

# Findon Village Gardens Association

Registered Charity Number: 290060

## September Newsletter 2006

Dear Members and Guests,

The Summer show is now behind us and an excellent day it was. The weather stayed reasonably kind and we hope all members really enjoyed the day snapping up the various bargains and enjoying the teas and cakes as well as admiring the various entries. Well done everybody - our especial thanks goes to Joan Ralph without whom the event would not have been the success it was – many, many thanks Joan.

The association is now featured on the web site [www.findon.com](http://www.findon.com) where you can find our details listed under the entry entitled ‘Noticeboard’. Here you’ll see details of forthcoming speakers and past copies of the newsletters together with the history of the association and details of our various events. While talking of events please make a note of the following dates;

2006

- 14<sup>th</sup> October - Table quiz at the Village Hall
- 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> October - ‘Apple Affair’ at West Dean.
- 8<sup>th</sup> December - FVGA Christmas Social

2007

- 21<sup>st</sup> April - FVGA Spring Show
- 12<sup>th</sup> June - All day visit to Mottisfont Abbey.
- 11<sup>th</sup> August - FVGA Summer Show
- 7<sup>th</sup> December - FVGA Christmas Social

Also at our next meeting (October 27<sup>th</sup>) please bring your wallets! The Christmas Social tickets will be going on sale then at £10 each. We will also be having a stall of calendars, cards, gift wrapping etc from ‘Perennial’ – the gardeners benevolent society.

About a dozen of us enjoyed the visit to Sarah Raven’s cutting garden on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September – the day was glorious and the setting of the garden and surrounds just beautiful. We all admired the dahlias and also the magnificent marrows and gourds as well as the many other colourful plants and vegetables.

This month I am listing some of the comments and hints made by one of the Summer show judges.

1. Exhibits should be an odd number i.e. 5 potatoes not 6. The show committee will take this comment into account. Odd numbers are more pleasing to the eye!
2. Exhibits should be washed and dried – please don't present exhibits that are still wet.
3. Whiskers or roots on vegetables such as onions should be trimmed neatly and not left long but not removed totally.
4. Onions should not be 'over-skinned' with green flesh showing.
5. Do not leave too much foliage on fruit exhibits as this detracts from the presentation.
6. Another hint included washing potatoes in milk to give them a lovely lustre.

Here's a brief summary of jobs for October

1. Clear up fallen autumn leaves regularly.
2. Cut back perennials as they die down.
3. Divide herbaceous plants and rhubarb crowns.
4. Move tender plants into the greenhouse if the first frost threatens.
5. Plant out the bulbs if not already done.
6. Plant out the spring cabbage.
7. Prune climbing roses and tie in to avoid damage from winter gales.
8. Last chance to mow lawns and trim hedges in the mild areas.
9. Enjoy going through the seed catalogues and ordering next year's supply.
10. Raise patio containers on to bricks or pot feet to avoid them sitting in water

A few quotes to end with

If April showers bring May flowers,  
what do May flowers bring?  
Pilgrims.

**If I'm ever reborn, I want to be a gardener—  
there's too much to do for one lifetime!**

- Karl Foerster

There's one good thing about snow, it makes your lawn look as nice as your neighbour's.  
- Clyde Moore

**Your first job is to prepare the soil. The best tool for this is your neighbour's motorized garden tiller. If your neighbour does not own a garden tiller,**

**suggest that he buy one.**

- Dave Barry