



**FRENSHAM &
DOCKENFIELD
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
No 160 September 2021**

NEWS

By Sharon Bleach



September sunrise through autumn mist Frensham

What a fantastic Autumn Show. A great job in organizing the event by Ruth and Chas and then of course all of the entries from so many of our members. There was a really good write up in the Farnham Herald by Caroline with a lot of pictures taken by Simon Claiden. The judges (who see quite a few shows!) commented on the high standard of entries and how fabulous the Hall looked.

So, looking forward to the Season of Mists and Mellow fruitfulness we have a social event on Thursday 23rd September at the Marindin Hall and then can also look forward to the talk and garden visit in October, followed by the AGM and then the members supper in November.

COMING UP:

Future dates for your diary for the Society activities are:

- **Thursday 23rd September – 7:30pm FDHS social evening FDHS at the Marindin Hall**
- **Thursday 7th October – 7:30pm Peter Herring talk on Winkworth Arboretum, Marindin Hall**
- **Tuesday 12th October (morning) – Tour of Winkworth Arboretum led by Peter Herring (Members to make their own way to Winkworth or to arrange car shares)**
- **Thursday 28th October – FDHS AGM, 7:30pm Marindin Hall**
- **Friday 26th November – Members supper, Marindin Hall**

SAVE up to 50% off your seeds for next year

We advised you in the June newsletter of some new members benefits we had been able to negotiate. The most generous is the scheme offered to us by leading UK seed supplier Kings Seeds.

Each year they will offer our members a discount of **up to** 50% off the standard brochure price of their **individual** seed packets, providing a minimum threshold spend by FDHS members is reached.

There are 2 levels of discount, 35% once FDHS has purchased a total of £150 of seeds. The maximum discount is 50%, once £200 of sales to FDHS members have been achieved.

To try and gain the maximum benefit, we are proposing to place a group order and providing as a group, we order more than the £200 worth of seeds (listed brochure price), all participants will benefit automatically from the 50% discount. This means that a brochure price order of £200 will only cost £100.

Once the first order has been successfully processed, I will then receive a code from Kings Seeds and will send this out to all members in a future newsletter so that members can use it, when ordering direct.

The discount runs from 1st July to 30th June, each year and therefore after the group order has been placed, you can place individual orders up until 30th June 2022, directly with Kings Seeds and irrespective of the amount you order, you will receive the 50% discount, off the brochure price of qualifying seeds.

I have a supply of brochures that will be available at the September Social evening, if you are unable to attend, then please check out their website which is: <https://www.kingsseeds.com/Home>. I may also be able to drop a brochure to you if you contact me direct.

What is included:

- All **individual** packets of seeds, flowers, herbs vegetables (Pages 3- 110 and pages 135-159)
- Seed potatoes are available at the multi pack rate, even if you only buy one packet (i.e. £5.55 rather than £6.05)

What is **NOT** included:

- Seed collections on page 2
- Onion, garlic and shallot sets
- Any seeds listed on the website which are in the sale
- Sundry items

The first order and Packing costs

Because this is a bulk order, Kings seeds will provide an individual packing service for each order at an additional one off cost of £1.30. This amount should be added in the box, entitled INDIVIDUAL PACKING (£1.30 per person).

When completing the order form, please ensure you include the full price of the seeds and full total amount. I will contact you with the amount you need to remit to the society on receipt of the forms

To benefit from this offer, please return your completed order forms to me by email (marketing@fdhs.org.uk) or in the post to 2 Gorse Cottages, Frensham GU10 3AZ by the 15th OCTOBER 2021.

If you have any questions, please contact me on 07894 471000

I know it's some time since RHS (the Royal Horticultural Society) held this year's Garden Festival at Hampton Court Palace, and for this I apologise. There seem to be so many things to do in retirement that I simply run out of time; I don't know how I ever managed to fit in working for my living!

It is not a cheap day out! In addition to the ticket price a Walls' Magnum ice-cream cost £3! Getting there can be a pain too, whether you drive or take the train. However, whilst those are some of the negatives there are plenty of positives. It's a lovely situation near to the Palace and straddling the Long Water (which many visitors seem to think is a river!) with its impressive fountains. There are some spectacular gardens to view, and opportunities to buy plants from specialist growers and lots of trade stands, several food courts, and plenty of toilets(!) too. The site is very spacious (34 acres), unlike Chelsea, so it's not a case of trying to view gardens from 6 or 7 rows back (as I found on my one visit to Chelsea some years ago). I am always impressed with how well-established the show gardens appear. They give the impression that they have 'always been there', whereas in reality they were created in a few weeks before the Show, and probably in many cases finished at the 11th hour! There were some 16 show gardens this year, and my two favourites were:

Message in a Bottle – The Canal & River Trust:



A conceptual garden representing a bottle floating towards a canal towpath or the banks of a river. Within the garden was a stunning combination of beautiful plants. The bottle-shape was made of (rusty) strip steel, and my photograph shows TV's Arit Anderson recording a piece for the evening's TV programme about the Show on BBC2.

Down memory Lane – Blue Diamond Team:

This garden was inspired by the father of Anna, the Blue Diamond team's lead garden designer, who is living with dementia. Being in a garden and gardening are known sources of solace and comfort for people living with dementia and their carers, and the garden was designed to help those people seek calmness as well as providing stimulation of all the senses with a considered selection of sensory planting.





Although not a vegetable-grower myself, I couldn't fail to be impressed with the RHS Allotment Garden, and judging by the number of visitors seen in my photo., many others were impressed too:

There is always a schools' feature, often involving scarecrows, but this year children were asked to design and build their own wildlife habitats – eg. a bug hotel, bird box, hedgehog home, etc., using recycled materials as much as possible. Two that caught my eye were: 'Hedgehog Garden City' by Northfields Infants and Nursery School, and Knaphill Lower School where pupils created 'Operation – Pollination – Activation (A call to action)'.



In addition to the gardens, trade stands, etc., there are several entertainment areas featuring singers and/or small bands; and talks and demonstrations (of flower arranging, for example, not protests!)

My pet hates? Only one really: plastic plant-crates on wheels which are trailed by their owners seemingly with no regard for others.

In conclusion, a visit to the Show makes for a good day out, and if you've not been, I do recommend giving it a try next year when it will take place from 4th to 10th July.

One of our favourite gardens is West Dean, north of Chichester. It's about 45 mins drive, and set on the edge of the South Downs.

The landscape is wonderful, dominated by West Dean house in the middle, with a 'winterbourne' stream running through, around which a garden has been developed beyond the house with interesting shrubs, winter-planted areas particularly good for varieties of Hellebores, shady plants, gravel area, ferns etc, following the stream to the boundary wall of the estate. There are areas of formal borders around the house itself, all shown off by the beautiful flint of the walls.

To the back of the house, the Orangery has more shrubs, paths and informal borders, then a more structured 'pergola walk' takes you through spectacularly trained climbing roses and clematis, to a sunken garden with more formal planting. (I've tried to imitate the way the roses are trained without success, but have seen teams of people pruning these in winter, then re-assembling them twisting around the pillars: a lot of work!)

The highlight of the estate is probably the walled gardens and greenhouses, housing 'cutting beds', cold frames, herbs, and greenhouses full of all sorts according to season: pelargoniums and other tender pot plants in winter, chillies and tomatoes in summer, and permanently housed peaches and other exotic fruits. To top it all, the walled vegetable at the top is one of the best we've seen, surrounded by carefully pruned fruit trees and climbers on the walls.

I've been lucky enough to visit many times through work, so can safely say there is something to see at West Dean all the way through the year, from magnolias through to autumn colour. In March 2020, just before the first lockdown, we were there to see meadows of spring bulbs: tiny daffs, chinodoxia and fritillaries: lovely!

It is also worth noting that the gardens have free entry for RHS members in winter months, and all details on [Opening Times, Prices & Buy Tickets | West Dean Gardens](#)

Helen Lloyd – Although we are beginning to mingle socially again, there is not yet the sort of bush telegraph that allows news to spread easily, so at the risk of this Newsletter becoming a bit of an obituaries column, I report the sad news that Helen Lloyd – a member of the Society for decades and in the Council for many years – has died of cancer at the age of 87.

Her husband of 69 years, Jim, met her at the Wrecclesham tennis club, and asked her to marry him after they had been “walking out” for 2 weeks – her saying yes meant he abandoned his plan to emigrate to Canada to become a Mountie.

She wanted a very small and private cremation, following which her ashes were to be buried with those of one of her sons, who drowned at the age of ten. Helen and Jim moved house after their son died to avoid painful memories, to a new property, built by her husband at Crooksbury; the house was in the middle of a big empty plot, and Helen started gardening to fill it up – and her love of gardening was born. “Gardening became”, in Jim’s words, “her renaissance, and pulled her out of depression”. She loved flowers, and won many prizes –

including the Wood cup 3 times (best shrub entry), the Peattie cup twice (best photo), the Barnes cup twice (home industries) and the 2009 anniversary cup. Helen was always helping – for the FDHS she organized outings for 10 years, she helped out at Shows and with cooking, amongst other things. “Helen loved everything she did”. Jim was pleased she lived so long, her father (Major Ord, responsible for removal of all ordnance after the Battle of the Bulge, ranging from bullets to tanks) having died of a heart attack in Belgium at the age of 33, and her mother dying at 64.

AND FINALLY....

A recent update from the RHS has gone out to members and I am attaching a short extract here. It talks about how the RHS is planning on meeting (or even beating) current sustainability targets and what gardeners and local communities can do to help. This is from Sue Biggs the Director General of the RHS.

“Within the decade the RHS aims to become net positive for nature and people and to enable and support the gardening public to do the same. This means we will improve biodiversity, as well as remove and store more carbon from the atmosphere than we produce, and that we will actively and consciously improve the health and wellbeing of as many people as possible through gardening.

We are committed to leading by example by setting sustainability targets for our own operations that provide benefits for both nature and people. These targets include eliminating all single-use plastic, being peat free by 2025 and being water neutral. We want all our activities to be truly inclusive, and to be available to all communities across the UK.”

Items for the next newsletter to Sharon Bleach by 19th October please.

We look forward to being able to catch up with many of you at the forthcoming different activities on the calendar and hear what you would like to see on the calendar for 2022 when hopefully things will be much less changeable.

Sharon

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