

# Findon Village Gardens Association

Registered Charity Number: 290060

## June Newsletter 2006

Dear Members and Guests,

Our thanks to Lesley Chamberlain who stepped into the breach last month with her excellent talk and demonstration on hanging baskets in place of the previously advertised speaker. This month's talk is by Karin Hay on the subject of the Highdown Vineyard, and a topic close to my own heart – wine.

We had an good day's outing at Wisley and found the guided tour to be of great interest. Our next visit is a local trip to St Mary's House and Gardens at Bramber on the afternoon of Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July departing from the Village Hall at 2 pm, the entrance fee is £3.50. We will be using our own transport but if anyone needs lifts please let us know and we will ensure a space is found for you. All those interested in going kindly let me know this evening or as soon as practical on 694886.

The Summer show is fast approaching and I hope you all have the date of Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August firmly etched in your diaries. Any suitable items for the tomobola stall can be handed in at our monthly Friday meeting or given to a committee member at any time. Mo Bowan would also welcome any unwanted gifts that would be suitable for raffle prizes to help swell the Associations coffers.

Last but by no means least I would like to mention that two of our members have just be awarded distinctions in the recent Royal Horticultural Society's examination for level 2 in their certificate of horticulture, they are Lesley Chamberlain and Bon Young – congratulations to them both.

Regrettably mid-summer has now passed but we can hopefully look forward to a few more months of fine weather and good gardening. However nothing stands still in the garden so there's always jobs to be done. The top ten tips for July are as follows,

1. Check clematis for signs of clematis wilt.
2. Place conservatory plants outside now its warm.
3. Water tubs and new plants if dry and the occasional feed will pay dividends.
4. Dead-head bedding plants and repeat flowering perennials to ensure continuous flowering. Disbud and deadhead dahlias if growing for large blooms. Leave roses that produce attractive hips.
5. Pick courgettes early before they explode into marrows.
6. Treat for apple scab
7. Clear algae, blanket weed and debris from ponds and keep them topped up.
8. Order catalogues for next year's spring bulbs.
9. Give lawns a quick acting summer feed especially if the spring feed wasn't done.
10. Give paintwork a coat of paint or preserver while the weather is dry.

Some late-flowering border perennials may benefit from a quick acting feed before they come into bloom, especially if the soil is not very fertile. Mulching borders can help retain moisture, and keep down the weeds - this will save a lot of work. A really thick layer of mulch (5-7.5cm/2-3in all over) works best.

Take cuttings of patio and container plants for using next year. Autumn-flowering bulbs, such as autumn crocuses, Colchicum, Sternbergia, Amaryllis and Nerine, can be planted now. Look out for tall, flowering stalks on established bamboos and remove them promptly. Flowering can weaken the plants, as well as being unsightly. Divide clumps of bearded iris.

Plants with a carpet-like growth habit, e.g. some alpines, can become patchy, with central areas dying off. These patches can be in-filled with gritty compost, to encourage re-growth.

- A fool looks for dung where the cow never browsed. - Proverb from Ethiopia
- What do you call it when worms take over the world? - Global Warming.
- Old gardeners never die they just vegetate.

Why are husbands like lawn mowers?  
They are difficult to get started, emit foul smells,  
and don't work half the time.  
- Author Unknown