



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023

AUTUMN SHOW

A burst of late summer sunshine preceded our Autumn Show on 9 September and once again the Village Hall was filled with a fantastic and colourful display of flowers, fruit and vegetables, along with the domestic and photographic entries. Congratulations to all entrants and particularly the prize and cup winners. A special mention should be made of the enormous winning pumpkin, entered by St Francis Fields, and of Rosemary Husey, the worthy winner of our new Growing in a Welly Boot competition, with a very colourful entry.

Winners of the Annual and Autumn Show Cups are as follows:

The Royal Horticultural Society's **Banksian Medal** to the winner of the most prize money in all of the Horticultural Classes at the Society's two shows in 2023 (to be presented at the AGM) - **Linda & Mike Belton**

The **Christopher Lloyd Achievement Cup** awarded to a newcomer entering any Show this year and who has won a prize – chosen by the Committee on merit - **Clare Barber**.

The Pearson Perpetual Challenge Cup Exhibitor with the most Prize money in the Horticultural Classes.	Mike and Linda Belton
The Trowel Perpetual Challenge Cup Best Horticultural exhibit.	Alison Kirk
The Mary Berkley Memorial Salver Winner of Class 42 (Any other flower)	Karen Ayling
Batehup Perpetual Challenge Bowl Winner of Class 43 (Flower Arranging)	Sue Gunther
Evan Jones Memorial Salver Exhibitor with most prize money in the Vegetable Sections of the Spring, Summer and Autumn Shows combined	Clare Barber
Society's Domestic Perpetual Challenge Cup Exhibitor with most prize money in the Domestic Section of the Spring and Autumn Shows combined.	Rosemary Husey
Sheffield Memorial Cup Best exhibit in the Dahlia Classes	Carole Streeter
Min Reeve Cup Best Fruit Exhibit	Mike and Linda Belton
Wellington Boot	Rosemary Husey

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

This year's AGM and Christmas Social will be held on Friday 8th December 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. As usual we will have an evening which combines business and pleasure with a buffet and drinks after the AGM. If you are attending the AGM and Christmas Social, please ring Rosemary on 01797 253259 or email rosehus@hotmail.com by Monday 13th November so that we have an idea of numbers for catering purposes. Please note we will be asking for £2.00 per person towards the cost of food. Cash only. Thank You.

Nominations for the Committee, Auditor and any proposals to change the Constitution should be made in writing (email) to reach the Honorary Secretary Della Weight no later than Monday 6th November 2023 – see Items 2 and 7-9 of the Agenda. Copies of the current Constitution and last year's AGM minutes are available from Della on request. dellaweight@yahoo.co.uk

Copies of the Minutes of the last AGM will be available at the Meeting, but please bring the Agenda with you.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alison Kirk, who was Show Secretary for 9 years and stepped back from this role at the last AGM is now stepping down from the Committee after 17 years. We thank her for all the hard work and enthusiasm she has put into her role and wish her the very best.

We are delighted to have 2 new Committee Members; Christine Luxton and Sandy Alexander to vote onto the Committee at our AGM. Despite this wonderful new help, we still need to recruit a few more onto the Committee. Many hands make light work! Also, with new blood comes new ideas. We urge you to consider your strengths that could be put to use in our local Society. Give Carol Knowles a ring for more information 01797 252134.

PLANT SALE

We raised over £1,954 this year! A huge thanks goes to Great Dixter for their contributions and time, and to the Members who supplied us with amazing plants. Please consider growing, dividing and propagating plants for 2024's sale.

SUMMER SOCIAL

Well over 60 members attended Great Dixter in June for our Social Evening. The weather was amazing; wine and delicious canapes were served out on the front lawn. Members strolled around the beautiful gardens afterwards. As ever we are indebted to Great Dixter for hosting us and to Rosemary for the delicious canapes.

COACH TRIP TO SUSSEX PRAIRIES AND BORDE HILL

We were met at the car park to Sussex Prairies by one of the founders of the garden, Pauline McBride, with the instruction to stay close or risk getting lost as she led us out of the fringing woodland and along one of the many narrow paths through the head-high flowering grasses and flowers. There were several expressions of awe at the colour and variety of the dramatic scale with its broad walkways between and narrow sinuous paths through plants tall enough to conceal one. We had come at its best season.

Arriving well ahead of the general public we sat in the warm sunshine with some obligatory coffee and cake to be treated to a very amusing and theatrically delivered talk by Pauline about how she and her husband had established the garden from scratch with thousands of plants propagated and how they manage the 8-acre display of large drifts of often tall grasses, rudbeckias, asters and many other flowers. Dense planting and heavy mulching control unwanted invaders, i.e., weeds, but there remains the task of clearing one year's growth ready for the next. One phrase from the talk sticks in the mind; "no fanning around with secateurs!" - they set fire to it! Mindful of the neighbours, they wait for the right conditions in late winter and whoosh, it's ready for mulching.

If anything, our time went too quickly and with a quick visit to plant sales we were off to Borde Hill.

What a contrast. On hilly ground near Haywards Heath this is an historic estate with links back to Tudor times and with long paved paths to explore. With much woodland, a huge specimen tulip tree is particularly remembered and occasional views over the Sussex Weald, this was interestingly different to our first visit.

With a history of filling a 51-seater coach for such trips it seemed a pity that so few were able to take advantage of this year's hard work by organiser Linda. It was a very worthwhile day blessed by wonderful sunshine enjoyed by all so huge thanks to Linda. Where to next year?

ADVANCE NOTICE OF CLASSES SPRING SHOW 2024

PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION

*Prints taken at any date, but not previously exhibited, should not exceed 15cm x 21cm (8" x 6") and be mounted on card. Total size, including card, **must not** exceed 20cm x 25cm (10" x 8"). Photos may be home printed.*

(Photographs showing places should state location)

41. Spring flowers e.g., snowdrops, daffodils, primroses, hellebores etc.
42. "Table setting" e.g., Christmas, Birthday, Wedding etc.
43. "A Fashion Shoot" can include clothing, shoes and accessories.
44. Winter Weather.
45. Your favourite photograph - JUDGED BY PUBLIC VOTING.

HANDICRAFT SECTION

All exhibits open to Adults and Children (children please state age).

38. A picture, any medium, including collage, pencil etc., *(to be hung)*.
39. A painted wooden spoon or rock.
40. Any other craft not named in this Section e.g., pottery/small items of woodwork/metalwork/cushions/embroidery/knitting etc.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF CLASSES AUTUMN SHOW 2024

PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION

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(Photographs showing places should state location)

- 52. An English Country Garden.
- 53. A mode of transport, e.g., car, train, boat, aeroplane etc.
- 54. The interior of a church.
- 55. A photograph of an insect.
- 56. Your favourite photograph - JUDGED BY PUBLIC VOTING.

NEWS – TWO FUN NEW CLASSES



We've added two new classes in the Spring and Autumn Shows just for fun! At the Spring Show we invite you to grow up to 5 bulbs in a Wellington Boot and at the Autumn Show you can exhibit anything grown in a Hat!

We hope you'll join in for a laugh and maybe involve your children/grandkids.



Northiam Horticultural Society

Annual General Meeting to be held at 7.30pm on Friday 8 December 2023
in Northiam Village Hall

AGENDA

1. **Apologies** for Absence
2. **AGM 2022** – minutes available to Members from the Secretary and no matters arising were received.
3. **Audited Accounts and Treasurer's Report** for the Financial Year ended 30th September 2023.
 - a. **Matters arising** from the Report and Accounts
 - b. **Adoption of the Accounts**
4. **Election of Officers and Committee Members** (not more than nine) for the ensuing year as follows:

President	Fergus Garrett
Chair	Carol Knowles
Treasurer	Deborah Moon
Hon Secretary	Della Weight
Membership Secretary	Penny Bone
Show Secretary	Linda Belton
Committee Members	Lewis Boshier Joan Davis Rosemary Husey

Mrs. Alison Kirk has stood down from the Committee.

Mrs. Christine Luxton and Mrs. Sandy Alexander stand for election to the Committee.

The existing Officers and Committee Members offer themselves for re-election.

5. **President's Address**
6. **Presentations for 2023:** Banksian Medal to Linda and Mike Belton.
7. **Subscriptions for the calendar year 2024.** The Committee proposes no changes to the annual subscription for 2024.
8. **Amendments/Addenda to the Society's Constitution.** The Committee proposes no updates to the Constitution.
9. **Election of Hon Auditor for the ensuing year.** The Committee proposes Mrs. Ann Antrobus as Auditor.
10. **Any Other Business**

Please contact the Hon. Secretary, Della Weight at dellaweight@yahoo.co.uk for a copy of the 2022 AGM minutes, or to stand for the Committee, position of Auditor or to propose a change to the Constitution by November 6 2023.