

Greetings again fellow members. It's good to be back! I know it is some 6 months since our last newsletter, but there has not been anything positive to say. I trust you have been Covid free and are looking forward to some sort of normality in the summer!

Whilst some of the following is again rather negative, let us start on a more encouraging note. We have not yet cancelled the Summer show, as if he can keep to the timetable, the P.M. is promising more freedom from 21 June. We will of course have a better idea when we reach the date for phase 3 on 17 May. If this is delayed our show will be in jeopardy! We will issue our Summer newsletter in good time to advise you of our intentions.

Also, in positive mode, we are including details of the trips Heather has in mind for later this year, Gill's latest news from the shed, and some interesting news from Jim Stockwell and a brief explanation from Michael regarding last year's accounts that are now on our website.

We have of course had to cancel the Spring show, the April and May talks, and the May coffee morning. I am pleased to say however that Tim will again put a "virtual" but casual Spring show on our website. No prizes. We had an excellent array of Spring flowers in 2020, so you are all again invited to send him a photo of anything in the garden that looks good and is spring related or refers to any of the classes in our 2020 show schedule.

Email them to "editors@lindfieldhorts.org.uk" between 20 March and 10 April, but please not a repeat of anything sent last year. The end result can be viewed on our website <http://www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk>.

I am very well aware that not everyone has access to a computer, but it is of course inevitable the emphasis these days is on using the "on-line" technology of the modern era. As well as the above examples, to save printing forms for everyone for every trip that she advertises, Heather is now making use of our website for the booking forms for her outings.

PLEASE NOTE;

We would like to use email only for our newsletters and I know a number of you who had this document delivered are on email but we do not have your details. To help keep printing costs down, and avoid someone having to deliver this to you, can I please ask you to contact Jacqui on membership@lindfieldhorts.org.uk with your email address. Many thanks.

If you do not have a computer, hopefully you may have a friend/neighbour or relative who can access the website for you? But if you do not, we will of course continue to deliver the newsletters, and Chris Gurr on 01444 482 739 has kindly agreed to act as a link and will provide copies of application forms for any trips you decide you want to go on. We are also considering introducing a "buddy system" to help these members, so if you have a computer and would like to volunteer to help a neighbour, please contact Chris and he can put you in touch with someone near you.

Finally, because of the absence of events for over 12 months we are even more pleased that we did waive the subscriptions for this year. We would also like to thank those members who sent a donation in lieu. However, if we can successfully complete a few trips this summer, hold the Autumn show, if not the Summer show, and then be able to enjoy the usual full programme from October onwards, hopefully this will encourage you all to re-join in October.

Look after yourselves. Kind regards. *Richard Harding*

The Society's Accounts ended 30th September 2020

The accounts for the year ending last September, really make quite sad reading, although in fact the year really ended in March with the first lockdown. The full accounts are on our website, with a link on the home page at the bottom of the NEWS section on the front page entitled "Accounts for year ended 2020". There were no Shows in the year nor was there a Village Day, with the latter making a considerable difference to our plant sale income. There have been highlights, one of which is the Sundries Centre, where Gill Jones and her team have worked wonders.

Subscriptions were unfortunately down, but the attendances at our meetings from January onwards were low and with no Spring Show, it was to be expected. Although we are not asking for Members to pay their annual subscription for 2020/21, the Society would be most grateful should Members care to make a donation to the Society's funds.

We did manage to run five of the talk meetings but attendance was poor with the takings on the door and the raffle barely covering the cost of the speakers, something that in the longer terms will have to be addressed.

In the year, the Society made a loss of £183 which was not so 'bad'. However, it will not be the same in the current year with no subscription income and possibly two Shows to fund.

Overall, the Society is still in a strong financial position with a worth of £13500 of which £11400 is in Bank Deposits. *Michael Elliott*

Sundry Centre Update: COMPOST COMPOST COMPOST!

The Sundry Centre is open for business for any member that needs gardening supplies. I am pleased to say we have a good stock at present, and this includes a large number of new bags of our excellent compost.

Please Email SundryCentre@Gmail.com to place an order or call Gill Jones on 01444 483040 if you don't have access to email or have any questions. We are happy to deliver for a small donation to the Society or you can pick your order up from Meadow Lane if you'd prefer.

Our current plan (subject to change as ever) is to start physical openings of the shed from 17th April. We will keep everyone posted via the website so keep an eye open for updates and proposed opening times. The idea will be to have booked visit times so we keep everyone safe. Before then, we're putting together a price list for 2021. This will be posted on the Website in a couple of weeks. We'd also like to hear from you if you have an ideas or requests.

We're also doing some research on the subject of Compost. Have you found any really excellent, good value compost that you'd be happy to recommend? What's the best and worst you've found? Aside from good quality stuff, alternatively dish the dirt (literally). If you've bought something that wasn't very good let us know. I bought some 'value' bags from a nearby Garden Centre before Christmas that was truly AWFUL. Please share your experience and we can pass this on to your fellow members. *Gill Jones*

As an update on the Society's activity during 2020 -

LHS supported the Lindfield Front Garden Festival which attracted a lot of visitors and raised nearly £2,500 for St Peter and St James Hospice.

LHS volunteers worked with staff at Blackthorns Primary School to renovate an outdoor garden area and plant up pots with bulbs and spring flowering plants.

Lindfield Open Gardens - At this stage Sue and I are unsure if or when it will be possible to organise a village garden trail, but we do plan to open our own garden at 47 Denmans Lane for visits, tea and cake and plant sales during the last weekend in May. To comply with Covid regulations numbers will be controlled through selling pre-booked tickets online. *Jim Stockwell*

OUTINGS 2021

The GOV.UK Roadmap out of Lockdown provides that from 17 May (Stage 3) groups of up to 30 people can meet outdoors and that from 21 June (Stage 4) group travel will be permitted. Of course, the goalposts are moveable, being subject to the required targets on infection levels etc. being met.

Much of the information regarding garden opening and event dates, admission fees and coach operators is as yet unknown and consequently we are unable to bring to you a comprehensive Outings Programme for 2021 with this Newsletter. Due to the constraints, the information on future outings will have to be issued piecemeal via email once we are certain they can go ahead. Keep a look out for an ****LHS Outings Update**** in your Inbox. A full package of information on every outing will also be placed on the website, where you can also find an 'Outings Status Table' which provides you with a quick and easy reference as to outings releases and ticket availabilities. So, please check every now and then on www.lindfieldhorts.org.uk to see what's new, just in case any of our emails go to 'SPAM'. We don't want any of you to miss out!!!!

NB If you have no access to the internet yourself, nor a willing family member/friend who can look online for you, please contact Chris Gurr who will be pleased to assist you.

Currently, we are pleased to be able to say that arrangements have been made to visit two wonderful local gardens in May and June. A maximum group size of 30 people applies and, as usual, applications will be considered on a 'first come first served' basis, so don't forget to secure your place if you would like to come along. You will find the detailed descriptions of these visits within this Newsletter.

For now, the simple programme below tells you what we have in mind for the whole of 2021. In the event that group travel proves not possible, we will look to replace coach trips with self-drive visits to local gardens, which might be a golden opportunity to see more of what is on our own doorstep.

ARRANGED OUTINGS:

26th May	OUTING 21A	HOLFORD MANOR GARDENS (details attached)
15th June	OUTING 21B	TOWN PLACE GARDENS (details attached)

POTENTIAL FUTURE OUTINGS:

JUL	TITSEY PLACE, Oxted (coach/self-drive)
AUG	RHS HYDE HALL FLOWER SHOW, Chelmsford (coach outing)
SEP	MERRIMENTS, Hurst Green & BRIGHTLING DOWN FARM (coach/self-drive)
OCT	RAMSTER GARDENS, Godalming (coach outing)
NOV/DEC	WADDESDON MANOR CHRISTMAS EVENT, Aylesbury (coach outing)

Note: The Savill Garden outing will be reprogrammed for June 2022. By then, Covid should be less of a threat and our vulnerable or more cautious members may feel more comfortable in taking part.

Should you have any queries, please contact -

Heather Hitchcock Outings Organiser, Email outings.lhs@gmail.com, Tel 01444 453202, or
Chris Gurr Tel 01444 482739

2021 OUTINGS DESCRIPTIONS

OUTING 21A - HOLFORD MANOR GARDEN, North Chailey

Wednesday 26 May

Garden open for charity 'By Arrangement' with the owner for up to 30 people. This is a self-drive outing.

The Gardens: Situated on the edge of Chailey Common, Holford Manor gives visitors a peaceful garden with an intimate feel. A real plantsman's garden with beds and borders for all seasons. At the time of our visit we hope the unique iris beds will be at their best (subject to the weather, of course). Sit and relax at one of the many seats around the garden and watch the bees working in the wildflower meadow, or the carp in the pond swimming amongst the water lilies.

The 5-acre garden, which surrounds a C16 Manor (not open) has far-reaching views over the ha-ha to open fields with rare breed sheep and geese. Designed and laid out in garden rooms with extensive herbaceous borders, iris beds, ornamental pond, formal parterre rose garden and a lake.

Accessibility: Reasonable. Brick or gravel paths give wheelchair access to most of the garden.

Location: Holford Manor, Holford Manor Lane, North Chailey, BN8 4DU

Directions: Holford Manor Lane, is located on the south side of the A272 before you get to Beggar's Wood Road. We advise you not to turn right at this point due to it being on a bad bend in the road. Instead, we suggest you approach it from the east by using Beggar's Wood Road to turn round. You will then be able to turn into Holford Manor Lane in safety. There is a large car park at the top of the lane from where you can walk down to the Manor. It is also on the No.31 bus route from Gravelly Lane.

Basic Itinerary: 2pm – Meet at Holford Manor.

Duration of visit: Allow 2 to 3 hours.

TICKET PRICE: £12 per person (inclusive of home-made teas).*

OUTING 21B - TOWN PLACE GARDEN, Freshfield

Tuesday 15 June

Garden open for charity 'By Arrangement' with the owner for up to 30 people. This is a self-drive outing.

The Gardens: This is a stunning 3-acre garden with a growing international reputation for the quality of its design, planting and gardening. Set around a C17 Sussex farmhouse (not open), this garden has over 800 roses, which hopefully will be in full bloom at the time of our visit. It also has herbaceous borders, herb garden, topiary inspired by the sculptures of Henry Moore, ornamental grasses, an 800 year old oak, potager and a unique ruined Priory Church and Cloisters in hornbeam.

NOTE: Although refreshments are not being offered at Town Place, the owner has confirmed that you are quite welcome to bring flasks of tea/coffee/other drinks with you which can be enjoyed in the gardens.

Accessibility: Reasonable. There are steps in the garden, but all areas can be viewed from a wheelchair.

Location: Town Place, Kettle's Lane, Freshfield, Sheffield Park, RH17 7NR

Directions: Town Place is located in Kettle's Lane, a 10 minute drive from Lindfield. You will see a 'parking' sign which will direct you into the field car park.

Basic Itinerary: 10.30am - Meet at Town Place.

Duration of visit: Allow 2 to 3 hours.

TICKET PRICE: £8 per person*

Optional Extension: You might like to consider extending your excursion for a light lunch, tea and cake, or a delicious Latchetts ice cream at Heaven Farm, just a 5-minute drive away. This is not obligatory, of course and is to be undertaken at your own cost.

*** If anyone requires to go on either or both of these outings please phone Chris Gurr - 01444482739 - aspp. There are limited spaces and Applications will be dealt with on a 'first come first served basis'**