

# Findon Village Gardens Association

Registered Charity Number: 290060

## October Newsletter 2006

Dear Members and Guests,

Don't forget we all get that extra hour in bed this Sunday when the clocks go back and winter looms around the corner! I am sure you will all join me in wishing our Chairman, John Wickson well following his recent fall; hopefully next time John will find a less painful way of chatting up the hospital nurses!

I am sorry to say that I misled everyone with the date of our next Spring show – it is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> and not 21<sup>st</sup> as previously published so please amend your diary accordingly.

This month sees the return of one of our favourite speakers – Christine Cooke and her talk entitled 'Another Cooks Tour – The Baltic'.

Tickets will be on sale this evening for our annual Christmas Social – they are available from me, Chris Young at £10 each for a first rate evening including supper, wine, raffle and ticket prize so don't get left out in the cold see me this evening!! Also tonight we have Christmas items on sale in aid of the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society – "Perennial" – so please see Julie Dunsmore who will be more than happy to take your money!

With the nights drawing in and the threat of frost approaching now is the time to start preparing for winter. What with climate change it's impossible to guess (or forecast) whether it's going to be exceptionally cold or exceptionally mild – however I'm sure it will be exceptional! The following suggestions come from a multitude of sources.

Complete tulip planting. As herbaceous plants die down and you can again get at the border soil between, to interplant bulbs. Tulips can be planted as little as 4in deep, where they are to flower and be removed again for summer bedding. For permanent planting, 7in deep is better. Deeper planting helps to keep bulbs out of the way of mice.

This is a good month for planting or moving roses. Those arriving by post, or bought at supermarkets, may have dry roots and should be soaked for an hour in a bucket of cold water before planting. The same applies to bare-rooted trees and shrubs. Trim back any broken or damaged roots to healthy growth before planting. When moving established roses, it is almost impossible to get up all the long, wiry, deep-root system. Do your best and use a fork, not a spade, a spade will cut the roots. Make sure the plant goes into an enriched hole, and reduce the top growth by a half or more, to stop wind-rock and to give the roots a chance to re-establish

Pots of pelargonium cuttings under glass should be kept just moist. Do not let them sit in moist stagnant air, good circulation is a life-saver for over-wintering cuttings of all kinds.

Assigning yellowing cabbage leaves to the compost bin and removing other plant debris and old canes, which provide snug havens for over-wintering pests and diseases, is a pleasant job for a sunny winter's day and makes you feel smug and virtuous, too. Also make sure that winter crops such as Brussels sprouts are staked, either individually or in rows, and able to withstand the onslaught of winter winds. Try planning a continuous supply of lettuce for harvesting through the autumn months and into winter by planting hardy varieties such as 'Winter Density' in growing bags, pots or border soil.

- Many things grow in the garden that were never sown there. ~Thomas Fuller, *Gnomologia*, 1732
- Gardens... should be like lovely, well-shaped girls: all curves, secret corners, unexpected deviations, seductive surprises and then still more curves. ~H.E. Bates, *A Love of Flowers*
- One of the most delightful things about a garden is the anticipation it provides. ~W.E. Johns, *The Passing Show*