

LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Newsletter - Spring 2017

Editorial - Arguably, Spring arrives in March and the glorious display of colour at our Spring Shows each year (this year, on 1 April) is always a welcome sight and reminds me that summer will soon be here. You will appreciate that the success of all our shows depends on those who enter and on the volunteers who help. With this in mind, Michael Elliott has asked if someone would help him for an hour or two at each show in respect of his duties as our Treasurer. Also, Deborah Novotny, our Show Secretary, has requested that I find someone to help her on the Saturday of each show and for a few hours during the days leading up to the show.

As far as I am concerned, the unofficial LHS year started at the 2016 Christmas Social which, as ever, was very enjoyable. This was Alison Elliott's last year of organising this event and I would like to record my thanks to her for all her hard work for its continued success over the years. Alison fully appreciates that all the volunteers who have helped her have greatly contributed to this success and the committee join Alison in recording our thanks to all concerned including those who attend and make this such an enjoyable event. The 2017 Social will be in the safe hands of Debbie Anscombe who has volunteered to take on Alison's role.

The two evening talks we have had this year were enjoyable and very informative. I am sure that the talks for the rest of this year will be just as interesting and the next talk (on 8 March) is on the Revival of an Arts and Crafts Garden at the National Trust's garden at Standen by Sue Greig, more details of which can be found on page 52 in the Show Schedule.

The Christmas Table decoration workshop in December organised by Jenny Samuels was a great success, under the keen eye of local florist, Khee Joon Kenneway when '15 creative women got together and produced some lovely table centre pieces'. Jenny also advised me that the afternoon had a lovely relaxed feeling to it – time to chat, time to be creative and time for a cuppa and a mince pie! The success of this event has encouraged Jenny to organise a Willow Weaving workshop details of which appear on the following pages.

Members should have all received a copy of the 2017 Show Schedule. My thanks to Gill Jones for arranging (with Debbie Anscombe's help) for the preparation and printing of the schedule during my absence in a (much too) hot Australia for most of December and early January with my family.

Please get in touch with me if you have not received a Show Schedule and I would be very interested to find out if any LHS member has any comments to make on its contents - Chris Gurr 0144482739 or cjgurr@aol.com. There has already been suggestions that we should simplify the classes for each show for 2018. Personally, I do not like changing something that 'works'. However, one specific suggestion has been made to merge the 'members classes' and the 'open classes'. I am concerned that this could reduce the number of entries in each show although I fully understand that it would 'simplify' matters. Accordingly, I would appreciate the comments of anyone who has something to add to this 'discussion' about the number of classes in each show and/or the annual Show Schedule in general.

Rose Mortenson has, yet again, put together an attractive programme of visits - see over.

For those of you who have access to the internet I would recommend you keep a watch on our web site - www.lindfieldhorts.org - as it is very informative, well laid out and easily accessible for which I would like to record the thanks of the committee for the work of Tim Richardson.

Sponsor a Class

I am appealing to Members to sponsor a Show class in 2017. Putting on a Show is really quite expensive and Members sponsorship makes so much difference to the economics of our Shows. Just one class in one Show would cost £2.00, the same class in all three Shows £6.00 and a specialist class in one Show £5.00 and in all three Show's £15.00. If anyone could help we would be most grateful. You could, just for a bit of fun, sponsor a class and challenge your friends or relations to win it back or you could give it as a present for one of those people who already have everything. Whilst begging can I also ask for the donation of items, that we could use as raffle prizes. Michael Elliott 01444 483039

Vacancies

As mentioned above, we are looking for volunteers to help Michael Elliott and Deborah Novotny for a few hours each year and also a Show Superintendent for 3 Saturdays a year and the evening before each show. This role could be shared. A Vice Chairman and Publicity Officer are also required as is someone who can be available at each event to help with membership enquiries which role can also be shared. These vacancies are not very onerous or time consuming and I would appreciate hearing from anyone who could help - Chris Gurr 01444482739

Willow Weaving event

25th April 2017 - Lindfield Scout Hut, Eastern Road, Lindfield, RH16 2LP

Following the success of the Christmas Table decoration making event last year, the Lindfield Horticultural Society are organising a willow weaving workshop. The workshop will be run by Jackie Sweet, an experienced willow weaver, and participants will create a beautiful obelisk, ready to plant up with summer climbers.

As groups need to be kept to no more than 7 participants, we are running two workshops: 10.00 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 17.00. The cost is £45 for LHS members and £50 for non-members to include tuition and all materials plus refreshments. Please contact Jenny Samuels on 01444 616763 or email jennyalxndr@aol.com for more details.

Sundries Centre

I have just started my first full year of running the Sundries Centre for LHS members in Spring Lane which opened for the first time this year last month and it was good to see that we were kept busy by a steady stream of customers, some of whom I was pleased to meet for the first time. The opening dates are detailed on page 74 of the Show Schedule.

There are a few changes from last year and I anticipate that the items we stock will evolve over the next few months. In the meantime, an up to date price list is attached. I am open to suggestions (Gill Jones - 01444 483040 or sundries@lindfieldhorts.org.uk) - as to what else we could provide and am anxious to provide good quality stock at a competitive price or cannot be purchased elsewhere in our locality. An example of this is the Sinclair compost, which I know is popular among our members as it is of a good quality and appears not to be available for purchase locally.

I appreciate that we need to provide a better service to our members than garden centres although we do not provide tea and cake. Also, all our stock only relates to horticulture unlike garden centres which seem increasingly to stock items which have nothing to do with gardening. What I propose to offer which garden centres seem less able to provide, is enjoyable chats with all our customers about their gardens/allotments and providing/exchanging knowledge of horticulture in general. I also plan to make some of the smaller items of stock available at our society's coffee mornings and its three flower and produce shows each year.

Outings 2017

We have 4 coach outings and 1 local visit planned for this year. Because of the popularity of the outings, only members of the Society may purchase tickets in the first instance. If spaces are available at a later date these will be open to guests and non-members. Application Forms and procedure are available at the end of the newsletter. Do please contact me if you have any queries and I will be happy to help. Rose Mortenson 483229

Thursday 4th May – Pashley Manor and King John's Nursery and Garden

Pashley Manor has a beautiful 11 acre garden with the added bonus of many sculptures and an Art exhibition. We will be visiting during the Tulip Festival when hopefully 30,000 tulips will be in full bloom and the bluebells and wisteria will be at their best. There are historic walled gardens, kitchen gardens and woodland to explore. A café serving homemade lunches and cakes, a gift shop and plant sales are all available.

After lunch we will move on to the nearby King John's Nursery and Garden. This is an 8 acre garden with both formal and wild areas. Most of the plants sold in the nursery are propagated and grown on site. They specialise in unusual varieties and hard to find herbaceous plants but also have bulbs some shrubs and seasonal bedding. There is a café and shop in addition to the nursery and good disabled access.

Fee - £28.50 including coach travel, driver's tip and entrance fee to both sites.

Thursday 22nd June – Hole Park Gardens and Merriments

Hole Park Garden won the Kent Garden of the Year award in 2016. It is a privately owned estate covering 200 acres with a garden of 16 acres. It is particularly renowned for its formal gardens with immaculate lawns, specimen trees and extensive topiary, however there are also a walled garden, pond, meadow and woodland areas to explore. Disabled access is good and there is a picnic area, gift shop and plant stall.

I have booked us tea/coffee and cake on arrival.

At 1.30 we will move on to Merriments Garden. This garden is only small, 4 acres, but really beautiful. There is lovely planting, a walled garden, bog garden, 2 ponds and a silver birch glade. It is one of those gardens that always inspires you to try something new in your own garden. There is also a large nursery and shop.

Both venues have tea rooms and you could chose to have lunch in either site though you are welcome to bring your own picnic. Both also have good disabled access and wheelchairs.

For this trip fees include coach travel, driver's tip, entrance fees at both sites but also morning tea/ coffee and homemade cake on arrival at Hole Park.

Fees £29.75

Tuesday 18th July – Emmetts Garden and Hever Castle

We will start the day with a visit to Emmetts Garden, a National Trust property near Sevenoaks. This is a hillside garden with some steep areas but there is a buggy to take those who prefer not to tackle the climb, from the car park to the beautiful Rose Garden and to the café. There are some lovely woodland walks, some gentle, some more challenging and really wonderful views. There is also a rock garden and wild flower meadow.

We will move on in time for lunch, to Hever Castle famously the home of Anne Boleyn. We will have access to the castle and the wonderful 125 acre gardens. Neil Miller, the Head Gardener, is coming to talk to us in May so hopefully we will have an idea of what there is to see and what we don't want to miss. I know there is a fantastic rose garden, a topiary chess set, a lovely lake with grottos, cascades and fountains, an Italian and a Tudor garden and then there is the Castle...

Fee includes coach travel, driver's tip, entrance fees where necessary to both venues:

Standard Fee £31.50

NT members £24.75

Saturday 12th August – Summer Show at Great Comp Gardens

Great Comp in Sevenoaks is a lovely garden to explore with many unusual plants, follies and woodland pathways. A few of us went last year and it was absolutely beautiful and the café was excellent so I want to give more people a chance to see it. This year they are hosting a Summer Show with specialist nurseries, gardenware suppliers and some artists and crafts people. Add to that Pimms on the lawn and a jazz ensemble it sounds like a lovely summer outing.

Please note that as this is a special event, RHS members cannot get free entry.

Fee for the trip includes coach travel, driver's tip and entrance fee.

Fee - £24.00

Thursday 26th 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 Procedure

1. Application forms can be found at the end of this newsletter. Please complete the specific form and send a separate cheque for each outing
2. I will acknowledge receipt of your application if you are able to include an email address. If this is not possible, I will bring a list to each of the evening talks.
3. Cheques will not be cashed and tickets sent out until it is certain that an outing is viable.
4. Tickets are initially only open to members of Lindfield Horticultural Society (LHS). If you have friends or family who would like to come on one or more of the outings, you are welcome to enclose a note giving me their names and I will put them on a waiting list for spare tickets
5. Tickets will show the departure and approximate return times. Coach pick up point is always the bus stop by the Lindfield Greengrocers.
6. Ticket price covers the coach travel, the driver's tip and entry to the venues. Unless stated nothing else is included.
7. If you have purchased a ticket based on your membership of the National Trust or RHS or any other organisation, you must have your valid membership card with you on the day. If not you may be liable to pay the full entrance fee.
8. Once your tickets have been sent, the booking is fully confirmed. If you then cancel, your fee is non-refundable unless we are able to resell your ticket.

Any problems, queries or comments do please contact me on 01444 483229 or rose.mortenson@gmail.com

RHS Entry.

The Society is an affiliated member of the Royal Horticultural Society and as such receives a number of benefits. One of these benefits is a reduction in the entrance fee of 30%, for two people at any one time, to any of the four RHS gardens. If you are thinking of going to a RHS garden and would like to borrow the card for a day, to take advantage of the reduction please phone me. We have only one card so it will be on a first come basis. Michael Elliott 01444483039

Lindfield Garden Trail

Another date for your diary - Sunday afternoon June 11th 2017 (1.30pm - 5pm)

In 2016 more than 300 people visited the garden at 47 Denmans Lane and over £2200 was raised in aid of St Peter and St James' Hospice.

For 2017 several other gardens have joined in this community event and so far 6 garden owners have agreed to open their gardens during the afternoon of Sunday June 11th 2017. In addition to seeing 6 contrasting gardens, visitors will be able to buy plants, enjoy tea/homemade cake, and seek advice from the gardeners! There will also be demonstrations of composting, beekeeping, and rainwater harvesting. More about the trail can be found at: <http://lindfield-gardens.co.uk/>

We would love to include more gardens, especially small gardens, and we're also looking for volunteers to help on the day, donate plants or cakes and sell tickets in advance. If you would like to help, please contact us at info@lindfield-gardens.co.uk or phone Jim Stockwell on 01444 459363.

