

# Findon Village Gardens Association

Registered Charity Number: 290060

## July Newsletter 2006

Dear Members and Guests,

Tonight is our mid-summer quiz night so sit back, relax and get those grey cells motivated!

Earlier this month thirteen of us visited St Mary's House and Gardens at Bramber as part of the NGS scheme. It was a beautiful warm summers afternoon and we had a very pleasant stroll round the lovely gardens followed by a well-deserved cup of tea. The next scheduled trip is also under the NGS scheme to Sarah Raven's cutting garden on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September so put a note in the diary now.

Now is the time for us to beg and plead for your generosity – it's the Summer show fast approaching and we need help and support as follows;

- Cakes for the cake stall – this is extremely popular and we always run out before demand can be satisfied so please get out the mixing bowl, flour, eggs etc and start baking! Anything from buns to fruit cakes, sponges to scones.
- Plants – those little cuttings and off shoots that have been sat round for months – please donate them and make the plant stall the usual roaring success.
- Last but not least we need everyone who can to enter their prize runner beans, beetroot, sweet peas, jars of jam, coloured photographs etc in the show – the fun is really in taking part. Just think first prize will buy a lottery ticket and then who knows you could win the jackpot – just through entering in the Summer show! Come on have a go – become a multimillionaire!!

Key dates;

- All show entries to be in on 5<sup>th</sup> August at the very latest (at Peckhams).
- Please ensure all cakes, plants and any other donations to be at the Village Hall by 10.00 on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August.
- All show entries to be in by 10.00 am on Saturday before judging starts.

Good luck and we look forward to seeing everyone at 2.15 on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Tips for August

- If necessary Spray against blackspot and remove suckers on grafted roses, where they meet the rootstock.
- Keep hoeing between vegetables to keep weeds to a minimum.
- A sowing of onion seed to provide plants for spring planting should be made now in a sheltered nursery bed.
- Take semi-ripe cuttings of rosemary, lavender, weigela, buddleia, santolina and escallonia, remove lower leaves and dip in rooting hormone. Root in 50% peat/sand. Pot on into small pots when rooted, and overwinter in a frame.
- As the first spring bulbs become available, plant bowls and plunge them outdoors for an early display.
- Liquid feed runner beans and water well, to keep them cropping longer. Pick beans regularly.
- As the taller dahlias begin to get top-heavy with the weight of growth and flowers, be ready to supply extra support, especially in wet weather. Dead-head as necessary. For extra-large flowers, remove side buds from central blooms as they begin to develop.
- To encourage dense, bushy plants, lavender should be clipped over as the flowers fade. Aim to shorten new shoots but not cut into old wood. Try to keep the sides of the plants bushy too.
- Stop outdoor tomatoes (not bush types) after the fourth truss of flowers.
- Dry off the first onions.
- Michaelmas daisies intended for cutting should be thinned now, to give just a few good stems per plant.
- Keep dead heading bedding plants to produce more flowers. Summer tip-cuttings should be hardened off if taken under polythene, and potted up individually, as soon as they are rooted. Use only small pots, 2-3 in. across. Yew and holly may be given their once-only cut at the end of the month or in early September. Begin to cut out the flowered canes of early ramblers, and tie in the new shoots.

## Remember -

- The most noteworthy thing about gardeners is that they are always optimistic, always enterprising, and never satisfied. They always look forward to doing something better than they have ever done before.  
- Vita Sackville-West, 1892 – 1962
- When gardeners garden, it is not just plants that grow, but the gardeners themselves. - Ken Druse
- I'm not getting old, I just need to be repotted.