

LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Newsletter - Summer 2017

Editor - Chris Gurr - 01444482739

cjgurr@aol.com

Gardeners' Forum

2 May - tickets go on sale for the **Gardeners' Forum** which takes place on **14 June at the King Edward Hall at 7.45**. Come along and ask Lindfield Horticultural Society's panel of horticultural experts your gardening questions. Heather Martin and Jenny Samuels have organised a fantastic lineup of the following expert panelists, who have a wealth of horticultural experience:-

Jean Griffin, the presenter of BBC Radio Kent's 'Dig It' program

Barry Newman, a member of the Royal Horticultural Society's Fruit, Vegetable and Herb Committee and former Chairman of the National Vegetable Society

Stephen Herrington, Head Gardener at Nymans Gardens

Ed Nugent, Nurseryman and owner of Garden Sage

There will be a sale of plants and gardening items at the end of the evening.

Tickets go on sale from 2 May costing £6.50 for Society Members (tickets for Members' guests can be purchased for £7.50*) to include a glass of wine on arrival. Tickets can be purchased on a 'first come, first served basis' (cash or by cheque in favour of Lindfield Horticultural Society) from Chris Gurr at 30 William Allen Lane, Lindfield, RH16 2SF - 01444 482739 (in case no reply, please provide name, address and phone number) - cjgurr@aol.com or at any of the Society's events listed below prior to any unsold tickets going on sale at SWALK, 66 High Street, Lindfield following posters being displayed in public during the week commencing 15 May. Hopefully, all the tickets will have been sold to members and their guests before then.

Please phone Chris Gurr or email cjgurr@aol.com if you have a query about the purchase of tickets.

The tickets will include a space for anyone who wants to put a question to the panel which should be handed in on arrival and will be chosen at random by Heather and Jenny.

*To encourage more non-members to join the society, potential members who now wish to join will automatically become members for 2017/8 and buy tickets for the Forum for £6.50 instead of £7.50.

4 May - Coach Trip - Pashley Manor and King John's Nursery. Please get in touch with Rose Mortenson - 01444483229 - if you wish to go on this coach trip. Pashley promises to be lovely. Don't worry about the 'early Spring'. They plant a lot of late varieties and they are well practised at timing their displays to ensure they are splendid throughout their tulip festival. This year we will have the added bonus of the bluebells and wisteria which have also started early so will coincide. Our own garden tulips may be but a pleasant memory but they will be wonderful at Pashley. In the afternoon we are going to the less well known King John's Nursery and garden – small but beautiful. They specialise in unusual varieties and hard to find herbaceous plants but also have bulbs some shrubs and seasonal bedding.

Both sites have lovely cafes but you are also welcome to bring a picnic. The cost for the outing including coach travel, drivers tip and entrance to both sites is £28.50 per person. There are spaces left on this trip and other trips detailed in the Spring Newsletter, so book soon. Forms can be downloaded from the website or came with your Spring Newsletter or you can phone Rose.

7 May - Sundries Centre - we plan to open as usual - 9.30 to 11am despite the road works in Lindfield. We're making record sales of Growmore at the Sundries Centre so whatever you're all growing it should be well fertilised. At the time of writing, we're fully stocked with everything on our list.

My Fatsia Japonica is looking very sorry for itself having been well and truly caught by the frost. I hope you don't have similar problems but you should always learn from experience and I'm thinking of stocking fleece by the metre for next year. Let me know if you think that's a good idea or not. It never fails to amaze me how often suppliers make changes and the RHS (no less) are now supplying potting grit that looks very much to me like pea shingle. We've sourced some more of the 'real' stuff so you have a choice. *Gill Jones - sundries@lindfieldhorts.org.uk*

10 May - Evening Talk - at KEH entitled **Secrets of Hever Castle by Ned Miller** who has been head gardener at the castle for some years and his talk will give a behind the scenes look at the Castle and Gardens from the beginning through the Astor period to the current date.

13 May - Coffee Morning and Plant Sale - KEH @ 10am. It will be good to see many of you at what I consider to be one of the regular excellent social events in Lindfield 'over' a nice cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit or two.

20 May - Sundries Centre - 9.30 to 11am

3 June - Village day This year's Village day is on 3 June and Pat Whetstone is collecting names of volunteers to help (and have a good time) on the LHS stall. Please phone Pat on 01444 483236 or Email her on whet25@btinternet.com if you are free for an hour or so to help on the stall.

14 June - Gardeners' Forum - see details on Page one of this Newsletter.

22 June - coach trip to Hole Park Garden 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.

At 1.30 we will move on to Merriments Garden. This garden is small, 4 acres, but really beautiful. There is lovely planting, a walled garden, bog garden, two 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.

Forms can be downloaded from the website or came with your Spring Newsletter or you can phone Rose on 01444483229. Fees £29.75 to include coach travel, driver's tip, entrance fees at both sites but also morning tea/coffee and homemade cake on arrival at Hole Park.

2018 Show Schedule. In the Spring Newsletter, I wrote:- '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.'

I have again received a suggestion that we should merge the 'members' classes' and the 'open classes', at least for the 2018 Schedule. I would like to start organising the 2018 Show Schedule sometime in August and would appreciate hearing from you before then if you have any comments to make to me, Chris Gurr - 01444482739 - cjgurr@aol.com - 30 William Allen Lane, Lindfield, RH16 2SF . When this was first suggested to me last year, (but too late to consider for the 2017 Schedule) I had thought about having a get together with 'interested members' in early 2017, but I would initially prefer to receive any comments which I'll then circulate sometime in June/July (without mentioning names) to every member from whom I have received comment

Editorial - Congratulations to all concerned for yet again turning the KEH into a colourful venue on the day of the 2017 Spring Show. The standard of many of the exhibits was so good that the judges appeared to take longer than normal to make their decisions and one judge mentioned that it was so difficult to make a decision as to which was the best of the exhibits concerned. Although I'm no expert, it confirmed my thinking that it was one of the best Spring Shows I've seen. It was also good to see an increase in the number of exhibitors. As usual, the tea and cakes were excellent which always gives a boost to the social element of all our Shows. Also, the plants all but sold out.

The Show's success was also down to the volunteers who worked hard to achieve this. On behalf of our committee, I'd like to thank them all, not forgetting our appreciation (and personally, my wonderment at the skills) of the exhibitors. I'd also like to thank all those who paid their £1 entrance money. A good turn out of visitors always adds to the wonderful social event of our Shows.

The following were the winners of the various cups and certificate:-

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| Richard Hilson | The Daffodil Society Bronze Medal and Certificate |
| | The Fisk Cup |
| Tim Richardson | The Lea Cup |
| | The Jeeves Cup |
| Carolyn Nurse | The George Murrell Cup |
| Janis Black | Daffodil Cup. |
| Clair Wilson | The Evelyn Drew Floral Art Cup |
| Florence Fearn-Hughes | The Keiron James Toys Shield |
| Lauren Dunlop | The Junior Cup |
| Tim Richardson. | Vegetables |
| Maureen Manley | Cookery |
| Andrew Harding | Handicraft |
| Jenny Jeater | Plant Pot |

This was Andrew Harding's first show as the Show Superintendent and I, on behalf the rest of your committee, am very grateful to him for taking on this important role. To help with future shows, we are still looking for a **volunteer to act as assistant to the Show Secretary**, which, I think you will agree, is not very time consuming, based on there being only 3 shows each year.

The talk in March on the Revival of an Arts and Crafts Garden at Standen was fascinating and well supported. April's talk was also well supported and it was fascinating to hear about what goes on at Crosslands Flower Nursery, a successful commercial grower of flowers in this country, with the bonus of being able to purchase a bunch of English grown Alstroemeria at a very reasonable price.

Although Wendy Dumbleton is well on the way to completing a programme of Talks for 2018, she would like to remind members that she is open to suggestions of anyone who would be prepared to give us an interesting Talk which would attract an audience from our membership.

Jenny Samuels's Willow Weaving on 25 April was a huge success and I'm sorry that it was not possible to include all those who applied. However, Jenny hopes to do something similar in 2018.