

## **RACKENFORD GARDENING CLUB SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER**

Dear Member,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2017!

What fantastic Spring weather we have been enjoying and despite the wet start to the year we enjoyed a hugely successful Spring Show in Rackenford Church on April 1<sup>st</sup>. There were a number of new classes and a host of excellent entries – especially from the new and younger members. This was especially true in the cookery section where Louis Denno showed the adults how it's done with his wonderful coffee cake. Rackenford seems to be blessed with artistic talent too with many excellent photographs and pictures.

The Church was an excellent venue and hopefully we will be able to hold the show again here in the future. Many thanks to the PCC for allowing us to use the church. You can see the judges hard at work in the picture below.



The Backstone Junior Cup was awarded to Izzy Joyner and the Backstone Senior Cup to Thomas Blackburn. In the adults section the Tunnel Inn and Daisy Cole Trophies were awarded to Frances Kelland for the highest points total and most points in the Narcissi classes. Helen Hyland won best in show for her Hellebore nest pictured below.

### **Plant Sale**

The Plant Sale will take place on May 6<sup>th</sup> by the Rackenford Tennis Courts from 9am. This is an excellent opportunity to stock up for the year. The Club has emailed a list of available plants so please reserve your choices to avoid disappointment. We are also offering a bulk buy discount on compost – please do reply to the email you should have received or get in touch with a member of the committee.



### **Jobs in the Garden**

April is of course the month when planting is in full swing and we have had two weeks of super weather with many of us hurrying home to sow a couple of rows in the last light and enjoy the sunset.

Traditionally, Good Friday was the day to plant potatoes, but mange tout, broad beans, beetroot, lettuce, parsnips, onions, peas, spinach, radish, turnips and herbs like coriander, dill and parsley can all be planted now. Sow Brussels sprouts, summer cauliflower and cabbage in a seedbed to transplant to their final spots in May.

Please be careful, it is forecast to turn cold. Chilly nights and cold wet soil can still be fatal to early sowings so if you are able to cover prepared beds with cloches you will warm up the soil, protect it from any unforeseen frost and keep the rain off. You can replace the cloches once you have sown to give your young plants a head start.

### **Dig and Dine**

Heat 25g of butter in a large saucepan over a medium heat. When foaming, add 275g of potatoes cut into 1cm cubes and 1 finely chopped medium onion, then toss until well coated. Season. Reduce the heat, cover and cook for about 10 minutes until the vegetables are soft.

Add 1 litre vegetable stock, bring to the boil, then add 200g chopped wild garlic and cook for 2 minutes until wilted. Immediately liquidise the soup with a hand-held stick blender, then return to the pan, stir in the cream, taste and season. Serve hot with bread.

### **Don't forget!**

If you have any gardening questions that you would like answered, then these can be submitted to our experts at [rackenfordgardening@gmail.com](mailto:rackenfordgardening@gmail.com)