

# Barney, Fulmodeston and Thursford Food Production Club Newsletter – Autumn 2024



## News

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the FPC Newsletter. Despite the weather we had a very good selection of produce at the Annual Show in July and a lovely selection of crafts and baking all of which kept the judges busy. The Annual Show is taking place on 26<sup>th</sup> July next year with a refresh of many of the categories – put it in your diary now.

We are looking for a few more people to join our committee – the role is not onerous: come along to the occasional committee meetings, have a chat and come up with ideas. Anything beyond that is a welcome addition. Drop me an email or give me a call – details below.

Annual membership is £10 (due January) –this covers all members of the household. Almost all events are free to members. Charges for non-members at most events are £3 per person, making annual household membership a good offer – and only members can enter the majority of classes in the Annual Show in July.

Payment for the foreseeable future will only be possible in **cash**.  
Join at one of our events or contact Kerry or a member of the committee.

## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 7pm for 7.30pm at the Old School Hall, Fulmodeston**

Talk by David Ward of the Hawk & Owl Trust at Sculthorpe Moor:

### **BIODIVERSITY, SCULTHORPE MOOR & YOUR GARDEN.**

Sculthorpe Moor Community Reserve is managed by the Hawk & Owl Trust and has a rich variety of wildlife in its woodland, fen and reedbed habitats. The talk aims to introduce the reserve and link to how to achieve a variety of habitats in the garden landscape.

The talk is free to members, £3 per person to non-members – payment by **cash only**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 7pm for 7.30pm at the Old School Hall, Fulmodeston**

Talk by Jim Paine of Walnut Tree Nursery: **THE SECRET LIFE OF PLANTS.**

Remarkable discoveries of the Inner Workings of Plants – how & why do plants communicate with each other, tell the time and why do some plants generate enough heat to melt snow? A fascinating talk expanding our understanding of the plants around us.

The talk is free to members, £3 per person to non-members – payment by **cash only**

## Dates to note in your diary - 2025

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 6pm – 8pm - **Seed Swap and Social**: please donate surplus seeds and saved seeds from the garden and veg plot

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm - **Talk on Butterflies** by Ian Bedford

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm – Talk by **Candi's Chutney**

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April – **Annual Plant Sale**: please make cuttings and save surplus seedlings

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Talk on **English Peonies** by Sarah Hammond

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June – Talk on the **Gardens of East Anglia** by Simon White

## Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July - Annual Show

We have had a look at last year's categories and have agreed a refresh to several of the classes. The programme for 2025 will first be available at the talk on 1<sup>st</sup> October, so plenty of time to prepare your craft items and to decide what to grow in 2025. An email copy has been sent to current members.

## Members' and Friends' Hints & Tips and tales from the Almanacs

*Plants have been growing on this planet for many millions of years – they want to grow. Since the dawn of time, they have been trodden on, slept upon, uprooted, chewed up and spat out and the planet is still green with growing things. Mistakes will always be made but more often than not, unless they die of thirst or serious disease, the plants will grow.*

Miranda Hodgson

**Green Manure** – Consider growing green manure where the plot is not in use in winter – it prevents the weeds, and produces usable nutrition ready for the growing season,

**Overwintering of Pots and Containers** - Raise pots and containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging and to reduce the impact of frosts on plants. Pots, themselves, can also be protected by wrapping in bubble wrap, fleece or other insulating material.

**Collect and store seeds** - Both for your own use and for the **January Seed Swap**. Make sure they are dry before storing and place them in small paper envelopes or bags. Label each one and store in a cool, dry, dark place.

**Pruning and Planting** - Be aware of overwintering mammals and birds who would prefer you to leave berries and rosehips in case of hard weather to come as the winter progresses and consider planting berry-bearing plants for future years, examples are cotoneaster, pyracantha, prunus (the cherry family) and roses – attractive throughout the seasons for us and beneficial to our wildlife.

**Ponds** - An inflated ball, placed on the surface of the pond, will prevent the pond from freezing over, allowing oxygen in and protecting the pond liner from expansion pressure due to ice

## Food Production Club Committee 2024

Chair: Kerry Harris Tel: 822583, email [Kerry\\_FoodProductionClub@yahoo.com](mailto:Kerry_FoodProductionClub@yahoo.com)  
Treasurer: Di Dann

Committee Members: Sarah Alton, Amanda Horn, Stephanie Jenkinson, Liz Joule, Cara Ross, Helen Sephton-Pike, Russell Sephton Pike, Julia Smith, Ritchie Tennant

**Any member** is welcome to join the Committee or simply to attend the meetings as a member and give their views and suggestions for talks and events.

## Membership

The cost to join or renew in for 2025 is **£10** per household. [Members joining after 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 remain members until the end of 2025]

Payment may be made in cash at events or given to a member of the committee

**we are no longer able to accept cheques or payments by card**