

Q2 2024

LHS Newsletter

Our Show and AGM

The Spring Show and AGM

Our Spring Show went successfully on the 3rd of April. It was a bit later than usual however the display was still fantastic and we hope you enjoy some images from the show in this newsletter.



The AGM

The AGM followed the show and our Chairman Phil thanked all the Committee members for investing their time throughout the year. He went on to thank individual members - Lynda for her administration of the Society work, Euan for managing the Stores that for most members is the cornerstone of the LHS, alongside his wife Ann, David Leach for his significant contribution to updating the website and more specific

GDPR statement, Stephen for taking over the running of the Spring and Annual Shows, Alan for compiling the newsletters, Mike and Alan for organising our first summer BBQ, that we plan to repeat this year on 23 June, David Wells for all his help with Publicity over many years as he is now retiring from the Committee and Roger Sinclair for regularly updating the membership. Phil also thanked all the members who have helped at The Stores.





Phil said he hoped everyone had enjoyed viewing the exhibits and thanked Pam Edwards, our own RHS judge, for judging the entries.

Phil said he had realised that he had only committed to be Chairman for one year, but he will continue for another year. He was delighted to announce a new Committee member, Laura Norris, who has kindly volunteered to take up the publicity role and thanked her for coming forward. He announced that Lynda wished to retire from the Committee at the AGM in March 2025, and made it clear that he was not prepared to take on any other roles within the Committee. Phil gave notice that he will not continue as Chairman if no replacement can be found for Lynda and wished to stand down as Chairman at the AGM in March 2026. He said that as with the Treasurer role last year the Society needs someone to step forward to understudy the Secretary role in the coming year.

The Gillespie Trophy

Finally, the Gillespie Trophy for the most points in the show was awarded.

The Gillespie Trophy was donated to the Society in 2001 by Lynne Gillespie, when it was first awarded for the 'Best Local Spring Garden' and then annually until 2009. It had been decided at a recent Committee

meeting that this trophy be re-introduced and awarded annually to the competitor who scored the most points overall in the Spring show.

Roly announced that the winner of the Trophy for this year is Valerie Howard, and he presented her with the trophy.

Come to the Summer BBQ!

Our Society's BBQ is coming up on Sunday the 23rd of June from 12:00 until everyone leaves. It's a very relaxed affair, we supply the BBQ cookers, tea and coffee, you bring your own food and any drinks you want. That way you control your own food preferences (and sensitivities) and we don't worry about under or over ordering.

As last year, the BBQ will be next to the overflow car park area opposite the Stores.

Our BBQ



Chairman's Notes



At our last Committee Meeting we said a final 'thank you' to David Wells for his thirteen years of service on the committee and we welcomed Laura Norris who volunteered to join the Committee at the AGM. Laura Norris and Mike Herrity are taking on much of the Publicity work that David has done over many years. Thank you, David, for your contribution to the current success of the Society over so many years.

Thank you also to everyone who is volunteering at The Stores each Sunday. It's great to go there and see more new faces helping out. Please can everyone make sure that you put your name down for at least one Sunday in the year and don't forget the weekends later in the season!

A great thank you also to those who are also taking on the responsibility of opening and closing The Store. We can't expect just one or two people to Open Up and Close Down every Sunday – we need to spread this load more widely please so if you'd like to help, just ask Euan and he'll run you through what's involved.

Also, a huge thank you to all of you who help unload truckloads of compost on Friday mornings starting at 07:15!

More volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Euan to add your name to the list.

Finally, no-one has come forward yet to offer to understudy Lynda's role as Hon. Secretary, so that we can have an orderly transition when Lynda steps down at the AGM next year.

The Society cannot function without an Hon. Secretary, so please will someone with administrative experience or just the interest in learning the role please make contact with Lynda (secretary@leatherheadhortsoc.org.uk) or

Phil (chairman@leatherheadhortsoc.org.uk) to discuss what's involved in this vital role (see 'Situation Vacant' at the end of this newsletter).



Thank you and wishing you all a great growing season!

Phil Smith
Chairman



If you have any gardening updates that you'd like to share, please send them to us at communications@leatherheadhortsoc.org.uk



Garden Updates

I hope that your garden or allotment is now colourful and productive given that last we have had some spring sunshine and warmth.

The climbing yellow mangetout peas that I sowed in toilet roll inners at the end of January ...

...are now a mass of flowers with the first pods set and almost ready for the first picking.



I've also got an excellent set of sweet cherries that I pollinated by hand last month.

I just now need to protect them from the snails and birds.!



The Stores

Stores News

The Store has been very busy since it re-opened on 28 January.

The top 5 bagged items purchase so far in 2024 are:

- CN Organic Stable Compost – 666 bags
- Melcourt Peat Free Compost – 253 bags of which Sylvagrow Peat Free with JI - 178 bags and Sylvagrow Peat Free Multi-Purpose – 75 bags
- Tomato Planters – 226 bags
- Jacks Magic – 221 bags
- Sinclair All Purpose Growing Media (“SHL”) – 159 bags

LAWN TREATMENTS

Recent chemical regulation changes mean LHS is not able to supply Lawn Products, which are licenced for Professional Use. These licenced professional products are now only available to Users who have attended an approved training course on the safe use of chemicals. These regulations apply to all grass treatments that are licenced for Professional Use such as:

- ICL Sportsmaster Cleanrun Pro - Weed and Feed and,
- ICL Sportsmaster Renovator Pro – Weed, Feed and Mosskill.

We are still able to supply ICL Sportsmaster Spring and Summer Feed because it is a pure feed and contains no herbicide.

In addition, we are still able to supply lawn treatments such as Vitax All in One (Weed, Feed and Mosskill) which are still sold in Garden Centres and Nurseries.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Please note that the Store will be closed for one day on Sunday August 11.

STORES VOLUNTEERS

We are always looking for more volunteers to help at the Stores on Sunday. A list is pinned on the Store Door so please let the cashier know a date you can help or, take a photo of the list and email Euan with your date(s):
euan.niven@btinternet.com or WhatsApp Euan on 07966 522 534.



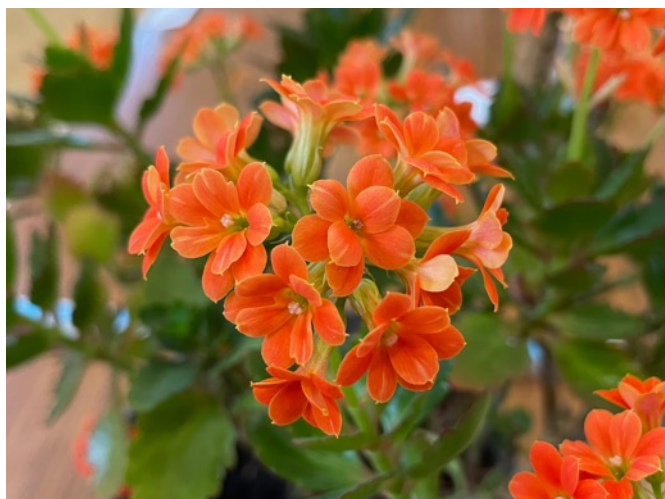
A Freebie

A Free Greenhouse

We have been contacted by someone with the following message

"I have an aluminium greenhouse (10ft x 8ft) which I want to dispose of. I don't want any money for it but it will need dismantling and taken away (I live in Fetcham). Would it be of any interest to one of your members?"

If you are interested, please send a message to communications@leatherheadhortsoc.org.uk and we can put you in touch.



Membership

We continue to see a good number of new members joining us at the store. We would still love to welcome even more so if you have family, friends or neighbours you think might be interested and would like some keenly priced gardening supplies, then please let them know.

It's just £4 for the year and you can save that in just one or two visits to the Store!

If you haven't already renewed your membership this year and received a copy of our 2024 handbook then please come along to the stores any Sunday morning and do so.



Some Extra Benefits...

There is an RHS Garden Entry Discount Card in the Store.

It offers two adults a 50% discount off entry to any RHS Garden (except Flower Shows and Glow Illumination events).

If you would like to borrow the card, please speak to the cashier who will ask you to sign a borrower's form.

Kindly make sure you return it on the following Sunday so someone else can use it.

Finally, don't forget that the RHS and NVS (National Vegetable Society) magazines are available to read or borrow in the Store, so grab them next time you are there.

Websites

Our revamped website has information on the Stores and our upcoming events, past newsletters, a history of your society and a list of committee members. Do visit it yourself but please especially use it to allow any prospective new members to have a look and see what we do. You can go straight there by clicking this link

<https://www.leatherheadhortsoc.org.uk>.

Another website to look over is the Surrey Horticultural Federation, click here: <https://surreyhorticurfederation.org/about-the-shf/>.

Situation Vacant - LHS Hon. Secretary

We need someone with Secretarial / Administrative Experience to volunteer please to join the LHS Committee to understudy the role of Hon. Secretary to be able to take over the role at the AGM in March 2025 when Lynda Tarling steps aside from the position.

The commitment is only for three years, renewable if the post holder wishes to continue, as Lynda did, for a second term.

The key responsibilities are:

1. Preparing the Agenda for Committee Meetings and the AGM in conjunction with the Chairman and President.
2. Taking and producing the minutes of the bi-monthly Committee Meetings and the AGM, agreeing them with the Chairman and circulating them to Committee Members.
3. Archiving the files of the minutes and AGM in the Dropbox and any other files required for archiving.
4. Agreeing the dates for Committee Meetings and booking a room for the meeting at the Leatherhead Institute.
5. Booking the Leatherhead Parish Hall for the Spring Show and AGM and also the Annual Show in September.
6. Coordinating with the Show Secretary to jointly manage the administration relating to the organisation of the Annual Show.
7. Coordinating with the Hon. Treasurer the payment of Affiliation Subscriptions and Renewals.
8. Receiving and forwarding emails for affiliate organisations such as Surrey Horticultural Society.
9. Coordinating the production of the Members Handbook with other Committee Members, ready for printing in December.
10. Coordinating the production of the Membership Cards with the Stores Secretary and Hon. Treasurer.
11. Coordinating with other Committee Members the maintenance of the Society's historical archive.

This is a vital role, **without which the Society cannot function**, so I would be grateful if someone with experience of and/or interest in making this crucial contribution to the continuing success of the Society would please contact either Lynda (secretary@leatherheadhortsoc.org.uk) or me to discuss the role.

Many thanks in anticipation of a positive response!

Phil Smith (chairman@leatherheadhortsoc.org.uk)