

**LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Winter 2019 Newsletter**

**2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13th NOVEMBER 2019 AT 7.30pm
AT THE KING EDWARD HALL, LINDFIELD**

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Welcome
2. Approval of the AGM Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th November 2018 (see below)
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report (see below)
5. Treasurer's Report and adoption of the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 30th September 2019 (to be laid round)
6. Election of Chairman
7. Election of Officers: Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Show Superintendent, Show Secretary, Catering Supervisor, Sundries Centre Supervisor, Flower Arranging Steward, Membership Secretary and Publicity Officer.
8. Election of a committee of not more than nine members
9. Re-election of our President David Hobbs for a further period of 3 years.
10. Nominate and elect the Society's Vice-Presidents for a period of 3 years in accordance with rule 6A.
11. Appointment of an Examiner
12. Any other Business

N.B. - Nominations for Chairman, Officers or Membership of the committee should be made on the appropriate form (see below) and must reach the Chairman Pat Whetstone by Wednesday 1st November 2019.



NOMINATION FORM

I propose the appointment of:

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

Signature.....Address.....

I second the proposal - (signature.) - (address.....)
.....)

If appointed I am willing to serve as

signature -

Address

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
14TH NOVEMBER 2018**

Chair Pat Whetstone

Approval of minutes AGM 2017 and no matters arising.

Chairperson's recent report had been well received and as a result of a request for more people to help with shows, three people have volunteered. There are two new members of the committee; Heather Hitchcock and Anne Williamson.

The present officers of the Society were identified and asked to stand when their names were mentioned.

Michael Elliot presented the treasure's report which outlined the following

- 1 The shows have not been that well attended (reasons why to be explored at committee)
- 2 Donations are down,
- 3 Two new laptops have been bought which have impacted on the finances. However, there are still substantial monies in the account nearly £15 000.

The accounts were put forward for acceptance and were proposed and seconded.

Michael Elliot to stand down as the treasurer after fourteen years and twenty years on the committee. His contribution to the Society has been invaluable and he will be missed.

Mr MacNamara gave a short speech on behalf of the committee to thank Michael for all his hard work and presented him with gifts from the Society. Michael gave a short acceptance speech.

The present officers were all standing for re-election (save for the treasurer Michael Elliot).
Proposed and seconded.

AOB

Rose Mortenson was thanked for organising the trips this year which have been a huge success and enjoyed by all. Rose mentioned that there is an orchid festival at Kew in February and said that there was a possibility of organising a trip if enough people were interested.

Joyce Gladwell is retiring as membership secretary and all her hard work was also acknowledged and she will also be missed.

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2019

This will be my last report as Chairman as I am retiring from this job but will carry on as Hon. Secretary, if elected. I have been doing both jobs since the AGM in November 2017. Much as I love the LHS I have found that doing both jobs has been too much.

So we need a new Chairman. There must be someone willing to take this on.

As usual, we have had three great shows this year. Thanks to all the exhibitors for producing the exhibits and to all the officers, committee and volunteers for their help during the shows. Our new Show schedule seems to be working well.

The talks, coffee mornings, outings and Sundries Centre have also been well supported. Thanks once again to all the organisers and volunteer helpers.

Many of you who go on the outings will know that Rose Mortenson and her husband Arthur are moving to be nearer to their son and new grandchildren. A presentation was made to Rose at the autumn show as she was not sure if she would still be here at the AGM. Rose has been organising the outings for many years and we would like to say a big thank you to her for all the hard work she has put into this.

We are losing two of our committee members this year. Susan Barrett has been a committee member for a number of years and is our Minutes Secretary. A couple of years ago we were looking for a Publicity Organiser and Susan talked her husband David into taking on the job. Unfortunately because of work commitments they are retiring from the committee. I would like to thank them both for all the hard work they have put in over the years.

Subject to being confirmed at the AGM, Deborah Novotny is taking over as Minutes Secretary, Debbie Anscombe is taking over Publicity, Clare Wilson will become Show Secretary, Tim Richardson is joining us as Assistant Show Secretary, Heather Hitchcock will be organising the Outings and Anne Williamson is to be Catering Supervisor.

I would like to thank all our hard working Officers and Committee for all they do. Those who are staying in their posts and those who are moving round. They are a great group.

WE WOULD LIKE MORE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PLEASE!!

Another "stalwart" member of the society who is retiring this year is Nita McNamara. Nita has been taking the entrance money for all the events in the KEH for more years than anyone can remember – certainly well before my time. Thank you Nita for all your hard work. I know we will still be seeing you at the events but Chris Gurr, who is taking over from Nita, doesn't quite have the same smiling face! For those of you who use the Sundries Centre may be aware that Mike Amor is retiring after many years of helping members loading their cars with their purchases and I would also like to thank him for all his hard work. I am looking for a volunteer to replace Mike or volunteers to help out from time to time during the 90 minutes the Sundries Centre is open on 16/17 Saturday or Sunday mornings each year.

I would like to finish my "thankyous" by also thanking the "unsung heroes" who are on my list of members who help at shows etc. as and when they can. Also, many thanks to Michael Elliott for completing the year end accounts as we still do not have a Treasurer and I have included an item in this Newsletter from Michael about the role he is now carrying out for the Society.

Pat Whetstone
Chairman Lindfield Horticultural Society
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Email: whet25@btinternet.com

Reminders for your diaries

26 October - Sundries Centre is open for the last time this year

13 November - AGM, followed by a talk entitled Nymans by their Head Gardener, Joe Whelan.

6 December - Christmas Social (please see Autumn Newsletter for details or phone Pat Whetstone 483236)

Events in early 2020 (See 2020 Show Schedule and Programme due in January for further details)

8 January - Talk by Andrew Harding* entitled 'The Perils of Gardening'

1 February - Coffee morning, plant sale and Seed Swap (see item below)

12 February - Talk by Ray Abraham entitled 'Leonardslee Gardens', where he is the Head Gardener.

11 March - Talk by Dr Brian Doggett** entitled 'Trees at Worth'

*Andrew Harding - for those new members who do not know Andrew, he's been a member of the LHS for many years and, taking into account his knowledge of gardening and his lovely flower, fruit and veggie exhibits in our Shows, it is anticipated that his talk will be very well attended.

** Dr Brian Doggett was the Head of Science at Worth School for 20 years until September 2015. He was an entertaining and well-respected teacher, famous for burning and blowing things up in his Chemistry lab. Brian is also passionately interested in trees, having taken his first degree in Chemistry and Botany, and in 2016 wrote a booklet about the noteworthy trees on the Worth Estate. He will be speaking on 'The Worth Estate and its trees'. The Worth Estate covers some 500 acres in the Turners Hill area and was formerly a property of Lord Cowdray. The talk will include historical information regarding other nearby estates, such as Wakehurst Place and Borde Hill.

Suttons's and Dobbies's Seeds - 25% off

Unfortunately, the catalogues of Suttons and Dobbies Seeds were late in coming this year, so Members will have missed them at the October Meeting and Coffee Morning.

In each catalogue there is an order form with a discount code, which gives you a 25% discount, with a similar amount going to the Society.

If you would like a catalogue and order form please contact Michael Elliott on 483039. The 2019/20 catalogues of Suttons and Dobbies should now be available at the AGM.

The advantages of purchasing from these companies are obvious in that LHS Members ordering their seeds and plants for themselves or acquaintances through the LHS will receive a 25% discount on Seeds and a 10% discount on other items. It does not matter how much you order eg £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 intend purchasing (or are thinking of purchasing seeds etc.) please consider the Suttons and Dobbies catalogues and make use of the arrangement we have with each company, both of which are award winning suppliers of seeds and plants.

There is usually a postage charge with orders so anyone only wanting a few packets of seeds where the postage outweighs the saving, can send their order to Michael Elliott (23 William Allen Lane, Lindfield RH16 2SE) who will make a collective order and share out the cost of postage. If you would like to receive a catalogue please phone Michael on 483039, leaving your name and address and which catalogue (or both of them) you would like.

The Treasurer (An appeal for help from Michael Elliott)

As Members will be aware, I stepped down as your Treasurer at the 2018 AGM, after more than a dozen years in the job. I gave 18 months notice and now another year has passed, without anyone coming forward to fill the post. During the last 12 months, I have kept the books, produced the Accounts and dealt with online banking - (something that I am still happy to do and continue with). Other Members of the Committee and Helpers have collected monies, paid invoices and made bankings.

However, difficulty arises as I am no longer on the Committee and not part of the decision making process, so I don't know what is actually going on or what the Committee is trying to achieve. Nor am I in a position to offer help or advice, when financial matters are being discussed.

It is obvious that we are going to carry on into the future as we have done in the last year but it would be a great help, if someone could come forward, willing to sit on the Committee, to offer financial help and advice and to liaise with myself from time to time and to keep a watching brief on the accounts themselves.

If you as an individual or as a couple think you could help and would like to discuss the matter, Pat Whetstone and I would love to meet with you.

Michael Elliott

Membership Reminder

It is planned for the 2020 Show Schedule and Programme to be delivered to all paid up members in January. At the same time, reminders are delivered to members who have not renewed their membership before then. To avoid the need to do this, if you haven't yet renewed your membership, please endeavour to make sure you do so before the end of 2019. If this is not possible and if you need to get in touch with Jacqui Essen/Christine Cawley, please email membership@lindfieldhorts.org.uk or write to Jacqui at 18 Brook Lane, Lindfield, RH16 1SG. Membership is still £6 per person and £10 per couple living at the same address, plus 75p for posting your card if you cannot pick it up at a meeting.

LHS Outings/Excursions

Just a line from me to say farewell to Rose Mortenson and wish her and Arthur the very best of luck with their move. Rose has brought us a lot of pleasure over the years with her wonderful excursions. Subject to confirmation at the AGM, I will be taking over from Rose and I appreciate that I have some rather 'impressive boots to fill' in the role of organising our future outings. So far, I have been enjoying the research - there are some lovely places to see out there and I plan to publish full details for 2020 outings/excursions in the next Newsletter.

Kew Orchid Festival 2020

Many of you enjoyed the coach trip to Kew Orchid Festival in February and as a return visit has been requested, I wondered how many of you would be interested in going next year.

The 2020 Festival runs from early February through to early March and celebrates the magnificent biodiversity of Indonesia, the land of 17,000 islands.

Cost Guide:

Entry to the Festival: Free of charge

Garden entry charge: £18.00, or £16.50 for the 'over 60s' - Free of charge for 'Friends of Kew' & 'Friends of Wakehurst'.

Travel: £15 to £20 approx.

Please contact me by email, phone or mobile message to register your interest in this trip at outings.lhs@gmail.com - 01444 453202 / 07971 857182

I would be pleased to hear from you by Friday 15 November: **PLEASE NOTE - For the time being, this is just a survey just to assess viability, therefore your expression of interest is not a commitment to go.**

Heather Hitchcock

Seed swap 2020

A reminder that unused seeds including unused surplus purchased seeds can be included in the seed swap at the coffee morning on 1 February 2020 and our following events at the KEH in early 2020

Autumn Show 2019

The winners of the various trophies (details of which are listed in the 2019 Show Schedule) were:-

Ian Cooper - The Bob Lacey Salver
Tim Richardson - The Massey-Dawson Cup
Richard Hilson - The Helena Hall Cup
Richard Hilson - The Dahlia Members Cup
Richard Hilson - The Huddart Cup
Alison and Michael Elliott - The President's Salver
Michael Figg - The Dahlia Championship Cup
Jenny Purdon - The Penny Cup
Tim Richardson - The Harry Tester Cup
Richard Watson - The LHS Pumpkin Cup
Michael Elliott - The Peter Day Cup
Keiron James Shield - Florence Fearn-Hughes
LHS Junior Shield - Alice Anderson
The Potato Championship for Juniors - Lauren Dunlop

The Best in Show winners

Richard Hilson - Vegetables
Andrew Harding - Fruit
Jeff Essen - Handicraft
Debbie Anscombe - Cookery
Jenny Purdon - Floral Art
Michael Figg - Pot Plant

The Annual Cups/Awards (full details of which also appear in the Annual Schedule) for accumulated results during all the 2019 Shows went to:-

Lorelei Hilson - The Lady Wilkinson Silver Tray,
Jeff Essen - The Morecombe White Cup
Jean Sedgley - The Proctor Cup,
Richard Hilson - The Shepherd Cup
Andrea Fall - The Ron Pickett Trophy,
Florence Fearn-Hughes - The LHS Junior Perpetual Shield
Alice Anderson - The Shepherd Perpetual Shield,
The George Murrell Photographic Cup - Carolyn Nurse

The success of the show was due, as ever, to the wonderful exhibits and to the support of everyone who paid to see the Show, the exhibitors, the volunteers who helped organise and set up the show on Friday evening and on the day of the show and those who helped with the catering.

Chris Gurr (Newsletter Editor) cjgurr@aol.com 01444482739
22 October 2019