



**FRENSHAM &
DOCKENFIELD
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
No 157 June 2021**

NEWS

By Sharon Bleach

My daughter Emma and I had a great opportunity this week to visit the new science building - Hilltop, at RHS Wisley, as part of their testing the people flows, signage and capacity planning for the formal opening next week.

It is a fabulous building combining the library, herbarium and laboratory areas into one purpose designed building, surrounded by two new gardens. We both agreed it would be a great place to work and visit again. RHS members can join the library and borrow books too once it is fully up and running.

We hope that this will be one of the places people can visit in combination with the planned guided tour of Wisley on Monday 12th July. More information on this in Caroline's section below.



The Cottage Garden at RHS Wisley

COMING UP: The Council met face to face this month, the first time for more than a year, a huge step forward. We are arranging a number of outings and activities for the coming months. The Autumn Show will go ahead unless the Covid situation prevents it, so do remember this as you grow things over the next few months. Closer dates for your diary for the Society meetings are:

- **Wednesday 23rd June – Garden teas in small groups in members gardens**
- **Monday 12th July – Wisley Garden tour (see more information below)**
- **Saturday 4th September – Autumn Show, Marindin Hall**
- **Thursday 7th October – Talk by Peter Herring on Winkworth Arboretum**
- **October – Tour of Winkworth Arboretum – date to be confirmed**

We are starting to look at what to do for the Autumn and Winter and would like to know what you might like to see and hear about. We aim to prepare several formats of meetings including to continue with a few Zoom Presentations as well as reintroducing face to face

meetings, as we hope that this will allow us to bring in new presenters from further way and enable a greater range of talks.

As such, we would appreciate a response from you to help us prepare the next round of activities for the coming 12-months. The questions are as follows:

1. What topics would you especially like to see and hear about?
2. What presentations have you found most interesting so far or in recent years that we should try to build on? E.g. vegetables, members gardens, a particular presenter or topic?
3. Do you have any suggestions for presentations or presenters from around here or further away that you have heard good things about and we might include in our programme?

Please feel free to email me with your responses, that way we will be able to take your thoughts into account as we plan. Email: bleachsharon@gmail.com

TEA AND GARDEN VISITS: Our first garden and tea visit will be taking place on Wednesday 23rd June. After that we plan to hold a couple more through the summer. I will send out a separate email once we have decided on a date for the next visit and promise to liaise better with the WI to avoid a clash next time!

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST – The Frensham British Legion will be holding a plant and bric-a-brac bring and buy sale, on there on these dates: Friday 25th - Sunday 27th June.

FDHS Council update

by Caroline Plant

FDHS COUNCIL: We would like to have one or two Dockenfield member(s) to join the Council or Committee, since our past Dockenfield Council members have retired, after many years of support to the society. We are keen to make sure that we have both villages well represented in all that we do. Anyone interested in helping us please contact me on caroline.tonkinxxx@gmail.com

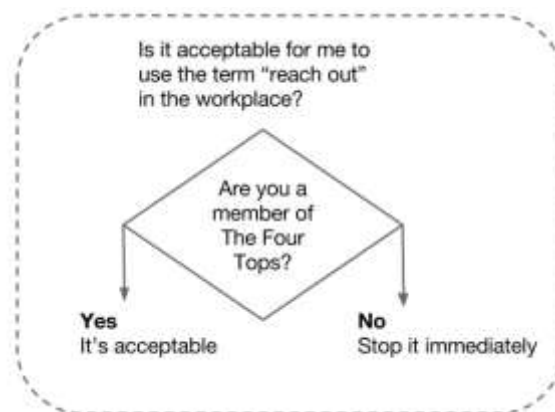
WE ARE SAD TO NOTE THE PASSING OF TWO LONG TIME MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS:

Dot Othen and Malcolm Green have sadly passed away in the last couple of weeks. We will miss them both.

Dot was born, and lived all her life in the area until she died at the age of 94, and described to me once the idyll it was to grow up in the Frensham/Dockenfield/Elstead area all those years ago. She and her husband Bill were keen and accomplished gardeners and heavily involved in the FDHS for literally decades. Bill died some time ago, and I never met him, but I understand he was especially keen on growing vegetables – and the Bill Othen cup awarded for the best dahlia at the Autumn Show was gifted by him. Dot was on the Council for many years in my time and was always to be found helping out with catering and other tasks.

Malcolm and Sue Green of course have been for many years - and Sue remains – deeply involved in the fabric of the area. Malcolm was in effect Mr. Marindin Hall and was very generous with his time, he and Sue often popping out of their house when called on mobile phones to help with some malfunction at short notice in the evenings, as the Show Must Go On. The FDHS were pleased to respond when he reached out to us to plant up the area around the Marindin Hall, as previously there had been grass there, mown at a precipitous angle by another now deceased former member, Laurie Weedon, until Laurie could continue with it no longer. The Frensham Garden Centre kindly provided some £2,000 of plants and chipped bark, and a band of FDHS volunteers dug out the old turf, cleared out brambles and other unwanted shrubby growth round the sides and back, pruned what was worth keeping, and planted up the area. Anton Kleiven has been maintaining the garden since, bringing in some of his own plants to bulk the area out when needed. All this demonstrates why people like being in this area – a sense of community and helping out, which has not had to be fostered by Governmental grants and diktats!

On a lighter note – I hope it is not irreverent to mark my first use of the term “reach out” which has always struck me as piece of American marketing jargon – I think this diagram illustrates my view perfectly:



RHS WISLEY GARDEN OUTING AND GUIDED TOUR - MONDAY 12TH JULY: As a garden society affiliated to the RHS, we are entitled to one visit to an RHS garden at no cost, except for a request for £3 per head as a thank you to the volunteers who act as guides. We have arranged to have a tour which will start at 10.30am and will last approximately 1½ hours. The tour will be a great opportunity to be taken to areas that are looking exceptionally good at that time, as well as provide an opportunity to ask questions to make it a truly informative outing. The plan is, as per the last time, for members to drive in their own cars and offer lifts to other members with whom they feel safe in these times. I suspect most members of the FDHS will have had two Covid vaccinations plus a few weeks’ strengthening of the immune response by then. If you want to be included, please let me know and also indicate whether you would like to drive and car share, or require a lift on the day. We ask members to meet by the entry to the gardens by 10.15 am - I will get the tickets for the group. If you get there earlier, there is a chance to have a tea or coffee or indeed visit the garden centre and gift shop, both of which are now to the right of the entrance - the gift shop in particular has been expanded and is quite impressive. I can be contacted at caroline.tonkinxxx@gmail.com or by telephone on 07900 287361.

You may recall that my article in April's Newsletter advised you that we had negotiated a new member benefit with **Hazelbank Nursery**. Having visited them recently I can confirm that they have a great selection of plants and interestingly their perennials are about half the price of our closer garden centres and that is before your member discount of 10%. All the plants look very healthy, and it is well worth a visit.

I can now announce that we have agreed discounts with **three** further companies. Many of you may know **Harrod Horticultural**, who are well known for their vegetable cages, arbours and Obelisks. We now have a 15% discount on their trade brochure and 10% of tools. Due to the way in which the discount is set up, if you are interested in purchasing from them, please contact me on either the email below or my home number 01252 793591.

We have also agreed a discount with **Gardening Naturally**, they have a graduated discount of 10% of orders over £120, 12.5% on orders over £240 and 15% if the order is over £360.

The last benefit is from **Kings Seeds**, in which we have been able to obtain a discount of 50% on their seed catalogue, this includes individual seed packets and seed potatoes. In order to benefit from this, we initially need to make a bulk order, each year, of at least £200, which will benefit from the 50% discount. Thereafter any individual order will also benefit from the 50% discount.

We will be advising you all, at one of the up and coming members evenings how we intend to organise the initial order and how you can participate.

If you have any questions about these or any of the other member benefits please call me, on the number above or email me on: marketing@fdhs.org.uk

Happy Gardening!

Whilst most of you were suffering from a cold and wet May in Frensham and Dockenfield, Jilly and I escaped to northwestern Scotland. Not usually famed for the best weather in the UK, this May was exceptional with no rain and some long days of bright sunshine. During our tour of the far west coast, we visited Inverewe Gardens owned and maintained by the National Trust for Scotland. One of the UK's most northerly public gardens – on the same latitude as Moscow and Hudson's Bay, the gardens benefit from a surprising micro climate thanks to the Gulf Stream from the southwest and protected from Northerly storms by a 150 year old "shelterbelt" comprising 100 acres of Scots Pines. This allows them to grow unusual and rare plants from around the world including South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.



Our timing was good as the gardens hosts the National collection of Rhododendrons with over 400 varieties and the resulting display was spectacular.

In addition to the beautiful Rhododendron and Azaleas walkways, we were particularly taken with the Trilliums around the sheltered pond gardens and the views up Loch Ewe where the WWII Russian Arctic Convoys were based.

There is a magnificent south facing walled garden which when we were there was in the early stages of preparation for the season, but I am sure will be very attractive later in the year.



If you fancy following the North Coast 500 tourist driving route, we would recommend spending an afternoon at Inverewe, as well as enjoying spectacular scenery and the occasional dram.

INGREDIENTS:

½ kg fresh spinach or ½ bag of frozen spinach
6 sheets of Filo pastry
3-4 eggs
4 ounces/125 g Feta cheese

Salt and pepper
1 onion sliced and fried
Oregano and any other herbs you like
Grated cheese of your choice
Butter to grease the baking tin

METHOD:

1. Cook and drain Spinach.
2. Beat the eggs.
3. Crumble feta and mix all ingredients together in a bowl.
4. Grease a baking tin with the butter and line the tin with the sheets of filo pastry leaving the sides draping over the edge of the tin so that it can be folded over later to cover the filling.
5. Fill the filo lined tin with all the ingredients and then, grate strong cheese over the pie filling.
6. Bring the edges of the filo pastry together on top of the pie.
7. Bake on 190c or gas mark 5 for 45 mins or until golden brown.

Enjoy... Hot or cold!

AND FINALLY....

Items for the next newsletter to Sharon Bleach by 12th July please.

In addition to the three programme of activities questions above, I would still like to hear from you all about the following – especially the cocktail recipe suggestions as I am sure the hot weather will come back:

- Which plants you feel are growing best in your garden so that we can include a recommendation list for other members of things which appreciate the clay in Dockenfield or the sand in Frensham?
- What food and cocktail recipes do you have that you might like to recommend for in season fruits, herbs and/or vegetables?
- What FDHS historic moment do you remember best, or what previous newsletter item might we want to update. We are thinking of doing more on the history of the Society to make sure that it is not lost, so all contributions would be welcome.

I look forward to hearing from you. *Sharon*

All unattributed articles are by the Editor Sharon Bleach.
Items for next Newsletter please to be sent by email bleachsharon@gmail.com