

Lindfield Horticultural Society

Early Autumn Newsletter 2020

Greetings fellow members,

We are sending this earlier than usual as your Committee has been forced to make essential decisions affecting you all and it seemed sensible to tell you now.

With Covid 19 still having such an impact on our daily lives it was inevitable that we would have to cancel the KEH bookings for the AGM and the Christmas social. The essential restrictions now understandably having been imposed by KEH before they can accept a booking only confirmed what we already knew. The social has been cancelled, but the AGM has only been postponed until the new year.

The constitution allows for us to call a General Meeting, so when the situation improves (hopefully early in the new year!) we will call an Extraordinary General Meeting instead. We have not booked a date with KEH yet, but will advise you of the date well in advance, and provide all of the relevant AGM papers. However the accounts will still have to be audited to the end of our financial year (30 September) They will be put on our website by the end November if you wish to see them, and full details will be forwarded with the AGM papers, but if any of you are desperate to see them before this hard copies can be made available.

Better news!! With little LHS activity for members to enjoy this year your Committee has unanimously decided to waive subscriptions for the 2020/2021 year. You do not need to do anything. All subscriptions will be automatically renewed until 30 September 2021. We will not issue any new membership cards, so if you want to take advantage of the 10% discount given to our members by Upcountry please keep this year's card. Secretary, Pat will visit them and ensure they will continue to accept LHS 2019/20 cards.

Forever the optimist, Pat has made the usual bookings for next year and encloses a list (usually shown on the membership cards) for your diary, but these may well of course have to be reviewed nearer the time!

Also, can I remind members that you are asked also to keep your 2020 show schedules for next year, as all classes will be the same. The new show dates are on Pat's list.

If you need a replacement, Jacqui Essen has both spare cards and schedules, and Chris Gurr also has a supply of show schedules. Contact details. Jacqui 01444 454816 Chris 01444 482739

We did of course incur some expenses during the year, including for the 4 talks that were held before lock down, so if you wish to make a donation to club funds this will be very welcome. Donations can be made either by cheque, which please send to our Treasurer, Michael Elliot, 23 William Allen Lane, Lindfield, RH16 2SE, or direct to our bank, as follows;

Lindfield Horticultural Society Barclays Bank Sort Code 20-49-76 Account No.00725927. Please quote "donation"

I trust you have enjoyed the excellent "virtual" spring and summer shows that Tim Richardson put on the web-site from photographs sent in by members. If you have not yet seen them, please go to <http://www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk> I promise you it is well worth a visit! Very many thanks, Tim.

Our thanks also to Sue and Jim Stockwell for all of their hard work in organising the front gardens competition. If you have not been already, do try to visit the gardens that have entered the competition. Details on <https://lindfield-gardens.co.uk>. Can I please encourage you to both vote and donate to the charity Jim has indicated to thank all of these households.

As well as Pat's dates for 2021, also in this edition we have news from Michael about the 2021 seed catalogues, plus details from Heather on trips, and Gill's news from the shed. Both of these have been severely, adversely affected this year, and we must thank them both for their continued dedication to the cause in very difficult circumstances. An additional special thanks to Gill for arranging delivery whilst the shed cannot be used due to social distancing.

Finally, If you are still having these newsletters delivered, but you now have an email address please ring Jacqui Essen 01444 454816 and let her have your email details. This will of course also help us cut unnecessary printing costs. Thank you.

That's all from me for now. We will be back again at the end of the year, hopefully with better news for events organised in the new year, but no promises! Restrictions may well still be in place! Meanwhile please stay safe!

Richard Harding, Chairman

Pat's List :-

Calendar of Events 2021

Wed 13 Jan - Talk by Rhod Jones: 'The Gardening Road to Titsey' - 8pm

Sat 6 Feb - Coffee Morning and seed swop - 9.30am

Wed 10 Feb - Talk by Colin McFarlin: 'Recycling' - 8pm

Wed 10 March - Talk by Paola : 'Seeds of Italy' - 8pm

Wed 14 April - Talk by Andy Thomas: 'The Crop Circle Mystery' - 8pm

Sat 10 April - SPRING SHOW - 2pm

Wed 12 May - Talk by Stefan White: 'Skulduggery in the Shrubbery ' - 8pm

Sat 15 May - Coffee Morning - 10am

Sat 10 July - SUMMER SHOW - 2pm

Sat 11 Sept - AUTUMN SHOW - 2pm

Sat 9th Oct - Coffee Morning 10am

Wed 13th Oct - Talk by Andy McIndoe: 'Planting with Trees' - 8pm

Wed 10th Nov - AGM and Talk by Heather Martin: 'Designing Your Garden' - 7.30pm

Friday 3rd Dec - CHRISTMAS SOCIAL - 7pm

Sutton and Dobies Seeds – from Michael Elliot

The Society is continuing its association with Sutton and Dobies Seeds for another year. Suttons and Dobies are two of the leading seed merchants in the Country with over 90% germination rates in national trials.

Members who purchase Suttons and Dobies seeds through the Society will receive a 25% discount on seeds and 10% on all other purchases (Onions, potatoes and plants) At the end of the season the Society will receive commission equal to the discount Members receive. So, by buying Suttons or Dobies seeds you make a saving yourselves and also help the Society's finances.

In October we will be receiving the 2021 catalogues and the discount codes, which can be obtained from Michael Elliott on 01444483039 or via michaelelliott6@googlemail.com. If you would like to reserve a catalogue or be sent the codes, when they become available, do let me know. Ordering online is extremely easy, especially as all the calculations are done for you.

As every little helps, if you wish to order under £10 worth of seeds, just send your order to me, and I will merge the orders and apportion the delivery charges.

OUTINGS UPDATE - AUGUST 2020 – from Heather

Good news! We are proposing to run 2 afternoon outings to local venues to round of this year (all subject to there being no further restrictions imposed on these types of activities by HM Gov).

Monday 7th September - Ham Cottage (Price £5)

Our visit to the lovely gardens at Ham Cottage has been confirmed by our hosts.

(Worth and the pub lunch are withdrawn from the original outing proposed on this date).

Wednesday 14th October – High Beeches Water Gardens (Price £8). Discount cards not accepted.

High Beeches is opening the gardens for us on a non-public opening day in mid-October. We can enjoy ourselves on a spaced out wander among the autumnal hues in the peaceful 8-acre gardens at leisure. The café will be closed. Limited toilet amenities will be available.

Notes:

In view of Covid-19, these outings are obviously undertaken at the Applicants' own risk.

There is limited capacity as we need to keep to manageable numbers for social distancing.

If you are interested in either of the above trips, please complete the Application Forms on the following pages.

FUTURE OUTINGS FOR 2021

Looking into my crystal ball I can see.....

-Tulips and daffodils – (Pashley Manor/Arundel/Penshurst Place/Hever maybe???)

-Beautiful roses and a small boat sailing into the sun – (The Savill Gardens trip rescheduled. Yay!)

-A long journey to a strange land – (RHS Hyde Hall Flower Show, Essex is another possibility)

There will be more to come.....hopefully.

INFORMATION & APPLICATION FORM – HAM COTTAGE - Mon 7 Sept (afternoon)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- You MUST NOT take part on this outing if you display any symptoms of Covid-19, however mild, within a 10-day period prior to the date this outing. For the avoidance of doubt, this is from 27 August on.
- You agree to notify the Outings Organiser if you display any symptoms of Covid-19 during a 10-day period following this outing. You should obviously arrange to be tested in accordance with governmental requirements. You should also advise the Outings Organiser of the result of the test.
- You agree to provide full contact details for each applicant on the application section below to facilitate track and trace.
- You agree to observe government guidelines in respect of social distancing and PPE wear when taking part on this outing.

DETAILS OF THE OUTING:

- This an afternoon, self-drive outing visit to Ham Cottage, Hammingden Lane, Lindfield, to spend some time admiring Andrea and Peter’s lovely garden and to have a long awaited chat with old friends, a socially distanced one of course, over a cup of tea/coffee and a slice of home-made cake.
- Plenty of parking is available in the field.
- The Ticket Price is £5 (which includes charitable donations). Payment to be made on the day.
- Your application will be acknowledged by email, or phone (as supplied), but no ‘Tickets’ will be issued.

ITINERARY: 2.00pm Meet at Ham Cottage (field car park) | 5.00pm Garden closes

Once completed, please submit this ENTIRE A4 sheet so that your application may be considered. You should retain a copy for your own reference.

APPLICATION - HAM COTTAGE

Applicants’ Names and full contact details (address, telephone, email) are as follows:

Lead Applicant:

1.

Other applicant(s):

2.

3.

4.

I am applying for places @ £5 per person and agree to pay the total cost with a single cheque (in favour of LHS) on the day, or to pay as otherwise agreed.

I agree to comply with the above requirements in respect of Covid-19.

Signature

Please email your completed ‘Information and Application Form’ to: outings.lhs@gmail.com

Alternatively, if you are unable to email, then deliver to Heather Hitchcock, 81 William Allen Lane, RH16 2ST

Contact: Tel. 01444 453202 / 07971 857182

INFORMATION & APPLICATION FORM - HIGH BEECHES, Handcross - Wed 14 Oct (afternoon)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- You MUST NOT take part on this outing if you display any symptoms of Covid-19, however mild, within a 10-day period prior to the date this outing. For the avoidance of doubt, this is from 3 October on.
- You agree to notify the Outings Organiser if you display any symptoms of Covid-19 during a 10-day period following this outing. You should obviously arrange to be tested in accordance with governmental requirements. You should also advise the Outings Organiser of the result of the test.
- You agree to provide full contact details for each applicant to facilitate track and trace on the application section below.
- You agree to observe government guidelines in respect of social distancing and PPE wear when taking part on this outing.

DETAILS OF THE OUTING:

- This is an afternoon, self-drive outing. There is plenty of space in the car park to be able to park sensibly.
- Garden entry is at 1pm and the garden closes at 5pm.
- There will not be a guided tour, so we shall free flow around the gardens at leisure.
- There is an £8 Admission Fee, with no further charges. No discount cards will be accepted as this is a group visit. By submitting your application form, you agree to pay LHS in full on the day, unless you cancel within 2 weeks of the visit and in this event the fee cannot be refunded, unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- Amenities: There are limited toilet facilities (located in the car park). The cafeteria will not be open.
- Picnics are not permitted in the gardens.
- Your application will be acknowledged by email, or phone (as supplied), but no 'Tickets' will be issued.

ITINERARY: 1.00pm Meet at High Beeches | 5.00pm Garden closes

*Once completed, please submit this ENTIRE A4 sheet so that your application may be considered.
You should retain a copy for your own reference.*

APPLICATION - HIGH BEECHES

Applicants' Names and full contact details (address, telephone and email address) are as follows:

Lead Applicant:

1.

Other applicant(s):

2.

3.

4.

I am applying for places @ £8 per person and agree to pay the total cost with a single cheque (in favour of LHS) on the day , or to pay as otherwise agreed.

I agree to comply with the above requirements in respect of Covid-19.

Signature

**Please email your completed 'Information and Application Form' to:
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A View from the Shed by Gill

Did you know that we import more than 70,000 bumblebees to the UK every year, but more to the point do you know why? If you read on, I'll tell you, but in the meantime I hope your gardens have come through the summer heat wave relatively unscarred.

The Sundry Centre won't be open in the foreseeable future because we can't effectively socially distance, but will you miss it? We are taking this opportunity to review how we operate. We have managed to get hold of fresh stocks of the Sinclair Compost as well as some of our more popular lines of stock including:

Sinclair Potting Compost 75ltr £7.80

Sinclair All Purpose Compost 75 ltr £9.50

Maxicrop Original Liquid Seaweed 1ltr £4.80

Maxicrop Original Tomato Seaweed 1ltr £4.80

Potting Grit £5.30

This has been a difficult year and I've really missed seeing you all at our various events, but we must look forwards and hopefully, to an end of the damaging isolation we're all currently enduring.

You are asked elsewhere in the newsletter for donations to the Society. One brilliant way to donate would be to buy some compost! Don't feel shy, I'd be delighted to drop you some off to your house and we have until the end of September to make the turnover look a little healthier. I will be finalising a full stock list in the next few weeks and it will be posted on the website. If you have not received an invoice for any stock yet please send me a reminder. We have a new email address for orders: SundryCentre@gmail.com. You will receive an invoice with payment details that can be paid electronically into the Society's bank account. Alternatively, if you aren't online, call me on 01444 483040 and tell me what you need and I can accept cheques made payable to LHS.

That's the practicalities, now to a popular misconception and those Bumblebees.

One of our members told me recently that they thought our composts were expensive when compared to what they'd bought at the garden centre. I started to explain that ours were professional grade composts and they agreed that the quality was much better. Before we got to the point about value however it became clear that the garden centre were selling 40lt bags and in actual fact per litre, the price was actually on a par. The moral of the tale is to check what you are comparing things to.

And that brings me back to Bumblebees. They are imported commercially because they are the only insects capable of pollinating our tomatoes. English tomatoes hang on to their pollen for dear life and without them we will struggle to pollinate our tomatoes and fruit trees alike. We can hang on to bees by planting 'simple' flowers across the season, feeding any overwintering Queens on water and sugar if you see them crawling about and reducing your use of pesticides.

We can hang on to the Sundry Centre by buying something from it.

If we do not help out there is a danger that neither may survive.