

LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Newsletter - Autumn 2017

Editor - Chris Gurr - 01444 482739 - cjgurr@aol.com

Membership Renewal - Membership fees for the new year are due on 1 October 2017 (£6 per individual member and £10 for a couple living at the same address). Renewals for the New Year can be made at the Autumn Show on 9 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.

VACANCIES - your committee is **urgently** looking for volunteers for the following roles:-

Treasurer - Michael Elliott has advised your Committee that at the AGM on 8 November 2017, he intends to give the Society 12 months notice of his intention to retire as your Treasurer. Prior to his departure, he is happy for a new Treasurer to shadow him in his role as Treasurer during the 12 months leading up to the 2018 AGM. Therefore, on or before the 2017 AGM, we are looking for a volunteer for this role so that he/she can be formally appointed at that AGM to take over from Michael as from the 2018 AGM. You will appreciate that without a Treasurer, your society would be unable to function and your committee appreciates Michael's offer to show his replacement the ropes over the next 12 months or so but we accept that a new Treasurer whoever he or she maybe, could wish to work with an Assistant Treasurer in order to 'spread the load'.

Publicity Officer - You will recall that Heather Martin announced last year her intention to retire as our Publicity Officer immediately after this year's AGM and to date, a volunteer has not come forward to take over from her. Heather has set up an efficient system to publicise forthcoming events which I understand from her will be relatively easy for someone to take over but that person will have to have access to the Internet and produce leaflets/small posters which are distributed in the area by what Heather describes as a fantastic team of volunteers, no doubt similar to the dozen or so volunteers who do a great job in delivering the Show Schedules and Newsletters.

Joint Membership Secretary - Anne Peters is also retiring from her role as a Membership Secretary. For some years, Anne and Joyce Gladwell have been dealing with new members at our Shows etc. with Anne carrying out this role at evening events. Therefore, your committee is looking for someone to replace Anne.

Show Superintendent - In previous Newsletters, reference has been made to the vacant role of Show Superintendent. Andrew Harding has volunteered for this role (and for the vacant role of Vice Chairman) but as the role of Show Superintendent is crucial to the success of our shows, hopefully members with the appropriate knowledge will volunteer as a named reserve Show Superintendent for each Show, particularly as the dates of our shows are known well in advance.

Assistant Show Secretary - Deborah Novotny has requested a volunteer to help her in this role on the day of the Show and, possibly, for an hour or two beforehand.

A Coup for the Society - This is very much advance notice but our talk's organiser Wendy Dumbleton, has managed to persuade Nick Bailey to come and talk to the Society on the Chelsea Physic Garden on the 11th April 2018. Many of you will have seen Nick each week on Gardeners World with Monty Don. He writes regularly for several gardening publications including The Garden. He was formally the Head Gardener of the Chelsea Physic Garden and he is currently Garden Journalist of the Year. Nick is a very accomplished and much sort after speaker and we are very lucky to secure his services. His talk on the 11th April 2018 will be by ticket entry only and the charge for Members will be £5, tickets will be available in the new year. Members will be given priority in purchasing tickets but some may be available for guests at £7.50.

Suttons's and Dobbies's Seeds - The Suttons and Dobbies Catalogues for the 2017/8 season should hopefully be available at our October Meetings. 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 Dobbies seeds please do it with the Society. There is usually a postage charge with orders so anyone only wanting a few seeds where the postage outweighs the saving, can send their order to the Treasurer who will make a collective order and share out the cost of postage. If you would like to reserve a catalogue please ring 483039 leaving your name and address and which catalogue you would like.

Forthcoming events:-

2 September - Sundries Centre open 9.30 to 11.00

9 September - Autumn Show - 2pm - as mentioned in the last paragraph of the Editorial, we are looking for more entrants and exhibitors.

24 September - Sundries Centre open 9.30 to 11.00

7 October - Sundries Centre open 9.30 to 11.00

11 October - Talk - 8pm - on 'The Gardens of Great Windsor Park' by Harvey Stephens who many of you will know was for some years the head gardener at Borde Hill, during which time, the garden won the 2004 HHA/ Christies' Garden of the year award. Harvey joined the Crown Estate as head gardener at Savill Garden in 2006. As Deputy Keeper of Gardens, he is now responsible for a large team looking after Savill, Valley and Frogmore Gardens, which collectively hold one of the country's finest plant collections. More information - Wendy Dumbleton.

14 October - 10pm - Coffee morning and Plant sale.

26 October – Autumn Colour at High Beeches Woodland and Water Garden. This will be a self drive / shared lifts outing. High Beeches have agreed to open early at 11am just for us so we can have the place to ourselves until they open to the public at 1.00. Many of you will know this garden but this is an opportunity for a lovely walk through what we hope will be spectacular Autumn colours. The Café will be open for tea/coffee, cake and light lunches. Entrance Fee - £7.00. Application forms can be found on the website www.linfieldhorts.org.uk or they will be available at the Autumn Show. More information - contact Rose Mortenson - 01444 483229

29 October - Sundries Centre opens 9.30 to 11.00 for the last time in 2017

8 November - AGM followed by talk from Jim Stockwell - details to follow in Winter Newsletter.

1 December - Christmas Social - tickets go on sale at the October coffee morning, the October talk and the A.G.M. The ticket numbers will be limited to 114 and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis and to members only. The ticket price is as last year at £10. The entertainment this year is provided by 'The Chord Wanglers', a Barbershop Quartet who will be performing songs from their repertoire, as well as seasonal favourites. Come along and enjoy yourselves, the format of the evening as always, remains the same – good company, good food, a glass or two of wine and great entertainment. More information Debbie Anscombe 413193.

2018 - A reminder that now is the time of year to make final thoughts about saving seeds for the seed swap at the coffee morning on **2 February 2018** and following events at the KEH.

Editorial -Thanks to the organisers and volunteer helpers, we've had another great Summer of Events and I am hopeful that before the AGM on 8 November, volunteers will have put their names forward in respect of the vacancies detailed above. Some of the vacant roles 'only' require a few hours on a very few days each year. Your committee appreciates the efficient and conscientious way Michael, Heather and Anne have carried out their roles within your society over many years.

The Garden Forum was a great success and the panel of very knowledgeable experts were entertaining and had lots of fascinating advice to give.

Unfortunately, the talk about Hever Castle had to be cancelled but was replaced by a fascinating talk on the growing of Dahlias by Mr and Mrs Ramsey of Withypitts Dahlias Ltd which is based just outside Turners Hill. Hearing about turning their passion of growing Dahlias into a successful business after they retired, doing everything themselves and never working on a Sunday was inspiring. Well worth a visit, especially during the dahlia season. Similar to a talk early this year on growing Alstroemeria in this country, Mr Ramsay reminded us that only about 15% of cut flowers sold in the UK are grown here.

As in previous years, our outings have been very enjoyable this year. Amongst the many good things to see at Pashley Manor during our visit on 4th May, the tulips were spectacular and the visit to King John's Nursery on the way home made for a great day out. My stroll around Hope Park Gardens on 22nd June was lovely followed by my first visit to Merriments which I had heard was worthwhile going to and, it was.

Although there was much to see during our visit to Emmetts Garden on 18th July, just experiencing the wonderful aroma whilst sitting in the rose garden was alone well worth the visit. We then had an amazing journey through very very narrow lanes to Hever Castle. There's so many good things to say about Hever Castle and its gardens. Some of our members spent longer than they had planned in the castle and, during my 'ramble' to enjoy an ice cream by the lake, I discovered some spectacular 'garden rooms'.

The all day trip to the Country Show at Great Comp on 12th August was well worth while as could be seen by the large number of purchases brought back to Lindfield. Just sitting in a comfortable seat near to the temporary stage, listening to the talented band 'do their thing' and surrounded by the lovely garden, was worth the visit and for many, a Pims

added to the enjoyment of the day. As a break from the hustle and bustle of the Show, a stroll along well laid out meandering woodland footpaths was thoroughly enjoyable.

As ever, the social aspect and the friendly staff wherever we went added to the enjoyment of all these outings, not forgetting the good food on offer at many of the venues.

Yet again, Newcombe Hall looked spectacular at our Summer Show. My congratulations go to all concerned and on behalf of your committee, I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped put on what I consider to be one of the four highlights of the year in the Newcombe Hall, (the others being our Spring and Autumn Shows and the Christmas Social, not forgetting the very friendly social gatherings in the Jubilee Room at our Shows and Coffee Mornings).

The flower arrangements and the trugs were as good as ever. I would have been more than happy to take all the vegetables and soft fruit home. The pot plants and cut flowers on display were also excellent and as usual, I salivated over the cookery exhibits. Hopefully, the excellent handicraft and junior exhibits on display will inspire more entries at future shows.

I find it difficult to highlight any one exhibit but I must congratulate the following winners:-

Savill Cup - Richard Hilson
President's Cup - Ian Cooper
Don Booker Fuchsia Cup - Graham Buck
Gilbert Cup - Gill Jones
Thornbery Trophy - Debbie Anscombe
Askew Cup - Ian Cooper
RHS Banksian Medal - Ian Cooper
Filmer Cup - Jacqui Essen
Fruit Cup - Chris Gurr
Lemmey Cup - Jenny Purdon and Chris Gurr
Fuchsia Society Blue Riband - Graham Buck
Kieron James Toys Shield - Florence Fearne-Hughes

Best in Show

Vegetable - Richard Hilson
Pot Plant - Graham Buck
Cookery - Margaret Wells
Handicraft - Clare Wilson
Trug - Andrew Harding

Deborah Novotny, confirmed that the numbers of exhibits were down at the Summer Show but we have since discovered that many of our regular exhibitors were away. Hopefully, there will be an increase in the entries in the cookery, handicraft and junior classes at the **Autumn Show** and I hope that the recent excellent weather will result in an increase in the flowers and vegetable exhibits.

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