

LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2016

AGM 2nd November 2016 and Chairman's report

The formal notice of the AGM, agenda and minutes of the last AGM are attached, plus a form for nominations for the vacancies on the committee and various specific roles, namely Editor of the Annual Show Schedule, Show Superintendent(s), Assistant to Deborah Novotny, the Show Secretary and Assistant to Heather Martin's role as the Publicity Officer. These specific roles do not necessarily involve attending committee meetings apart from standing in for Deborah and Heather if either of them is unable to attend committee meetings.

Whether you attended a show, coffee morning, an evening talk, garden visits, Christmas Social, helped at our stall on Village Day or called at the Sundries Centre, I think you will agree that the events over the last 12 months have been very successful and the organisers and helpers should be thanked and congratulated for all their hard work. As far as I am concerned, there are too many hi-lights to detail any event, many of which have been mentioned in Newsletters over the last 12 months.

Although it's not the official start of the year for the LHS, the enjoyable Christmas Social is for me as good a social occasion as any New Year celebration. Since last year's social, 2016 has been an enjoyable year but I am anxious not to 'sit on my hands'. As such, we are always looking how we can improve the Society. At the end of this newsletter is a form on which to put your ideas and to return to the Secretary in advance of the AGM or speak to me or any Committee Member.

I am looking forward to the events which have been and are being organised for 2017. As usual, there are the 3 shows, coffee mornings, trips, talks and Village Day in 2017 and Gill Jones has volunteered to manage the Sundries Centre and a price list will be provided in the new year. The first day of opening in 2017 is 19 February. Your committee is always receptive to suggestions to do something different and how we can add to our regular events.

New events are being planned, namely 'Create a Christmas Table Decoration' - details below - and a Gardeners' Forum on 14 June, details of which will be provided in due course but in the meantime, please amend the title of this event on your membership card if this has not already been done.

RECENT VISITS (report by Rose Mortensen)

The Great Comp trip on 11th September was lovely, very nice little coach for 15 of us and 6 drove themselves. The garden is beautiful and very peaceful. Lovely cake and lunch and an interesting shop and plant nursery. And the weather was perfect so a lovely time was had by all.

The visit to Kew on 16th September looked like it was going to be a washout as the weather forecast was horrendous but being intrepid souls we set off. When we arrived we fortified ourselves with tea and cake, and then were amazed to find it had stopped raining and pretty much stayed dry for the rest of the trip. Highlights were the amazing Hive a steel recreation of a Bee Hive which generates the sounds of the bees; the wonderful greenhouses and the newly replanted long borders. We all managed to see areas we hadn't visited before and had an unexpectedly good time.

CREATE A CHRISTMAS TABLE CENTREPIECE

On 13th December 2016 at the United Reform Church Hall (1pm to 3pm) we have arranged for a local florist, Khee Joon Kennaway, to do a workshop for up to a maximum of 15 participants to create a Christmas Table Centrepiece. The aim is for each participant to create a decoration worthy enough to adorn any Christmas table which would otherwise cost about £45 to buy. The cost pp is £25 to include instruction and all materials, but bring your own floristry scissors and secateurs. If you are interested, please contact Jenny Samuels on 07952600495 or jennyalxndr@aol.com. asap.

AUTUMN SHOW

As luck would have it, after some days of hot dry weather, it rained on the Saturday of the Show which must have gladdened the heart of most gardeners and all who attended the Show appeared to have enjoyed themselves in the dry.

I was somewhat incapacitated and did not get the opportunity to have a good look at all the exhibits. Whilst trying to make myself useful by selling Uncle Duncan daffodil bulbs, I did get some nice comments about the show and of course there were many oohs and aahs about the size of Ian Cooper's pumpkin close by to where I was sitting. For those who are unaware of what happens to his pumpkins, Ian does assure me that last year's pumpkin was consumed by his family, friends and neighbours and in so doing collected £38 for St Peters and St James Hospice.

The Uncle Duncan bulbs were specially purchased to encourage the growing of and enhance the different varieties of daffodils and I am looking forward to seeing all the entries of a single stem of an Uncle Duncan daffodil in the 2017 Spring Show.

I must congratulate all exhibitors and organisers and their helpers for putting on the Show and providing the excellent catering. KEH looked splendid. Also, thanks go to all concerned including our visitors for again making our Shows such lovely sociable events.

Finally and last but not least, congratulations to the following for winning best in Show - Neal McNamara - Vegetable, Colin Brunt - Fruit, Margaret Wells - Cookery and Sue Stockwell - Handicraft and to the following award winners:-

LHS Cups and Awards for the Autumn Show:-

Colin Brunt - The Bob Lacey Salver
Tim Richardson - The Massey-Dawson
Tim Richardson - The Helena Hall Cup
Ann Higgins - The Dahlia Members Cup
Peter Hinze - The Huddart Cup
Debbie Anscombe - The Dahlia Championship Cup
Jeff Essen - The Penny Cup
Gillian Macmillan - The Harry Tester Cup
Florence Fearn-Hughes - Kieron James Toys Shield
Liam Jolly - The Junior Shield
James Dunlop - LHS Junior Cup
Ian Cooper - The LHS Pumpkin Cup

LHS Annual Cups and Awards for accumulated results during all the 2016 Shows:-

Debbie Anscombe - The Lady Wilkinson Silver Tray
Maureen Manley - The Morecombe White Cup
Liz Hinze - The Proctor Cup
Tim Richardson - The Shepherd Cup
Andrew Harding - The Ron Pickett Trophy
Florence Fearn-Hughes - The LHS Junior Perpetual Shield
Liam Jolly - The Shepherd Perpetual Shield

AND FINALLY Just a Little Reminder

We are having a seed swop at our Coffee Morning on Saturday 4th February, this is a new venture for the Horticultural Society, so we would like to make it a success. Please start collecting your seeds now, if you haven't started already, putting them in a small envelope and labelling with a name and colour. Please make up as many as you can, as we will sell anything that is not swopped.

**LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 2nd NOVEMBER 2016 AT 7.30pm
KING EDWARD HALL, LINDFIELD**

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Welcome
2. Approval of the AGM Minutes of the Meetings held on 11th November 2015 and 13th January 2016
(See attached)
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report (attached)
5. Treasurer's Report and adoption of the Statement of Accounts for the year ending
30th September 2016 (to be laid round)
6. Election of Chairman
7. Election of Officers: Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Show Secretary, Catering Supervisor
Sundries Centre Supervisor
8. Election of a committee of not more than nine members
9. Appointment of Show Superintendent, Editor of the Annual Show Schedule, Assistant Show Secretary and
Assistant Publicity Officer
10. Appointment of an Examiner
11. Members Proposals:
12. Any other Business

N.B. - Members' Nominations for Chairman, Officers or Membership of the committee should be made on the form below and must reach the Honorary Secretary Pat Whetstone by Wednesday 26th October 2016.

Useful numbers:-

Chris Gurr (Chairman) 482739 or cjgurr@aol.com,
Pat Whetstone (Hon. Secretary) 483236 or whet25@btinternet.com,
Michael Elliott (Hon. Treasurer) 483039 or michaelelliott6@gmail.com,
Deborah Novotny (Show Secretary) 483871,
Heather Martin (Publicity) 487775,
Rose Mortensen (Outings) 483229,
Wendy Dumbleton (Talks) 482633 and
Joyce Gladwell (Membership Secretary) 456509.

Website: www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lindfieldhort

Twitter: @LindfieldHortSx

**Minutes of the AGM of the Society held on Wednesday 11th November 2015 and 13th January 2016
in the King Edward Hall**

1. **Chairman's welcome and Apologies for Absence:** Martin Higgins welcomed everyone and pointed out that visitors were welcome to stay for the meeting but that they were not eligible to vote. Apologies for absence had been received from: Tracy Adams, Rolf Lloyd-Williams, Ian Cooper, Richard Hilson, Rosemary & Neville Humphreys and Mr & Mrs Breeding.
2. **Minutes of the 2015 AGM:** There being no amendments it was proposed and seconded that the minutes be signed as a true record.
3. **Matter arising:** There were no matters arising.
4. **The Chairman's report** had been circulated with the agenda so it was agreed to be taken as read. Martin spoke of the desperate need for more helpers. Many of the officers posts were still vacant. The good news was that Janice Black had agreed to take on the task of organising the raffles. He then thanked all the officers, committee members and society members who gave their help. Special mention was made to Anne Peters our assistant membership secretary. Martin then went on to speak about the form "Making the Society attractive to a modern membership" which was circulated with the agenda. So far he had received no replies. He pointed out that it was important for the future of the LHS to have the input from the members on the existing or future programmes.
5. **Statement of accounts for y/e 30 September 2015.** The Treasurer, Michael Elliott, advised the members that the accounts had been examined and passed by Malcolm Springall. There was a surplus for the year of £562 but the shows had made a loss and the membership was down. With regard to the bank balance of £12000. Michael pointed out that it was pointless investing any of this as the interest rates were so low. Michael then went on to thank Debbie Anscombe and Anne Marsden for their hard work in obtaining the adverts for the show schedule which brought in at least £800 towards the cost and the rest of his team Joyce Gladwell, Anne Peters and Sandra Huggett.
6. **Election of Chairman.** President David Hobbs took the chair and thanked all the members who had attended and on behalf of these members thanked the Chairman and Committee for all their hard work. David pointed out that Martin Higgins was retiring as Chairman and gave a personal thanks to Martin for all his exceptional work over the years. Chris Gurr had been nominated by Michael and Alison Elliott as the new Chairman. This was unanimously accepted and Chris was duly appointed as Chairman. Michael Elliott then made a presentation to retiring Chairman Martin in appreciation of all his work for the society. A bouquet of flowers was also presented to Martin's wife Anne. At the start of item 7 the new Chairman Chris Gurr was taken ill and the meeting and talk were adjourned. The AGM to be reconvened at a later date.

AGM reconvened and apologies for absence were received from Pat Whetstone and Anne Marsden

7. **Election of Officers** Chris Gurr initially thanked everyone for coming and then went through the available positions and tried to fill the vacant ones from the floor with no luck.
 - Vice Chairman – Vacant
 - Secretary – Vacant (Pat Whetstone will cover what she can)
 - Treasurer – Michael Elliott
 - Show Superintendent – Vacant (Richard Hilson will cover when he is available otherwise Neal McNamara or Michael Elliott)
 - Show Secretary – Deborah Novotny
 - Flower Arranging Steward – Vacant (Gill Jones, Anne Skinner and Clare Wilson have agreed to put ideas to the Committee)
 - Cookery Steward – Sheila Hobbs
 - Handicraft and Junior Steward – Pat Whetstone
 - Catering Supervisor – Debbie Anscombe
 - Sundries Centre – Vacant (Chris mentioned that Alan and Noreen have moved away and for one year only Michael Elliott and Sheila Hobbs had agreed to keep the Centre open. A Volunteer is needed to run the Centre)
 - Publicity – Heather Martin

Chris then stressed how desperately the Committee needs help. He was particularly concerned about the production of the Schedule which had been done by Martin Higgins for the last ten years.

- 8. Election of Committee** Anne Marsden, Jennie Samuels, Susan Bartlett and Andrew Harding. were elected to the Committee en-bloc proposed by Alison Elliott and seconded by Audrey Kite. Chris then thanked all the volunteers who fill various posts at our meetings. Joyce Gladwell, Anne Peters and Sandra Huggett who collect and keep Membership records, Wendy Dumbleton who organises the Talks programme, Rose Mortenson who arranges our outings, Janice Black who has from this meeting taken over running the Raffles, Ivy Brunt who helps Heather with the distribution of the posters, Alison Elliott who organises the Social, Neal and Nita McNamara for their help on the door and selling plants and Richard Hilson that helps at the shows.
- 9. Election of Accounts Examiner** Michael proposed and thanked Malcolm Springall seconded by Neal McNamara.
- 10. Consideration of Membership Fees** Michael told the members that the last increase in fees had been in 2010 and that costs were rising considerably. He explained that if a substantial loss was made in 2015/16 it would not be possible under the Societies rule to increase fees until the 1st October 2017. The Committee proposed that the Members authorised the Committee to put up the fees from 1st October 2016 should there be a substantial loss in 2015/16 and that they (the Committee) considered it necessary. There was considerable discussion, some members felt that fees should be increased from the 1st October 2016 and with others feeling that we should wait and see. The Treasurer made the point that there was no need for any 'knee jerk' reaction as the Societies had plenty in reserve. It was then proposed by Mrs B Billins and seconded by Mrs W Dumbleton that Membership fees be increased to £6 for an individual and £10 for a couple from the 1st October 2016. There was clearly a wish for this course of action, so the Chairman put it to a vote. From the show of hands it was abundantly clear that there was an over whelming majority in favour of the motion which was carried.
- 11. Future of the Society Questionnaires** Very few responses had been received from the questionnaires and Chris made a plea for the members to tell the Committee what they wanted from the Society
- 12. ANB** The only other business was a thank you from Chris to the people who had volunteered to help distribute Schedules and Newsletters.

The meeting was closed at 8.35pm.

NOMINATION FORM

I propose the appointment of:

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

Name/Signature.....

I second the proposal

Name/Signature.....

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

Name/ Signature.....

MEMBERS' SUGGESTIONS

I wish to propose:

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.....
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Name/Signature.....

I second the proposal

Name/Signature.....