



**FRENSHAM &
DOCKENFIELD
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
No 161 October 2021**

NEWS

By Sharon Bleach



October Toadstool RSPB reserve, Frensham

I am constantly amazed just how quickly time seems to pass. One theory is apparently, that as you get older each day is a smaller proportion of your total life span and experience. I certainly feel as though this year has flown by and yet, it seems such a long time since the daffodils were just emerging and we were celebrating the start of Spring. Ah well, no doubt next Spring will start in December!

We were told recently by friends in France that the wine picking season is changing there as a result of the changing seasons. These days in some parts of France that used to harvest in September and October, they now harvest in August as the fruit is ready then. More vineyards in Surrey soon....

COMING UP:

The final two events for this year for your diaries are:

- **Thursday 28th October – FDHS AGM, 7:30pm Marindin Hall.** A glass of wine as well as tea/coffee and a discussion about what we did in 2021 and looking forward to 2022 plans. Do come along and meet others and give us your ideas on what we should be including in 2022. The agenda and papers to be discussed have been sent out separately by Caroline.
- **Friday 26th November – Member's supper, Marindin Hall.** An informal relaxed supper with good company and of course wine or soft drinks to accompany your meals. For tickets (£15 per person to include food and soft drinks as well as a glass of wine) please contact Caroline on caroline.tonkinxxx@gmail.com. There will also be wine to buy by the bottle for those that would like it.

Kings' seeds:

Further to my article last month, I can confirm that the initial Kings Seeds initiative has been a fantastic success. In order for members to benefit from a 50% discount off seeds from Kings we needed an initial bulk order of at least £200.

17 members supported the initial order and we generated, a total order of over £800 including sundries. The discount was just over £300.

I would like to thank all those members that supported this initial order.

Once the order has been processed, any members that wish to save 50% of their seed purchases can order direct with Kings, online. Please contact me for the code that you will need to use at the online check out.

Please remember the discount only applies to their seeds. Please see last month's newsletter for more details.

Avalon Garden Centre:

We have been able to secure a discount on the purchase of plants and shrubs from Avalon Garden Centre, Churt.

This discount does not apply to anything else and also does not apply to already discounted items. You will need to produce a valid membership card to the member of staff serving you at the till and before the goods go through the till. Ensure your card is signed.

Reminder of other benefits:

Churt Garden Machinery Ltd		(10%)
Millais Nurseries		(10%)
Andrews of Hindhead.		(10%)
Lindsey Clark Brothers		(10%)
Seale Nurseries		(10%)
Squires Garden Centre, Milford	**Off plants and gardening products only	(10%)
Harvest Wood Products.		(5%)
Harrod Horticultural.	(15% on trade brochure,10% on tools & sundries)**	
Gardening Naturally.		(up to 15%)**

**Please contact me for more details

Our first in person talk since February 2020 was held at the Marindin Hall earlier this month. Dr. Peter Herring, Head Gardener, talked on the subject of Winkworth Arboretum. Having at last shed Covid restrictions concerning meeting in person, in organising the talk we had to contend with other side effects such as the fact that the DVLA (heavily impacted by staff sickness due to Covid – and also by staff strikes) have been very slow in processing driving licence renewals and such like – so Peter’s wife had to drive him to the Hall, as the DVLA has



had his licence for weeks – and they were concerned that due to lorry driver shortages, their car might not have enough petrol to make it to Frensham for the night! Fortunately, however, they clearly made it here – and home again.

We heard from Peter that the 95 acre arboretum was founded by Dr. Wilfrid Fox, a well off doctor in London (shown here on a bench still in place on a hilltop at the Arboretum). Wilfred Fox bought a country retreat in Winkworth, decided the landscape would be enhanced with more trees, started his arboretum in 1938 and continued (commandeering anybody who happened to stay with him to take part in planting) through World War II and



beyond, eventually gifting the arboretum to the National Trust in the 1960s in order to ensure its survival. Dr. Fox was friends with many eminent land owners and horticulturalists of the time and through them acquired many interesting specimens from round the world – he was very keen on planting for autumn colour, and planted up the landscape, on hillsides and down to a lake,

for best viewpoints all round. When, a few days after the talk, we visited the Winkworth arboretum for a guided tour by Peter, he told us the place is now home to a number of champion trees – trees which have been attested to be the tallest or of greatest girth in the country – including the South Beech, *Nothofagus antarctica*, a member of the beech family with very small shiny leaves (as in the photo) which colour deep yellow and orange in the autumn. The champion tree at Winkworth looked to be 60’ plus high, as did a number of the trees there.

We chose October for our walk to view the autumn colour; as we had a late spring, and all the seasons have been behind this year (though not behind on the rain, it has to be stated), the colouration was not in full flood, but the arboretum was still a sight to see, with the huge variety of sizes and shapes of trees, all laid out for best advantage.



The walk and talk were clearly enjoyed by all, and – in the words of Harry Glover -

“The visit, coupled with Peter Herring’s talk [last Thursday], was very interesting, and I don’t think there’s much that Peter doesn’t know either about Winkworth Arboretum or about trees in general!” – Amen to that.

FDHS History – taking you back in time...

by Neil Mumford

The first Presidents Supper 1977



Although the society struggled in the 1970's, with support for our flower shows, there was no lack of enthusiasm for the First Presidents Buffet Supper, which was held on 7th October 1977.

Over 80 members and guests attended, and thanks were expressed to the ladies who helped prepare the food, by our then Chairman Mr Rickwood.

Our President, at that time was Dr Town-Jones, who was the Frensham village doctor from 1934 until his retirement in 1979. His surgery was a wooden shack at the side of his house (Rooks Hill in Shortfield Common Road). His son Rupert advised me that sometimes he would show patients his lovely garden and they might leave with plant cuttings. He was also a founding member, and also a past Chairman of the society.

Alongside Dr Town-Jones, on the main table was Sir Frederick Tymms, who was also a past President of the society during the mid to late 1960's and our oldest member at that time, 97-year-old Freda Turner.

There was an award for the best man's button hole awarded to Mr Pearce and ladies corsage to Mrs Molyneux.

The Members (formerly Presidents) Supper is a far more relaxed affair these days without button holes or corsages for the ladies – or should we try both of those again?

Did you attend that first supper or other suppers? Or do you have photographs of previous suppers, if so, I would love to hear your stories for the benefit of our archives.

SAD NEWS

Pat Clough – We heard recently of the death of Pat Clough. Many of you will have memories of Pat as an active member of the community and of course an active member of FDHS for many years. According to the Society records, she and her husband organised the summer show in 1977. Pat was someone who would not say no if asked to help with something, she helped everyone and will clearly be missed in the community.

Recommended as a great way of using up those late season courgettes...

1 kg Courgettes, grated
1 red onion, grated
2 spring onions, finely chopped
2 tbsps. fresh mint, finely chopped
2 eggs
1½ cups feta cheese, grated
salt and freshly ground pepper
2 cups powdered breadcrumbs (or 4 tbsps. self-raising flour))
2 tbsps. extra virgin olive oil
2 tbsps. parsley, finely chopped
Oil for frying

1. Use a grater to grate the Courgettes and place them in a colander with some salt. Squeeze them with your hands to get rid of the excessive water. Leave them for 30 minutes and squeeze them again.
2. Into a large bowl add all the other ingredients and mix well with your hands, until combined and the mixture is firm enough to make the balls. Add a little more flour if needed.
In a pan add enough olive oil to cover the bottom of the pan, and heat the oil into medium-high heat.
3. Dip a tablespoon in some water and spoon out some of the mixture into the hot oil. Repeat this procedure until the surface off the pan is comfortably filled. You should dip the spoon in the water every time, so that the dough doesn't stick on it.
4. Fry the kolokithokeftedes for about 2-3 minutes on each side, until nicely coloured. Place them on paper towel, to absorb the extra oil.
5. **A healthier alternative is to bake the balls.** In that case preheat the oven at 180C, oil the bottom of a baking tray and form the balls with your hands. Take a small handful of the mixture and roll into a ball and then flatten into a patty. Place on the baking tray and form the rest of the balls. Brush the top of the ball with some olive oil and bake for 25 minutes. Halfway through cooking time flip the balls and put back to the oven.

AND FINALLY....

As we are well into the Autumn season, we thought you might like to see some ideas for future Autumn colour and planting from David Austin roses. You can find some excellent ideas on [their website](#).

Neil also forwarded this voucher he received from David Austin Roses in case anyone is interested in buying bare root roses from them.

To help you create your autumnal look here is

15% OFF *bare root roses with*

code **BUCKET**

OFFER ENDS 12TH NOVEMBER 2021

We look forward to being able to catch up with many of you at the forthcoming AGM and Members supper as well as see you in throughout 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 to bleachsharon@gmail.com