



**FRENSHAM &
DOCKENFIELD
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER**

No 167 February 2023

NEWS and recent events...

by Sharon Bleach



Welcome to 2023 with FDHS. In our garden we already have our first daffodils in flower and a fabulous display of snowdrops, but also many larger shrubs looking decidedly dead after the cold weather at the start of the year. Since a number of them were actually covered up we hope they may recover as the warmer weather eventually takes hold. Rather too many plants already seem to think Spring has arrived so I hope we do not get the predicted cold snap to burn the new leaves again – fingers crossed!

COMING UP...

Thursday 23rd February talk by Belinda Allen on Showing Tips (Belinda judged our vegetable and fruit entries in the 2022 Autumn Show and will talk about how best to show these entries) – Marindin Hall at 7:30pm

Friday 17th March 10:30am visit to RHS Wisley with a guided tour. Email Karen Williams at events.fdhs.org.uk if you would like to attend this event, it costs £5 per person

Saturday 25th March - FDHS Spring Show Marindin Hall – organisers Caroline Plant and Karen Williams, see information in the Members Handbook for classes and recipes etc

Thursday 27th April talk by Mark Rosling – The Plants of the South West Coastal Path

Wednesday 17th May 10:00am a guided tour of Millais nursery for FDHS members.
Note that this is a new addition to the programme, more details nearer the time

Thursday 25th May ‘Gardeners Question Time’ – Marindin Hall 7:30pm get your questions ready!

Last year at the AGM, we agreed that FDHS would expand its affiliations to include membership of Plant Heritage. This organisation is based between locally and is focussed on conservation and preservation of diversity of garden plants. It coordinates the National Plant Collections, which it considers to be the 'living libraries' of garden plants and also researches plants at risk of disappearing. It arranges an annual plant exchange and supports people or groups becoming plant guardians as well as holding plant sales and talks.

The Plant Heritage Society Aims are:

- Increase the number of cultivated plants conserved
 - Creating collections, Creating Community, Sharing Knowledge, Sharing Plants
- Develop and Maintain good standards of Curation
 - Working through the conservation team and collection coordinators
- Inform and engage others with their conservation work
 - Sharing knowledge and resources through plant shows, social media and the website
- Influence global thinking on issues around plant conservation

As members we receive copies of the National Plant Collections Directory and will also receive two copies of the Journal that is published twice a year. We have two membership cards for the FDHS members to attend meetings and events held by any Plant Heritage group throughout the UK.

Many of the National Collections are open for visitors on some days of the year or by prior arrangement. Looking at the open days in our area over the next few months the following might be of interest to people if you are looking for a different day out – look on the website for details of others further afield if you are interested in a particular plant. Let me know if you need more information

- Crassula species 29th May 12:00-16:00 Hampshire
- Rosa (Alba roses) 16th June 14:00-19:00 Kent
- Eucalyptus spp 19th June 11:00-17:00 Kent
- Aeonium spp 10th July 10:30-16:30 Hampshire
- Pesticaria virginiana, Pseudopanax 17th July Kent
- Agapanthus (Fairweather Nursery trials collection) 23rd and 24th July 09:30-15:00 Hampshire

More to come in future newsletter issues.

We hope to make good use of this membership as well as support an important charity aligned with the FDHS goals.

The website for more information is: www.plantheritage.org.uk so take a look and if you see something you would like to attend let me know and I can let you have the FDHS membership cards.

More on our different affiliations in the next newsletter.

We have a number of discounts available for members to take advantage of these include:

Local - Please show your membership card prior to making your purchase to receive the discount.

Squires Garden Centres - 10% Milford only

Avalon Garden Centre - 5% off full priced plants

Churt Garden Machinery - 10%

Seale Nurseries - 10%

Lindsay Clarke - 10%

Millais Nursery - 10%

National

Harrod Horticultural offer members a discount of 15% against any of the products offered on their trade brochure or website <https://www.harrodhorticultural.com/trade>. This includes arches, pergolas, obelisks, walk in steel fruit cages, decorative cages, vintage arches and plant supports and so on. They also offer 10% against the majority of tools and sundries (including netting, fleece, tools, pest control and so on). You can buy items online using the code TRADEB2B.

Gardening Naturally - Orders over £120 10%
 Over £240 12.5%
 Over £360 15%

Please contact me on marketing@fdhs.org.uk for details on how to apply.

Marshalls Seed and Discount Scheme

Marshalls are one of the leading suppliers of seeds in the UK and include their sister brand Unwin's within this scheme. Their website shows the full range available, (www.marshallsgarden.com). this can be ordered from them via the website or telephone.

You can currently benefit from the following discounts.

Vegetable and Flower seeds	50%	Potatoes	20%
Onions, shallots, and Garlic	20%	Soft fruit and fruit trees	10%
Vegetable plants	10%		

What's not included.

Anything not mentioned above such as Spring bulbs, tubers, garden accessories etc.

Postage and Packing Costs

Individual Postage and Packing £2.49 for seeds and £5.99 other orders (such as potatoes, shallot sets, plants etc). Please note that if you order both seeds and others, you only pay the £5.99. Your order will be sent directly to you in the post.

Please contact me for the order forms and once completed these should be sent to our Marshalls contact – Ian Owen by email - iowen@marshallsgarden.com

Sarah Rowlands talk on honey bees at the January meeting...



We had a great first meeting of the year last month with an entertaining talk about honey bees by Sarah Rowlands - dressed in her bee keeper suit. The talk was also accompanied by pollen and honey tasting and 'blue waves' – you'll have to ask those who were there to explain!

A key takeaway for me was that I need to plan my flowers better to ensure that I am doing the most I can to help the bees:

- pick more of the right colours (ideally blues, purples and whites),
- plant in large clumps not too far apart, as the honey bees tend to focus on one type of pollen or nectar at the time
- make sure I have some simple flowers to ensure the honey bees, as well as other types of bee, are able to feed easily from them. I look forward to seeing how this works in the summer! I have specifically chosen and ordered a few new perennials with these colours in mind.

No photos of this meeting – everyone was too focussed on asking Sarah questions and tasting the different types of honey!

Ten flowers to attract honey bees that the British Beekeepers Association recommends for flowering through the year are:

- Hellebore species and hybrids
- Galanthus nivalis – common snowdrop
- Salvia species
- Crocus species
- Echinacea
- Cosmos
- Rudbeckia
- Sedum
- Lavandula species – especially angustifolia
- Verbena species

For more information look at the British Beekeepers Association website www.bbka.org.uk

Also take a look at the RHS magazine for January this year (cover shown above) which has a lot of good information on this topic.

Other garden related activities – dates for your diary...

Ramster Gardens in Chiddingfold are hosting a sculpture trail organised by the Surrey Sculpture Society from April 28th to May 29th. The timing should coincide with the rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias at Ramster being in flower. More information see www.ramsterevents.com and www.surreysculpture.org.uk

NGS gardens open days: as we move towards the Spring we have the opportunity to see other people's gardens via the NGS scheme which raises money for charity. Take a look at the NGS website www.ngs.org.uk there are a number of gardens opening during February and March to show off their Spring bulbs. We are hoping to add another FDHS special opportunity to visit a couple of local gardens open under NGS a bit later in the year.

AND FINALLY....

Spring Show: will anyone holding a Cup awarded at the Spring Show last year please return it (cleaned and beautifully polished of course!) to Annabel Sommerfelt by the 1st March. Contact Annabel on annabelsommerfelt@gmail.com

Seed Share: I forgot about the seed share for January!! So, if anyone has a few seeds from their garden to share with others please bring them along to the February meeting.

Membership: If anyone is reading this and remembers that they have not yet paid their membership subscription for this year – then it is not too late... please pay by BACS and if you need to change any details on your membership contact Jilly Steventon on membership@fdhs.org.uk or send her an updated copy of the membership form which you can find on the website.

St. Marys Church Coronation Celebration: FDHS has been asked to contribute a window ledge decoration as part of the Church Coronation Celebrations. I am sure many people will have flowers and foliage in their gardens to contribute to this decoration – we need a few people to be involved in creating the decoration. Volunteers????

FDHS 75th Anniversary Celebrations: the celebration the 75th will be held at Quinettes in Churt on Sunday 2nd July. We have space for 60 people at this event and as numbers are limited tickets will be sold on a first come first served basis. There will be meat, fish and vegetarian food options and it would be very helpful to say which option you require when you send in a request to be added to the list – events@fdhs.org.uk .

Best wishes and happy gardening.

Sharon



All unattributed articles are by the Editor Sharon Bleach.