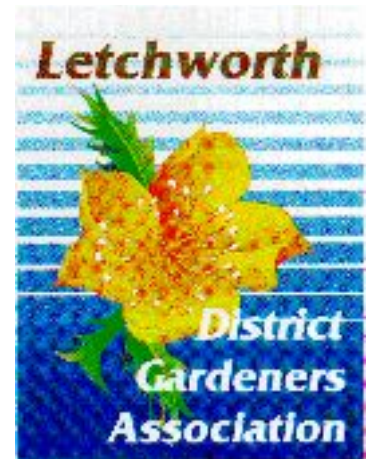


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www.ldga.org.uk

Gleanings from the
Compost Heap

Autumn 2006



Plant sales raise £2000 for the Ernest Gardiner Day Hospital



On Wednesday 16th August, our President, Mr John Hoyland, presented a cheque for £2,000 to the Ernest Gardiner Day Hospital, on behalf of Letchworth and District Gardeners' Association. The Lectures Secretary Laurie Cook has long been a champion of this worthy cause and with the help of his many friends in the association held a series of plant sales throughout the year. Through rain and occasional sunshine, Laurie and his helpers succeeded in raising nearly £1,700.

As many of our older members have benefited from treatment at the Day Hospital, the Committee decided to round this amount up to £2,000. The presentation was made to the Matron, Ms Drury who thanked the Association for the donation and said, "We appreciate all the hard work your members put in throughout the year. Laurie Cook is especially well known to us. We know and

admire his dedication to his gardening and his generosity to charity".

The Ernest Gardiner Day Hospital is run independently of the NHS helping elderly residents of Letchworth back to a independent life following illness.

SUMMER AND AUTUMN SHOW REPORTS:

Paul Heydon

Despite the very hot weather which affected both shows, the standard of the exhibits was still extremely high. How some members get to that standard, I do not know, but they must have long arms from carrying watering cans for months. The Summer Show was disappointing in that we did not have any children entering, nor photographs or floral art. However, my plea was answered because in the Autumn Show we

had excellent entries in all three sections.

Fourteen exhibitors entered the Summer Show (nine fewer than 2005) but we had 28 exhibitors in September, though there were fewer items exhibited - probably due to the difficult growing season.

If you have never entered before, why not make 2007 the year you start? Bring your house plants, flowers, vegetables or baking and try your luck. It's much more fun if you actually have an exhibit and there is lots of good advice to help you. Full details are in the Show Schedules which will come with your membership pack in the New Year.

SUMMER AWARDS

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Fuschia Cup: | Peter George |
| Society Bowl: | John Littlewood |
| Coronation Cup: | John Littlewood |
| Newcomers' Shield: | Rachel Bagenal |
| NSPS Bronze Medal: | Helen Alexander |
| RNRS Bronze Medal: | John Littlewood |

AUTUMN AWARDS

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Dahlia Championship: | Laurie Cook |
| The Association Cup: | Laurie Cook |
| Ladies' Cup: | Joyce Littlewood |
| Mrs GM Ashwell Cup: | Doreen Lewis |
| Dr Macfadyn Cup: | John Littlewood |
| Dent & Cockle Cup: | Carol Lomax |
| Newcomers' Trophy: | K Williams |
| Doug Clarke Cup: | John Littlewood |
| ED Virgin Cup: | Bob Goddard |
| Children's Cup: | Harry Lewis |
| NDS Silver Medal: | Laurie Cook |
| NDS Bronze Medal: | John Thompson |

NOTES FROM THE STORE: Peter Faulkner

The forklift died again at the end of July. Repairs had already cost a lot of money since December and when we saw the latest estimate, it was decided the time had come to replace it. Work at the Store is impossible without a properly functioning forklift, so we now have a "new" (well, eight year old) replacement.

Onions for 2007

Our suppliers informed us that "most onion and shallot crops are currently under water in Holland, so no guarantee can be made of a safe harvest". Because of this they have sourced a supply of high quality English-grown onions and French shallots. To avoid possible shortages, we have ordered the following:

Sturon - white onion
Kamal - red-skinned, heat-treated onion

Mikor - French shallot, russet skin, pink-tinged flesh, rounded shape

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

COMPOST HEAP DISTRIBUTION

For the last five years, Stephen Carr has arranged printing and distribution of your copy of Compost Heap, but he has now decided that the time has come to hand over to someone else.

The Association would like to register our very grateful thanks to Stephen for his contribution over the years, helped greatly by the excellent relationship he has built up with the volunteers who make the deliveries across the area.

If you would be prepared to give a few hours, four times a year, to ensure that Compost Heap is printed and distributed to the delivery people, please contact any of the Committee, or come to the AGM and volunteer.

MEMBERSHIP COLLECTION

Whilst the committee works very hard to keep the association running smoothly, sometimes there are just not enough hours in the day to do everything.

This year we need new collectors in several areas. If you think you can help, by giving a few hours just after Christmas in order to help collect annual subscriptions, please call Kathy Bee on 01462 672134 or e-mail on beekathy@aol.com.

PUBLICITY

We need to ensure the continued success of the Association and that means ensuring that the general public in our area know we exist and the interesting things which we are involved in. We need someone to contact local press and local communities with information.

If you have experience in publicity or marketing, or are just interested in the idea of getting involved in this part of the Association's activities, contact one of the Committee or come to the AGM.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY **LDGA Annual General Meeting**

7.30 pm, November 16th in the Guide Headquarters, 247a Icknield Way, Letchworth

Please try to attend if at all possible, as this is your chance to influence the way the LDGA is run. It is particularly important that you attend this year if you are interested in future changes affecting the allotments at Runalow.

For more information on membership telephone: Kathy Bee on 01462 672134, visit our web site : www.ldga.org.uk. or call in at our trading centre at Flint Road, Letchworth Garden City between 09.30 and 12 noon on a Sunday morning.