

Q4 2024

LHS Newsletter

Our Annual Show

Annual Show Success

The Annual Show in September was another successful one with a wide variety of entries. We were a little down on the number of entries but considering the less-than-ideal summer and even a slight frost just before the show, the standard was high.

If you haven't entered previously, please do give it a go. It does require a little planning but it will give your growing season a focus and it's great fun to see how well you can do. On top of that entries are free and you can even win a few pounds! All the classes that can be entered will be in your Handbook, which we are already preparing for 2025.

Thank you to everyone who helped, there's setup, clear up, entering, judging, scoring, coffee, tea, cakes & scones, raffle, shop, trophies and presentations, and thank you all for attending and admiring!



Chairman's Notes

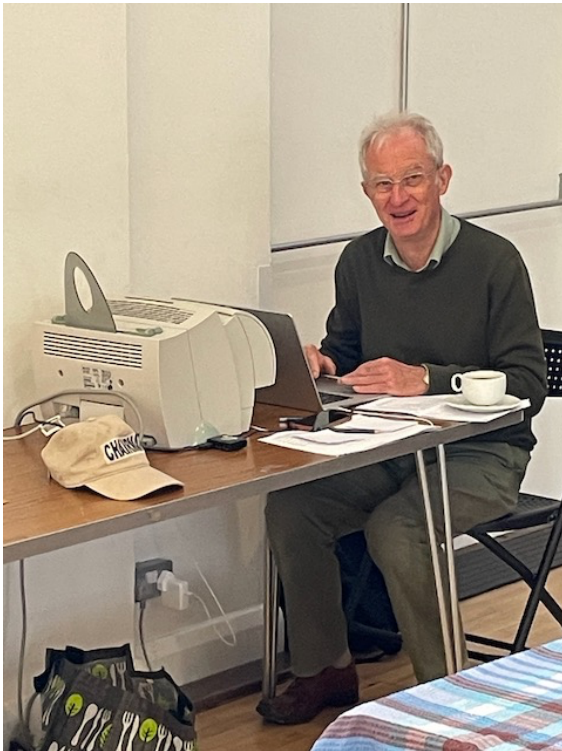
Welcome to your last Newsletter of 2024 and thank you, as always, to Alan Bulley for producing it.



The Headline News for this issue is that Carol Webster has kindly agreed to take on the role of Hon. Secretary when Lynda Tarling steps down at the AGM in 2025. I am sure that you will all want to join me in thanking Carol for being prepared to take on this vital role to ensure the continuation of the Society

Thank you also to every one of you who has supported the operation of The Store each Sunday during the year. A huge amount of work is needed to both replenish the stock each week and to support the sales and membership renewals on Sunday mornings.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed and particularly those who regularly volunteer – it really is appreciated.



Thanks as well to Pam Edwards and all who support and purchase the Charity Plant Sales at The Store. This year's sales of £2,100 were a record and four local charities will benefit as a result of all the effort involved in growing and selling those plants as well as donated garden items.

The Store will re-open on Sunday 2nd February.

When it does, please add your name to the list of volunteers on your first visit!

At the Annual Show in September I followed my own advice to everyone to support the Annual Show by scouring their garden or allotment for crops and flowers to enter. Little did I realise that this would actually lead to me winning not only the Warren Shield for anyone who had never won a cup before, but five other trophies for my Vegetables, Fruit and Flowers including the Woodcote Cup for the most points in all the horticultural classes!

Next year it could be you if you support the Annual Show by looking at all the classes that are available to enter.





I hope you had a successful gardening year and maybe still have more crops to enjoy over the winter. We've still got Winter Lettuce, Chicory and Perpetual Spinach sheltering under the Enviromesh that is available at The Store as well as Leeks, Carrots, Parsnips, Curly Kale Cavolo Nero still standing to enjoy. The Enviromesh keeps the birds off but it doesn't stop the pesky little snails and slugs from evading my defences of crushed eggshells and 'Sluggone' (also available from the Store)! So I'm trying another approach of putting Winter Tree Grease round the stems to stop

them climbing up and it seems to be working!

The Committee have decided to move the date of the Annual General Meeting and Spring Show to a Saturday afternoon (and not a dark Wednesday evening) so that more people can come.

Please reserve the afternoon of **Saturday 5th April 2025** in your diary to enter what you can in the Spring Show and to support the AGM.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a **very Happy Christmas and a productive growing New Year** once The Store re-opens on the 2nd of February.

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

Phil Smith
Chairman



The Store

Thank You!

A big thank you to all our Volunteers, without your help we would not be able to keep the Store open. We look forward to seeing you all in 2025. If you haven't volunteered before we'd be happy to tell you what's involved – just one Sunday morning a year, that's all we ask!



2024 HIGHLIGHTS

A very busy year. Our top seller was Stable Compost; 1,368 bags sold with an estimated weight of 27.4 metric tonnes most of which comes from the 270 horses stabled at Knightsbridge Barracks.

We sold out of superb quality Isle of Wight garlic on the day it arrived so our apologies to those of you who were disappointed. We will order more in 2025. Almost all the spring bulbs were sold and the remaining few have been potted up to sell in the Spring with the proceeds going to LHS Charities.



Mypex

2025 MEMBERSHIP

Still £4 for Family Membership. Please bring your 2024 card with you to exchange for a 2025 Card. We'd find it really helpful if you could bring £4 cash – it's easier for our cashier and treasurer

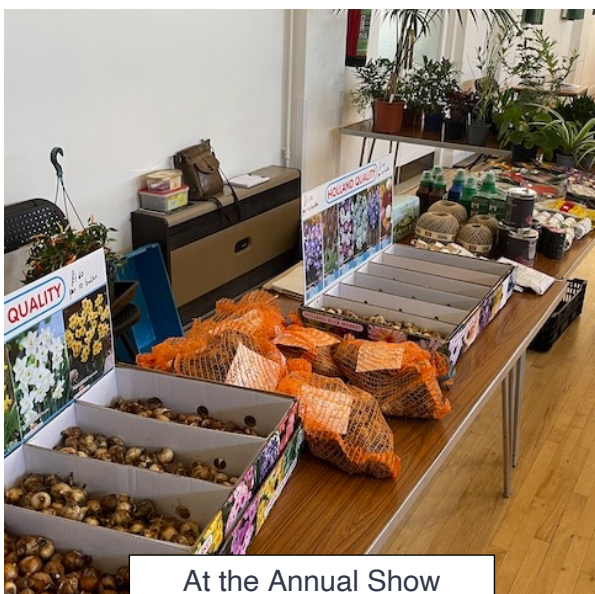
2025 STORE OPENING

We open on Sunday 2 February 2025 and will have:

- 20 Different varieties of Scottish Seed Potatoes – please bring paper/plastic bags with you because we are always short of bags
- “Rumba” Onion Sets and “Yellow Moon” Shallots
- Vegetable Seeds and a small selection of Flower Seeds from Kings Seeds displayed on the hangers at the entrance to the Store
- Wide selection of Gloves including Rigger and plastic/latex coated
- Mypex 2m and or 1m wide, cut to the length you want – excellent for covering a newly dug allotment to suppress any weeds and warm the soil prior to planting.

STORE VOLUNTEERS

We are always looking for more volunteers to help at the Store 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): Once again **Euan's contact details are stores@leatherheadhortsoc.org.uk or Text or WhatsApp to 07966 522 534.**



At the Annual Show

Membership

We are always looking for new members, so please tell your friends and family and, if you work locally, your work colleagues about the benefits of LHS at just £4 per annum.

More good news, we have now found an Independent Examiner that we advertised for last time, following the retirement of our previous one. The Examiner will perform the annual independent review of the reports, books and accounts for the society.



And Finally

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.

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 Store 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 useful website is the **Surrey Horticultural Federation**, here:

<https://surreyhorticurfederation.org/about-the-shf/>.