



Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society *Newsletter December 2014 - 101*

Dear Members,

I was very pleased with the turn out for the Presidents Supper. About 50 Members and guests enjoyed some very good food and wine with friends. Raffle prizes were won and our horticultural awards were presented. The Anniversary Cup was given jointly to George and Molly Puddephat for their support to the Society over many years, and hopefully for many more years to come. The RHS Banksian Medal for the most points gained in horticultural classes from both the Spring and the Autumn shows was won by Suzanne McLean.

Our AGM on February the 26th will be the time to take a good look at the year's activities but now is a good time to be reminded of some of the successes of the year. First was a resurrected coach trip to visit gardens in east Sussex. In recent years this event had declined in popularity but we thought we should give it a final go but with a coach with 3 pick-up points and visits to two gardens close together. This formula seemed to be right and we had to order a larger coach to give room for the 36 horticultural revellers who enjoyed Pashley Manor and Merriments Gardens in full bloom and in glorious weather.

Another success was a new event for the Society; A June Rose Evening. Just the thought of it brings a warm glow on this grey bleak December morning. An informal competition for members to show off their best roses (best scented, best rose bud, most unusual, most romantic and most perfect). The rationale being that our spring and autumn shows are not timed right for roses, and also our DIY evenings (as opposed to speaker meetings) have proved very popular. This one did as well and congratulations to Sheila Aiken for achieving highest votes for roses from her new garden. This event is in the brochure for next year so whatever you put on your roses to make them flourish, do so over the winter.

Two other successes were our Frensham Fayre Plant Stall and Autumn Plant Sale outside the village shop. Both were beneficial in terms of advertising the Society but also in making a real difference to our finances, which together with a small profit from the Presidents Supper means we shall not be proposing an increase in membership fees at the next AGM!

I close the year with thanks to members of the Council and to all Society Members for their support and enthusiasm which means we can improve on what we do, get involved in new activities and without increasing our costs.

Best wishes for the Christmas and New Year holiday and look forward to seeing you at the social evening on January 22nd.

The delicious hot smoked salmon served at The President's Supper was accompanied by mayonnaise and a wonderful green sauce. Several people asked the chef (Suzanne) for the recipe for the green sauce and she has kindly shared the secret of her culinary success for your enjoyment !!

Green Salsa

Serves 6 – 8

1 large bunch mixed soft fresh herbs, such as flat-leaf parsley, basil and mint
1 clove garlic, peeled
2 tablespoon capers, drained
3 cornichons
2-3 anchovy fillets, finely sliced
1 heaped tablespoon French mustard
4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1-2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
sea salt
freshly ground black pepper

Roughly chop the herbs in the centre of a large chopping board. Crush the garlic and add to the herbs with the capers, cornichons and anchovies. Chop and mix to create a fine mixture.

Scrape into a large bowl and add the mustard, extra virgin olive oil and red wine vinegar. Taste and season with salt and pepper. Adjust the flavours adding more oil, vinegar and seasoning until you get it just right.

Social Evening Thursday 22nd January 2015.

A slide show of members' favourite UK garden visits with refreshments of mulled wine and cakes. Yet another new event for the Society! The idea here is that many of us visit gardens throughout the year and we know that many of you take photographs of your visits, some of you very good photographs, so why not share them with friends? If you have say 6-10 good pictures you are willing to show from a garden visit, and perhaps give us some background on them, please let Dan Bosence know, either by email (dwjbosence@btinternet.com) or by phone (792442) and we can discuss the best way to transfer the pictures. Dan will then compile the pictures so they can be shown in sequence and we can all enjoy looking at gardens we may never have visited, or gardens we know but at a different time of the year. If you have pictures from gardens abroad then we would like to see these, it doesn't have to be restricted to the UK.

Please contact Dan during January, or now if you know what pictures you would like to share. During the evening we shall be serving mulled wine and cakes.

2015 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Subscriptions as unanimously agreed at last years AGM - £15.00 per member and £25 per couple, due January 2015.

I/We enclose a cheque for £ made out to *Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society*. It is very helpful and economical if we can send your Newsletters and other information by email and that way you will get all the **pictures in colour!**

Yes- please send to my email address.....
No- Please distribute paper copy to address below
(*delete as appropriate*)

NAME(S) :

ADDRESS.....
.....

TEL.....

EMAIL.....

Please send form to the Membership Secretary, Mr Annette Clayson, 39, Longhope Drive, Farnham, Surrey GU10 4SN (tel. 726618 or 07980 976748), or, bring this form to the January 22nd evening meeting.

Village Walk, Monday 29th December, 2014

We use the Marindin Hall for most of our activities through the year so it is good to have the opportunity to support the Hall in one of its own activities. If you are not busy in the garden on the 29th consider joining in on this walk and visit with refreshments included:

Start; 10.30 Marindin Hall meet-up with hot drink and muffins

Walk via Pierrepont farm (to view milking parlour) and the new Frensham Brewery (Brewing display and beer sampling)

Return to Marindin Hall for soup and hot dogs

Finish by 2-00-2.30

Tickets in advance from the village shop . Adults £5, under 5s free, 5-15 £2.50

A very good day out and thoroughly enjoyed last time it was run (Dan Bosence)

All unattributed articles are by the Editor; Penny Hearn. Items for next Newsletter before the 10th of January please to be sent to Penny Hearn at mary.hearn@ymail.com