



**FRENSHAM &
DOCKENFIELD
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
No 162 December 2021**

NEWS ...

By Sharon Bleach



Member's supper, Marindin Hall

Well, here we are with the Christmas season approaching and just 1 week until the days start to lengthen and Spring is just around the corner, or is that looking too far ahead too soon since winter has really only just started and there us much that can happen yet!

It has been a very busy year for the FDHS, which is fabulous to be able to report after the rather quieter time in 2020. So many different things achieved over the course of the year from Seed distribution to the Sunflower competition (yes they were linked!), Zoom talks to garden outings, garden tea parties to the Autumn Show with tea and cakes of course. Finally, the fantastic evening last month when the Members Supper was held in the Marindin Hall. A great time was had by all in attendance.

The evening celebrated the activities we had undertaken throughout the year and also recognised a couple of people with special awards reflecting their achievements and contributions to the Society.

The Banksian Medal 2021 was awarded to Penny Hearn. This medal is awarded to the person who has gained the highest number of points in the horticultural classes (i.e. home industries, photography and floral arrangements are not included) across both shows in a year. Clearly this year it was solely down to the Autumn Show where Penny scored 39 points across 16 entries. A great achievement. Just to note the second place went to Dan Bosence who achieved 37 points from 19 entries.

We also awarded the Anniversary Cup to Dan Bosence. This cup was gifted to the Society anonymously in 1998 and it was stipulated that it should be awarded annually to a member

who had contributed the significantly to the society. Each year, the committee discuss and agree who will receive this prestigious award. It was not awarded in 2020 as we did not hold a Member's (or President's) Supper. Dan stepped down from the committee in 2020 having been closely involved since he joined in 2005. Dan was Chair on 2 occasions (2006-2009 and 2014-2017) President on 2 occasions (2010-2013 and 2018-2021). He has also organised both Spring and Autumn Shows and not surprisingly won a number of cups over the years. He has won the AJ Stevens up on 8 occasions, more than anyone else in the Societies history. In addition, Dan has given interesting talks at some of our meetings, hosted compost workshops and was newsletter editor for a number of years. A very long list of contributions to FDHS success.

Congratulations to both Penny and Dan.

It is also worth mentioning that we had a fantastic raffle with many horticultural themed prizes.

This is just to tempt you all to come along next year so that you can join in the fun and maybe win prizes to improve your garden!

Thank you to everyone who helped out with set up and clear up/made desserts/purchased or donated prizes and did all the other things which made the evening a great success. Special thanks to Annabel for organising the decorations and the food.



COMING UP:

Our next social event is scheduled for Thursday 27th January 2022 in the Marindin Hall – starting at 7:30pm with coffee and tea and the opportunity to pick up your members booklet and membership card.

Membership prices are staying the same for 2022 at £20 for a single membership or £35 for family membership. A reminder email will be sent in January with full details, however if you wish to pay sooner, payment by BACS is preferred using your surname as the reference to ensure we can track who has paid. BACS details are in your yellow membership booklet inside the back cover.

The February meeting will be 7:30pm, 24th February at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Dockenfield, with a talk by Dan Bosence.

The A J Stevens Challenge Cup



Alfred (Alfie) Julius Stevens was born to James and Florence on 30th January 1878. Alfie, married Mary Catherine (nee Hunt) in 1905 and they had 4 sons and a daughter.

Following in his father's footsteps, Alfie was a solicitor in Farnham (Messrs Stevens & Bolton Solicitors) and the family lived at Twynax Cottage in Lower Bourne.

Alfie, employed a full-time gardener by the name of George King and when George's first assistant and Saturday boy, Jim Wickford, decided to leave. Alfie went to the Rowledge school to advertise the vacancy, Harold Parrett applied and got the job and after leaving school at age

15, Harold continued working full time (it was his first job) at 30 shillings a week. Harold continued assisting George for about 18 months until he signed up for National Service.

Alfie, courtesy of the work of George and his team, entered both the Frensham Flower Show and the Bourne Flower show each year, picking up awards year after year at both shows in the 1950's.

At those shows, the main winners would receive a cup and also prize money, Alfie was very fair and gave any prize money he won to George, to share with his gardening staff.

Alfie's wife Mary, died on 4th December 1951 and he died on 24th January 1968.

Alfie and Mary's daughter, Mary Julius, also a keen gardener, she married John Hunt, a Geologist, in 1934. She donated the Hunt Cup to FDHS in 1955.

Amongst the numerous awards that Alfie won, with the assistance of George King were:

Capt Diver Cup: 1950,1952,1953,1954,1956, 1957

The Hunter Cup: 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1958

AJ Stevens Cup: 1958, 1960, 1963



Alfie is pictured with the cup and George King is far left.

(Picture courtesy of The Farnham Herald)

RECIPE – Christmas mulled wine...

- 1 bottle of red wine of your choice
 - 2 small oranges or 1 large
 - 1 to 2 tablespoons maple syrup or honey, to taste
 - 2 whole cinnamon sticks, 3 star anise and 4 whole cloves
 - Around 50 ml brandy or a liqueur if you prefer a different flavour
 - Optional garnishes: Fresh whole cranberries or some dried cranberries
1. Prepare the oranges by slicing into rounds or semi circles depending on the size of your fruit. Place the orange slices into a medium sized heavy-bottomed pot.
 2. Add the wine and brandy to the pot with the cinnamon sticks, star anise and cloves. If using cranberries as a garnish they can be added too for extra flavour.
 3. Warm the mixture over medium heat until steaming for about 5 minutes. Then reduce the heat to the lowest you can.
 4. Carefully taste, and add another tablespoon of your chosen sweetener if it's not sweet enough for your liking. If it's not spicy enough to suit your preferences, continue cooking over very low heat for 5 to 10 more minutes.
 5. Serve in mugs with any extra garnish you like

SLOW COOKER OPTION: Combine the mixture in your slow cooker, cover, and cook over low heat until steaming, about 30 minutes to 1 hour.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS...

by Sharon Bleach

I was interested to see the article in the recent RHS The Garden magazine about the history and association of using mistletoe at Christmas time. It seems it goes back far further than just an excuse for young people to steal a kiss under a bunch of mistletoe! I had also not realised how many different varieties of mistletoe there are – even one with red berries.

We have trees around us here in Frensham laden with mistletoe balls that have obviously been there for many years. Our only bunch of mistletoe in the garden is in an old and very decrepit apple tree and so may not actually last much longer.

The article also gives advice on how best to grow your own mistletoe where you would like to have it, something I feel I should take up to ensure a continuity of supply in our own garden. It would be interesting to see if mistletoe actually takes on the varieties of trees we have around. The most mistletoe laden established tree near us is a lime tree which was not a species I had expected to see so covered. Large bunches come down in high winds and storms, nature's method of keeping the parasite in check?

Kings Seeds 50% discount offer

With a number of members taking advantage of the initial launch and bulk order for Kings Seeds, members now qualify for 50% off **all individual seed packets** until the 30th June 2022.

You can now place your own individual orders direct with Kings Seeds, in two ways.

1. You can call them and order by telephone quoting the reference K1180
2. You can register with them online by using the following special link; <https://www.kingsseeds.com/Secure/Register?ur=KA1180>,

Your registration will be acknowledged, and details saved and you can then visit the normal website address www.kingsseeds.com to order your seed. The discount is automatically applied as you add the seeds to your basket.

The only additional cost is your postage.

I have registered on-line, and it is a straight forward process but if you do have any problems please contact me on 07894 471000 or via email at marketing@fdhs.org.uk

AND FINALLY....

We have decided that as we return to a new normal, we will change the frequency of the newsletters. We should be able to keep in contact in person far more easily than in the past couple of years. Next year there will be 4 newsletters, on a quarterly basis. These will include all the history and varied information you have come to expect!

In addition, we will send out brief monthly emails which will remind everyone of the next events and times/locations etc. so you will be able to find this easily, rather than it being 'lost' in the newsletter. We can then also keep you up to date quickly with any changes of plans or additional members benefits or new outings etc.

I do hope you all have a good Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2022.

Sharon

All unattributed articles are by the Editor Sharon Bleach.