

# **FRENSHAM & DOCKENFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER no 129**

June 2018

## **Chairman's letter**

Hello all, This month we have several events! The big one first -

### **70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

We still have a handful of places left for Sunday of 24th June - tickets are available at £25 each from [annette.clayson@twopenny.com](mailto:annette.clayson@twopenny.com) or by telephone on 01252-726618. Here are the final details for the day for those joining us -

#### **Location – Quinnettes**

Quinnettes can be found just off Churt Road, Churt, Farnham GU10 2NU. It is on the left of the road and signposted as you arrive travelling from Frensham, as per the map below.



**Parking** - Please note there is very little parking space available: please park in the surrounding streets – Parkhurst Fields is recommended – and car share if possible. Please contact me (details further below) if you would like a lift.

**The venue** - Records of Quinnettes go back to 1572; the name is said to be derived from an early English word “quinnot”, meaning a small plot of land. Our lunch is in the fine 17th-century barn, seen on the right in this picture.



A Churt resident born in 1915 recalls Parkhurst Farm (Quinnettes) in her childhood. It was a working farm with a muddy pond in the farmyard, where the garden in which we would hope to have our arrival drinks (weather permitting) is located.

The name “Quinnette” was used for a soft drink which this lady and her son manufactured in their premises off Castle Street, Farnham. The Quinnette logo, remembered by older Churt residents, showed three owls known as Quizit, Quoffit and Quenchit.

**Timings** – Please arrive at 12 for 12.30 on the Sunday and collect your welcoming complementary drink to assist chat in the garden. A stall will be set up for you to buy wine for the lunch. After the main course our guest speaker, Graham Gough, will deliver his talk, following which we can purchase plants he has brought from his nursery; and subsequently we will enjoy a celebration cake (pudding!) and teas and coffees. You will be pleased to hear that a raffle will be held with ticket sales throughout.

**Graham Gough** – Graham’s talk is entitled “A Plantsman’s Preference – a pick of the best”. The talk will take us through the best of late summer and autumn flowering plants and grasses. He provides us with this autobiography:

"Aged three and armed with a bucket and spade, Graham’s head gardener potential is revealed in a tattered photo bashing the chalk soil into submission in his parents’ garden. In the intervening years only a performing degree as a singer at The Guildhall school of music interrupted his strong pull to the earth and land and the salient moment for change occurred on an inspiring visit to Sissinghurst Castle, Kent. The die was cast and a very lucky break arose with the offer to work with the great Plantswoman Elizabeth Strangman at her renowned Washfield Nursery. A 16 year ‘apprenticeship’ followed and Graham’s own plantsmanship became finally tuned. With Sissinghurst and Christopher Lloyds garden Great Dixter both close by this was very rich ground for breeding plantsmanship. The break for Graham came in 1998 with the establishment of his own nursery Marchants Hardy Plants, in Laughton, East Sussex [which a number of us visited on a garden outing 2 years ago!]. The original unpropitious clay soil has with years of hard work been converted into a reasonably decent working loam and the results are now there for all to see in the form of a well developed and beautiful garden. The nursery offers over 600 different varieties of plants, many bred on site, and Graham boastfully and tirelessly tells his customers that every single plant is produced on site – a very rare thing these days."

**Plant sales** – Graham will bring with him a selection of his plants we can buy – please bring plastic bags, trays etc. in which to take them away! He will also accept pre-orders if you telephone in the evenings on 01323 811737. His current catalogue is attached separately to this e-mail but may not be totally up to date, so please bear in mind some alternatives you may wish to have up your sleeve for when you call. Please call at least 3 days before the event.

*(if receiving this by post you won't receive his plant list, but you can still phone and ask Graham for plants you want, or call me and I'll check his list for you - editor 792442)*

On top of the above – just turn up and enjoy yourselves!

## **Frensham Fayre on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

Same as usual – see you all there! Anybody free to help out on the stall on the day (1 – 5 p.m.) for any amount of time is very welcome.

## **Rose Evening on Thursday 28th June**

It is impossible tell yet what kind of weather will be the precursor to this year's evening, but let us hope our roses will be at their best. Please remember to bring along individual blooms to be judged in the following categories:

- Best scented rose,
- Best rose bud,
- Most unusual rose,
- Most romantic rose,
- Most perfect rose (one entry per member per category).

We look forward to seeing you all at the Marindin Hall on the evening.

## **Visit to Beth Chatto's Garden in Essex on 27th June**

Rowledge Garden Club have a day trip organised to this famous garden and have some spare seats on the coach for anyone interested:

"Travel is by coach and involves a fairly long ride around the M25 which as you all know can result in variable journey times. So the plan is to leave Rowledge Square at 09:00 a.m. which should, given "normal" traffic conditions, take around two and a half hours. On arrival we will be free to wander and have lunch (not organised) and then join a tour by one of their gardeners at two o'clock. We will depart at four o'clock. Full joining instructions will be available later.

The garden is fully accessible to wheel chair users, but see the web site for further details, <http://rowledgegardeningclub.org.uk/events/beth-chatto-garden-visit/>, particularly noting accessibility including that of the gravel garden. The cost will be £35.00.

Our normal practice is for our interested members to complete a booking form and accompanying cheque that gives me contact details so that I can send out confirmation of final details just before the trip."

As time is now short, anyone interested should contact the organiser Alan Morris as soon as possible on this email: [alan@hunt-morris.org.uk](mailto:alan@hunt-morris.org.uk)."

A busy month!

Caroline Plant (email: [caroline.tonkinxxx@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.tonkinxxx@gmail.com), tel: 01252 793991 or 07900 287361, address: Warrenside, Frensham, Surrey, GU10 4HS)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 24th June - 70th anniversary celebration of the Society (see Caroline's letter, above)

Thursday 28th June – Members' rose evening

Saturday 1st September - Autumn Show – 2.30 pm, Marindin Hall

Thursday 20th September – garden club outing to Oxford Botanic garden

Thursday 27th September – talk by John Negus – Undercover work: growing house, conservatory and green house plants (this may take place in the Church of the Good Shepherd in Dockenfield – please watch out for announcements!)

Saturday 6th October - Autumn plant and produce sale next to the Frensham village shop – 9.30 to 11.00 am

Thursday 25th October - Annual General Meeting and Social evening

Friday 23rd November - The President's Supper at the Marindin Hall – 7.30 for 8.00 pm

Thursday 24th January 2019 - Society Social evening

**All unattributed articles are by the Editor; Alison Bosence. Items for next Newsletter please to be sent by email [albosence@yahoo.com](mailto:albosence@yahoo.com), or by post to Alison Bosence, Jeffreys Cottage, Bealeswood Lane, Dockenfield, GU104HS**

We would love to hear from you!