



FRENSHAM & DOCKENFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER- 87

June 2013

Dear Hort and Prod Member,

This blisteringly hot Summer is starting to get to me (not). OK that's all I'm going to say about the weather. Talking to other members I know that many of you have had the most spectacular displays of blossom this Spring. I can never decide whether I like the fast and showy azaleas and rhododendrons or the more leisurely clematis and Canterbury bells that seem to have buds or months and then the blossom stay open for many days if not weeks. What a silly question, I know I love them both but I am always sad to see them fade and fall.

Last month's speaker, Brian Deaville, who some members had heard before, described which plants love living in walls. I have lots of walls with drainage pipes in my garden, sadly I will not be filling them with exotic plants as they are generally only six inches from the ground and it would look daft. I do wish builder had crystal balls and could think to themselves that raised beds for ageing people and drainage holes higher up walls are a good idea rather than leave a pile of rubble just below the surface for good drainage!

The next speaker is Paul Patton who will tell us about Bugs and Beasties. I feel I am an expert myself in this area. I have the biggest slugs and the reddest Lily Beetles. I want to know how I can persuade them not to visit because I am not good at murder.

I do hope you can make it on Thursday. I also hope you are making plans for the Autumn Show. There is a short article in the newsletter that will help you not to be awarded the unfortunate – NAS – Not as Schedule.

Happy Gardening and enjoy these gale force winds and inclement weather.

Annette

Upcoming Events with the Hort and Prod

***"Bugs and Beasties"- Paul Patton 8.00 pm,
27th June, Marindin Hall***

***Autumn Flower, Veg and Produce Show
Saturday 7th September***

Seasonal Recipe; Asparagus Frittata

(from Penny Hearn)

This also uses some leek and new potatoes which people might have available now ?

Olive oil

1 Leek

4-6 boiled new potatoes cut into slices or quarters

200g fresh Asparagus spears

3 eggs

50g cheese

Salt and pepper

Put 1 tablespoon of olive oil in a frying pan over a medium heat, add the leek and cook until just softening (do not fry), at this point add the Asparagus and cook for a further 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper add the potatoes.

Whisk the eggs gently and tip into the frying pan over the vegetables and return to the heat. When the egg is starting to set around the edges sprinkle the top with cheese and put under a hot grill until the top is puffy and golden.

Remove from grill and let cool for 5-10 mins. Slice in wedges and serve with salad.

Topical tips (illustrated) from a member who wished to remain anonymous.

Two illustrations... The first shows my solution to eye protection on canes in the greenhouse (and outside) using the cut-off fingers from old gardening gloves that are on their way to the bin. Less likely to get a poke in the eye because they're more visible than a cane end. The photo shows I also use the proprietary protectors, but I sometimes run out, or they don't fit comfortably.



The other shows my new leaf compost containers ready for the autumn. The Hollybush had 3 crates of paving slabs delivered. The hardwood crates were destined for the skip, but came here instead. I shall line them with geotextile to stop the leaves dropping through, and may well extend them upwards till the heap slumps. It's a bit experimental, but needed as the current heaps are too close to a hedge, and being badly invaded by roots.



**Next Meeting; “Bugs and Beasties”- Paul Patton 8.00 pm, 27th June, Marindin Hall.
June Speaker – Paul Patton**



Paul is a freelance consultant, writer and broadcaster who has spent forty years in the growing industry, farming, horticulture and as a plant pathologist. He will be talking about Bugs and Beasties in our gardens.

Frensham Fayre

In days of Yore it used to be that it poured on Dockenfield Day and was sunny for Frensham Fayre. Oh please can we have those days again? However the gale force winds and pouring rain did not seem to put off the crowds. At least our products do no mind standing in the rain and the wind – unlike cakes and bric a brac. Thanks to the usual generous donations of plants from member and a good show of bedding plants and vegetables from Dave Strudwick we put on a good show and had very little left over at the end. Very many thanks to all those who helped on the stand that day.



Autumn Show

Many of you will be starting to think what to enter in to the Autumn Show on the 7th September – Oh yes you are! Following is a little advisory list that will help you not to fall foul of that intimidating – NAS – Not as Schedule. Such a shame when you have worked so hard but our judges have standards.

Colin Spires, vice-chairman of the RHS Fruit Veg and Herb Committee gives the following tips....

- **Talk to the people who are already competing in your local show.** "I've found the amount of free advice you get from people is incredible," said Colin.
- **Grow the easier varieties of fruit, veg or flowers.** "Some varieties are very difficult to grow," said Colin. "It's worth looking at the entries at local and RHS shows and asking which ones are easier to grow when you're starting out."
- **Read the show schedule carefully.** "You'd be amazed at the number of entries that are disqualified because they haven't read the schedule properly."
- **Take your time when you're displaying your entry.** "Don't leave it to the last minute - give yourself plenty of time to stage it properly."
- **Pick the winners.** "Once you've gained confidence, grow the right varieties. Ask fellow exhibitors, look at the labels at shows, and check which varieties are winning the top prizes."
- **And one last thing...** "When you've finished staging your exhibit, take a deep breath, step away for a few minutes, then go back and check what you've done again. Those last details can sometimes make all the difference."

Go on – you know you want to!

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