

How seeds sown in wartime grew into a blooming garden society

THE Sedlescombe Garden Society is still flourishing and in full bloom more than 57 years since the seeds were first sown in 1944.

Back then food rationing was a way of life and seeds and bulbs were only issued through legitimate societies, so the Sedlescombe and District Allotment Association was born.

During the war the group was simply a way for residents to put extra food on the table — growing marrows, potatoes and runner-beans.

But the 1950s and 60s saw a new period of affluence and the Allotment Association become more of a social focal point for the community.

Nowadays none of the members have allotments and hardly any of them grow food at all.

Instead they hold several shows in the Village Hall every year with members exhibiting floral creations plucked from their gardens.

But you don't have to be Alan Titchmarsh or Char-

lie Dimmock to get involved.

The society has more than 100 members from as far afield as Hastings, St Leonards and Broad Oak and they're not all green fingered — many of them don't even have gardens!

Chairman John Kemp, said: "It's a very social thing nowadays and more of a leisure pursuit than a serious, competitive hobby for most of our members.

It's good because it's open to people who just like to dabble in their garden or grow window boxes as well as the serious horticulturists. Everyone can get involved."

The society has regular talks from prominent gardeners as well as open shows in April, July and an autumn show in September.

They also arrange outings throughout the year to beautiful gardens around the country and every two years there is a five-day excursion.

Last year the society went to Cornwall and a trip to the stunning Loire Valley in France is planned



call Bob Harris on 01424 871415.

Pictured: John Kemp, the society chairman. H39590a

for 2002.

There is also a social evening every Christmas, where members can swap

tips and advice as well as catching-up on the village gossip.

Anyone interested in joining is asked to

We are pleased to offer a
SPECTACLE SERVICE



Do you require spectacles, or are you considering changing your existing pair?
 A new frame perhaps, or a change of lenses?
 or
MAYBE PRESCRIPTION SUNGLASSES
 For excellent service and quality at
REALISTIC PRICES
 why not call in and bring your current prescription.
Minimum age 16
 No appointment necessary.
 Open 8.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri
 9.00-12.30pm Saturday

Visit Our Newly Refurbished Showroom
 Designer frames stocked

L.G.OPTICAL (Mfg) Ltd.
 25 Brunel Road, Churchfields Industrial Estate,
 St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN38 9RT
 Telephone (01424) 851878



J.DRYDEN
 LAWNMOWERS SERVICED
 & REPAIRED
 GARDEN TOOLS
 SCISSORS • SHEARS
 FREE COLLECTION
 & DELIVERY



Unit 10
 De La Warr Mews
 Station Road • Bexhill-on-Sea
Tel: 01424 224820 • 07970 687782