Affiliated to the B.F.S., N.C.S., N.D.S., N.S.P.S., R.H.S. & R.N.R.S.

www.ldga.org.uk

Gleanings from the

Compost Heap

Autumn 2011

NEWS FROM THE SUMMER SHOW

As always, the standard of entries for the Show was very high and the quality of the flowers, vegetables and home produce on display was greatly enjoyed by the attendees. The new venue provides more space which enabled items to be shown at their best and the plant sales proved very popular.

Peter George, a renowned local gardener, again won the Fuchsia Cup and Maureen Hersee was awarded the Newcomers' Trophy. The only disappointment was that there were no exhibits from children. Paul Heydon, who puts in lots of hard work organising this event - and the Autumn Show - would like to thank all those who helped in setting up, clearing and throughout the day

Some of the wonderful floral entries to the 2011 Show are pictured below.

LETCHWORTH FESTIVAL SUCCESS

The LDGA stand at the Festival attracted a great deal of attention and volunteers who manned the stall were kept busy answering questions and encouraging new gardeners.

Many thanks to all members who donated plants for the stall. 185 people took a pot home and pledged to grow and eat the resulting fruit or vegetable. Hopefully, this will mean many more new gardeners will realise growing your own food is relatively easy and the end result tastes a lot better than mass-produced items from supermarkets.

For more information on membership telephone: Jo Schurch on 01462 674195, visit our web site : www.ldga.org.uk. or call in at our trading centre at Flint Road, Letchworth Garden City on Sunday mornings. Check your members' pack or the website for opening times.

The Association also gained a number of new members and the whole event greatly raised the profile of LDGA in the local area.
Congratulations and thanks are due to all those who staffed the stall: Jo Toft; Alan Hazlehurst; Jo Schurch; Kathy Bee; Stephen Carr; John Winder; Josie Lusty; Francis Spurrier; Catherine Antrobus; Andrew Dear; Gina Kempe and Zena Truscott.

The whole event was very enjoyable and, since it is likely to be an annual opportunity to spread the word about LDGA, anyone who would like to help in 2012 will be warmly welcomed. The Festival dates will be publicised at monthly talks and in *Compost Heap* well before the event.

*******AUTUMN EVENTS*******

Wimpole Gardens Past and Present, 15th September.

Philip Whaites, Head Gardener at Wimpole Hall, will talk about the changes that have taken place over the centuries in this old and interesting garden, packed with unusual plants and trees. Highly recommended!

AUTUMN SHOW, 17th September

Free Church Hall,Norton Way South

Your chance to show off your success in growing flowers and vegetables and of turning these into tasty produce. Exhibits should be set up between 8.30 and 11.30 am and **please note that the latest date for receipt of entry forms is 15th September.**

The Show opens at 2 pm and awards and raffle prizes will be distributed at 4.30. If you have any queries about how to set up your exhibit, contact one of the Committee mentioned at the end of the edition and they will link you with someone who can help.

In addition to the usual wonderful displays of flowers, vegetables and produce, Transition Towns will be pressing apples into apple juice. Bring along your windfall apples and some clean empty bottles and take home your own freshly-squeezed apple juice!

Even if you are not exhibiting, please come along to support the Association and to revel in the bounty of Autumn's harvests.

Gardeners' Question Time, 20th October

No, not the BBC version, but a special opportunity to have your gardening worries solved by two local experts, Anne Waring and Jim Yates of Shuttleworth College. Both of them have many years gardening experience in our locality and we are lucky to have been able to book them, so it would be good to have a really high attendance.

If you have a gardening problem, photograph, freeze or dry the item, or bring it along on the night and all will be revealed.

Annual General Meeting, 17th November

This is your chance to have your say about how the Association is run and what you would like us to be doing in the year ahead.

You can also hear about the successes of the Association over the last year, enjoy some refreshments and listen to a fascinating talk. At the time of going to print, the speaker was unconfirmed.

All talks and the AGM start at 7.45 in the Central Methodist Church Hall, Pixmore Way, Letchworth Garden City.

END NOTES

Updating your address

* If you change your email address, or move house, please let Jo Schurch, our Membership Secretary, know as soon as possible, to ensure you don't miss out on news items and editions of *Compost Heap.*

Jo's telephone number is 01462 674195 or email: Jo.schurch@hotmail.co.uk

*** Talks Programme 2012.**

Suggestions for next year's programme are warmly welcomed. If you have a particular topic or speaker you would like to recommend, or place you would like to visit, please contact Thelma Colman on 01462 674696 or Maureen Hersee (see below) as soon as possible.

CONTACTS:

* Maureen Hersee, Chair: 01462 742475 or email: maureenhersee@btinternet.com

* Pamela Manfield, Editor, *Compost Heap*
34 Astwick Road, Stotfold, Hitchin, Herts SG5 4AU,
or e-mail pam@cymru666.plus.com