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Friends' Group Newsletter

Summer 2024

Hello fellow Judges and Friends,

On Friday 28 June we had our Annual Friends Group Outing. This time we visited Coolings Nursery. Unlike most Garden Centres, Cooling's do grow many of the plants they sell on their purpose-built production nursery at Rushmore Hill. In the peak weeks over 50,000 plants enter the production cycle, all requiring careful planning to ensure everything ends up in the correct pot and all are sold at Cooling's.

Each year the nursery is opened for guided tours to see just how all this is done along with an insight into the challenges growers face with environmental issues as well as working with the weather. Highlights include the potting machines, the incredible robotic transplanter, their reservoirs holding millions of litres of rainwater, the hundreds of beneficial insects that are released into the glasshouses to fight pests such as aphids and of course their talented production staff. I am reliably informed that Coolings has had a total of 600 people on last year's tours.

I trust the cream tea went down very well and a good few hours was thoroughly enjoyed by you all. A huge thank you to Ian Hazon who is the Production and Operations Director at Coolings for giving us such a wonderful tour.





I would like us to take a moment to remember our Friends' Group founder, Mr Gordon Denney who very sadly passed away on January 9th, at the age of 95. Gordon was a qualified Accountant and he worked in the Chamberlain's department of the Corporation of London before becoming Deputy Chamberlain in 1979.

Gordon will be remembered for all the wonderful things he did for The London Children's Flower Society over the years and the wonderful legacy he has left us. With the current climate being so very difficult and many charities struggling, I am sure you will all agree that this legacy was very much appreciated, and the Society has been discussing details about a special gardening project to honour Gordon Denney's memory, details of this will be announced in the future. Gordon will be forever remembered by us all.

We do have our annual awards ceremony again this year, which is fast approaching at **The Livery Hall, Guildhall, London, EC2V 7HH on Thursday 14 November 2024**. The presentation of awards this year will be given by Danny Clarke also known as "The Black Gardener". Last year the **Gordon Denney Cup** was awarded to volunteer Lynne Eva for all her hard work over the years visiting schools and judging on our behalf.

If any of you are interested in sponsoring one of our schools' awards, we have several sponsorship packages available starting at £30.00 per year. This sponsorship ensures that we can provide the winning school with a London Children's Flower Society canvas tote bag full of gardening related gifts including an engraved trophy to take back to school to keep.



(November 2023 Attendees / Winners Trophy Ceremonial photograph)

Fundraising

If you know anyone who would like to make a donation to the Society you can do so by following this link below :-

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=45FM5WEQB8NG2

Also, just to let you know that London Children's Flower Society are now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

You can find our easyfundraising page at :-

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/londonchildrensflowersociety>

or use this QR code



If you would like to become a member of the Friends' group or know of anyone that may wish to become a judge, please contact our Administrator Natalie Hedderman at londonchildrensflowersociety@outlook.com or 01689 821288.

As a Member of the Friends Group you receive the following benefits.

- Organised Horticultural Visits
- Invitation to our Friends Group Annual Event
- Regular Newsletters
- Invitation to the Society's Annual Trophy Ceremony at The London Guildhall

Thank you so much!

Phil Webb, Chairman