' – two cuttings taken at the same time, one grown in water and the other (much larger) in compost.

Not much in the way of vegetables at this time of year, apart from some fat leeks and enormous parsnips, but there were three well-stocked trugs which must have presented a problem to the judge who had to choose between them.

Floral Art judge Bob Tunks was delighted with the standard this show.

'Wordsworth's Daffodils' in particular produced some stunning entries, with Clare Wilson's intriguing arrangement incorporating timber, daffodils and branches in bud being judged best exhibit. Gill Harrison 'Picture Me' with tulips and heather in a picture frame was much admired, as were the various takes on 'Sugar and Spice', which included lots of red and pink, contrasting well with the yellow daffodils of other exhibits. Newcomer Jeff Essen's tiny yellow blooms won him first prize in the miniature – 'Golden' – class.

The photographic classes had some interesting interpretations of 'Round/circular', with those using plant pots being particularly appropriate for a horticultural society! Jocasta Fearn chose a dramatic picture of the Bonfire Society procession for the 'My Lindfield' category.

In the cookery classes there was a wonderful array of well risen and beautifully decorated coffee sponges which must have given the judge a hard time. Lorelei Hilson won first prize in this category, while Brenda Houghton was first among an equally delicious display of rhubarb crumbles. There were plenty of scones with Jane Harding the winner here and Andrea Fall gaining best exhibit for four bread rolls. BUT – only 3 marmalades! Where are Lindfield's marmalade makers?

In the handicraft classes, Jacqui Essen's jolly Easter Bunny, complete with egg, was much admired, as was Sue Stockwell's blue ceramic vase. After a bit of a boost, entries in the children's classes have fallen off again but Florence Fearn-Hughes, Lily McDonald and Liam Jolly produced pictures, bright sock puppets and impressive lemon drizzle cakes.

Rosemary Humphreys

Results

The Daffodil Society Bronze Medal And Certificate	Tim Richardson
The Fisk Cup	Dave Vivash
The Lea Cup	Tim Richardson
The Jeeves Cup	Andrea Fall / Tim Richardson
The Daffodil Cup	Andrea Fall
The Evelyn Drew Floral Art Cup	Clare Wilson
The Dawson Cup	Richard Hilson
The George Murrell Photographic Cup	Tim Richardson
The Junior Shield	Liam Jolly
The Keiron James Toys Shield	Florence Fearn-Hughes
LHS Junior Cup	Lily McDonald

Best In Show

Vegetable - Tim Richardson
Pot Plant - Sheila Hobbs
Cookery - Andrea Fall
Handicraft - Sue Stockwell

Trug Class

1st - Andrea Fall

2nd - Andrew Harding

3rd - Gill Jones

LHS 70th Birthday Social

Regrettably the committee has decided to cancel the 70th Birthday Social due to poor ticket sales. To claim your refund bring your ticket(s) with you to the Summer Show and Michael Elliott will return your money. If you are unable to go to the show please telephone Michael (483039).

Positions still to be filled

As reported above we are very pleased to have gained some new committee members, a Secretary as well as a Show Secretary and Assistant (designate). Still remaining to be filled (or about to become vacant) are the following:

Raffle Organiser – The postholder buys the prizes and runs the raffle, with assistance provided by other members, at our talks, shows and one of the coffee mornings. If the postholder is unable to attend a specific event they contact the chairman and between them they arrange for the suitable cover to be obtained.

Chairman (becoming vacant at the AGM) – Chairs the committee meetings and talks programme meetings, helps as needed in the running of any of our events, represents the Society to the outside world.

Vice Chairman - Covers for the chairman when the latter is unavailable.

Show Superintendent – Gives advice to members about their exhibits, including how to make the best of them. Makes sure that the show bench is ready for the judges; and then accompanies them whilst they undertake their role. Resolves, or makes a decision, about any queries regarding the exhibits and related matters.

Please give serious consideration as to whether you are able to help us regarding any of the above posts. The chairman will be happy to answer any queries which you might have (484120 or martin.lindfield@btinternet.com).

Open Gardens in Hurstpierpoint

Eight green-fingered fund raisers will open their gardens this summer to raise funds for St. Peter and St. James Hospice. Hurstpierpoint Open Gardens will take place on Sunday June 14th, from 1pm to 5.30pm. Last year the event raised more than £6,000 and the gardeners hope to meet this target again. This year's open gardens will be around Cuckfield Road and the parish church area, so visitors can use the (free) Trinity Road car park. As with previous years, the community bus will be running a circular hop-on, hop-off shuttle service.

There will be tea and cakes, wine, as well as two plant stalls and a variety of art and crafts for sale. For more information, including a list of all of the gardens that will be opening, please visit: www.hurstpierpointopengardens.org.uk

Rosemary Humphreys

Sundries Centre

The opening dates for the Sundries Centre in Spring Lane are shown on the membership card and in the show schedule, the remaining dates for June are as follows:

Saturday 20th

Sunday 28th

A Goodbye

We are moving from Haywards Heath on 28th May and returning to Budleigh Salterton in Devon, having enjoyed our time with LHS very much. We have met so many lovely people and learned a great deal about gardening too, from both speakers and other members. Although we shall miss it, as we are Life Members we maywell pop up from time to time! If you are holidaying down that way (lots of lovely gardens and nurseries!) our address is:

West Hedges

6 Sherbrook Hill

Budleigh Salterton

Devon

EX9 6DA

01395 488524

Rosemary and Neville Humphreys