

Greetings fellow LHS members

An introductory note from your Chairman, Richard Harding

A lot of information to impart this time, but let me start with sincere thanks and appreciation to all Committee members involved in both the excellent 75 Anniversary Party, and the very successful Autumn Show. Each one having been organised under very strange and most difficult circumstances. We have received excellent feedback from those who attended either or both events, which certainly proved very positive ways to get the club active again, with members particularly pleased at the opportunity to renew acquaintances.

May I remind you that subscriptions are now due, and you can renew at any of the following events. I would add that according to the club's constitution these are due to be paid before 31 December, so can you please also take this into consideration.

The future events arranged for the remainder of the year are as follows. Masks are not compulsory, but please wear one if you wish.

The coffee morning on **Saturday 9 October** at 10.00am will go ahead as planned, but with a slight difference to the norm. Jacqui and Christine will be there, and if you have not already renewed your subscriptions we would encourage you to take full advantage of this opportunity. As some of you may feel uncomfortable under the current circumstances there will be no charge for entry to allow you to just come in, pay your subs and go if you wish. But if you would like to stay and have a natter to fellow members tea/coffee and biscuits will be available as usual for £1.

I am very pleased to say that for our Talk on **Wednesday 13 October** at 7.30 we have arranged for our local recycling guru, Colin McFarlin, to come along. His topic is always tailored to the interests of his audience, with whom his engagement is excellent, and for us he will concentrate mainly on all things horticultural. It will be very interesting to find out what we can recycle that until now has gone in the black bin!! If you have been to one of Colin's talks before, please come along as this one will again be different. Jacqui/Christine will be there for those wishing to renew their subscriptions.

At 7,30 on **Wednesday 10 November** we have our Annual General Meeting, for which all of the usual papers will be sent out when we have the financial year end accounts. There is no charge to attend the AGM, but again you can renew subscriptions.

After the AGM, if you wish to stay for the talk by our own Heather Martin, we will break for tea/coffee and collect the money for coffee and the talk. Heather's talk will commence at about 8,30. Her subject is "Designing you garden, where to start when starting afresh". Very appropriate in November if you are thinking of having a change in your garden next year.

Note. As they have been only £1 for a few years now, with expenses rising, the cost of our talks will be the subject of a review before the new year. However as we have a few bottles of plonk left from the 75 anniversary do, we thought we would charge a mere £2 for the above talks, (still £3 non members) and include a raffle ticket in that price to win one of these bottles, plus of course there will be other prizes! Extra tickets can be purchased at £1 each.

Now to the only negative. For numerous more obvious reasons given the current circumstances, but more importantly because of the restriction in numbers allowed, we have reluctantly decided to cancel the Christmas social as only about 20% of our membership would have been able to attend!

Finally, next year's list of events listed on your membership card will go ahead unless Covid restrictions return!!

That's my lot for now, but remember that although Gill cannot open the shed during the winter months, LHS members can enjoy a 10% discount from Up Country, which may be particularly attractive with Christmas on the horizon.

Autumn Show Report from Show Secretary, Clare Wilson

Many thanks to all who participated in our successful Autumn show. It was so nice for us all to get back to showing again. Here is a list of the winners;

Dahlia Cup - Richard Hilson
Dahlia Championship Cup - Michael Figg
Presidents Salver - Michael Elliott
Harry Tester Cup - Jacqui Essen
Huddart Cup - Michael Elliott
Massey Dawson Cup - Tim Richardson
Helena Hall Cup - Tim Richardson
Pumpkin Cup - Richard Watson
Peter Day Cup - Debbie Anscombe
Penney Cup - Clare Wilson
RHS Banksian Medal - Tim Richardson
Kieron James toys shield 10 years & under - Sam Kremer,
Kieron James toys shield 11 to 15 years - Florence Fearn Hughes.

Well done all.

We had a good level of entries only slightly down on the 2019 show, the judges were pleased with the quality exhibits in what has been a challenging growing season. It was very nice to welcome new members & new judges.

We will be producing a new schedule for 2022 so there will be new challenges in the cookery, floral art, handicrafts & children's classes.

We will be using the 'advance notice 2021' photographic classes as printed in the old 2020 schedule to give you time to get cameras in action for next year.

Outings Update from Heather Hitchcock

OUR LAST OUTING OF 2021. On Thursday 14th October we are off to see some autumnal hues at **Ramster Gardens, Chiddingfold** and then moving on to have a look around **Guildford Cathedral**.

There is just one seat left on the coach, so act quickly if you would like to be sitting in it. A phone call will secure your place. (Heather Hitchcock - 01444 453 202 / 07971 857 182)

COMING UP IN 2022. I propose to publish details of the outings for 2022 in the Spring Newsletter and although nothing is fixed, I'm planning to see good displays of tulips in **April**, some rhododendrons in **May** and I'm crossing my fingers that we will get to Savill Gardens in **June** and have that Thames boat cruise which has been scuppered for the last two years! In **July** and **August** I'm thinking of visiting another of our local NGS gardens and, all things being well, heading west into Hampshire to visit the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens (or possibly Longstock Water Gardens). Having fallen in love with dahlias this year, I shall also be arranging a trip to see more of these late summer beauties early in **September**. It's too early to know if Waddesdon will be putting on its full Christmas event in 2022, but I will keep it in mind for **November/December**.

Wherever possible on our trips, a nice cup of tea or coffee and some lovely home-baked cake is included in the price of your ticket; at the same time, the sociable chatter around the table in the company of friends comes free.

THIS YEAR. With coach travel restricted, we have still managed to achieve a full programme of outings, drawing from a wealth of wonderful NGS, private and public gardens, all within reasonable driving distance. We were very fortunate with the weather for all of our trips and enjoyed refreshments and cakes included as part of the 'group deal' at most.

Sutton and Dobies Seeds from Michael Elliott

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 2022 catalogues and the discount codes, which can be obtained from Michael Elliott on 01444 483039 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

Moderation in all Things by Gill Jones

What an interesting growing season we've had. I've had an invasion of tiny snails that have been munching my Dahlias and I've got Box Tree Caterpillars. (I knew the Provado Bug killer would come in handy one day and I've given one of the effected plants a good dose of the stuff).It's all a question of getting the right balance really.

To be honest I'm not a real fan of pesticides at all but I'm not exactly an 'organic' grower either. I come from a farming background and I can remember interesting discussions with my father about the use of antibiotics in cattle. His view was that you use them when you need them, not the over-use that bigger scale productions always seem to end up with and in America, they put them in the feed.....

So, I'm a product of the small-scale pragmatist. That sort of describes how I approach gardening and following on from that, how I view the Sundry Centre. Our list of products isn't entirely organic but personally where I can, I prefer natural products, so (for example) I'd choose the seaweed-based feeds as opposed to strictly chemical products but when needs must I'll use what I think suits the requirement best. It's a question of choice.

To everyone that responded to our Peat survey thank you. The overwhelming view of those expressed is that Peat free is the way to go so I've been thinking how best we can support this. Change is always difficult to effect and I've never been a fan of imposing things (where have I heard that recently I wonder?) My personal view is that all the while products are available and members buy them we will continue to service those members wishes; but we will definitely be

stocking more Peat free products going forwards, if that's what you buy, that's what we'll be stocking.

I believe the best way to persuade people away from Peat is to find really good alternatives and then everyone will choose that path. My main issue has been with finding a seed compost alternative but did you know you can germinate seeds entirely using Vermiculite? Contact me for more details, it really does work! And on the general compost front the Melcourt products in particular are really very good indeed.

The Sundry Centre isn't just about one person's vision though, as I said we're here to provide choice and where we can, to be a contact point for advice. We have a huge bank of knowledge within the membership and I'm keen to spread that around. I'm also keen to seek your views on what you want from us. Consider how much you spend on compost, fertilisers, pots etc etc. how much of your custom do we get? What do we have to do to increase YOUR use of the Sundry Centre? Historically we've published opening dates on the membership cards but the pandemic gave us pause for thought and I thought I ought to have a real think about what becomes the new normal to borrow a much used term. Ok I admit it, I've been dithering!

When would you like the Sundry centre to open? Every weekend in May, the first weekend in every month, Bank Holidays? I thought I'd take the chance to reach out to everyone through the newsletter so please let me know what would be helpful to you. I will be putting together some dates and we'll publish them in the Schedule as well as on the website. I think email reminders are useful, but a bit of feedback would also help a great deal.

September is the close of our accounting year and we'll be counting stock on Sunday 26th. If the stars align and you receive this in time if you'd like to pick up anything please email SundryCentre@Gmail.com and we'll allocate you a slot for buying things. Alternatively, if you want anything delivered again just let us know.

A big thanks to everyone that has volunteered to help as well as those of you that have bought things this year. I'm a firm believer that helping out always comes back to you in some way. Even if it's a small order, they all add up and as they say every little helps. And as for those caterpillars, the other box plant is currently attracting a lot of attention from Bluetits. I didn't know that they pollinate Crown Imperials when I planted some last year. Perhaps they've come to say thank you as I've just read that they actually eat the caterpillars.....it's a balance thing.