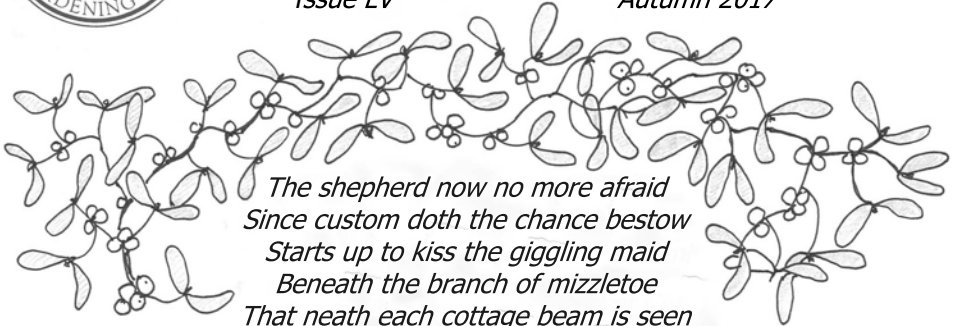




Somerset Federation of Gardening Clubs

Issue LV

Autumn 2017



*The shepherd now no more afraid
Since custom doth the chance bestow
Starts up to kiss the giggling maid
Beneath the branch of mizzletoe
That neath each cottage beam is seen
Wi pearl-like-berrys shining gay
The shadow still of what hath been
Which fashion yearly fades away*



John Clare. December Christmas



*The yule cake dotted thick wi plumbs
Is on each supper table found
And cats look up for falling crumbs
Which greedy childern litter round
And huswives sage stuffd seasond chine
Long hung in chimney nook to drye
And boiling eldern berry wine
To drink the christmass eves 'good bye'*

*John Clare 1793 - 1864
The Shepherds Calendar
December*



**Contact Details of the Officers & Committee Members of
The Somerset Federation of Gardening Clubs**

President: Mrs. Lyn Spencer-Mills Tel: 01460 736389
Hoopers Holding, Hinton St. George. TA17 8SE

Chairman: Erland Plomgren Tel: 01278 741152
Lady Charles House, Holford, Bridgwater TA5 1RZ

Secretary: Philip Harwood Tel: 01749 679182
Fernville, Bath Road, Wells, Somerset. BA5 3HR

Treasurer: John Dunster Tel: 01934 844777
8, Copse End, Winscombe, N. Somerset. BS25 1JS

Webmaster: David Talling Tel: 01278 741116
Nutwalk, Holford, Bridgwater. TA5 1RY

Email: webmaster@somersetfederationofgardeningclubs.org.uk

Committee Members:

Mo Plomgren Tel: 01278 741152
Lady Charles House, Holford, Bridgwater TA5 1RZ

Wendy Williams Tel: 01749 344823

Sally Hawkes Tel: 01278 652658
Knaplock Farm, Stockland Bristol, Bridgwater. TA5 2QB

General Enquiries:

enquiries@somersetfederationofgardeningclubs.org.uk

Website
www.SFGC.org.uk

Introduction

In my mother's garden *syringa* was always the 'Mock Orange', now known as *Philadelphus*. Lilac was lilac, never *syringa*. This usage goes back to the 18th century and long held names are hard to shake off. The whole area can be a minefield instead of a pretty garden. Take Hamlet's father for instance, poisoned by *hebenon*. The poor old chap was just having his usual nap under the tree in the garden.



*'Sleeping within my orchard,
My custom always in the afternoon,
Upon my secure hour thy uncle stole,
With juice of cursed hebenon in a vial,
And in the porches of mine ears did pour
The leperous distillment...*



Hamlet Act I Sc. V

All rather distressing but even as a ghost he does not explain the nature of the poison. One school of thought equates hebenon with henbane. Another that the juice came from the berries of the seasonal mistletoe, which at this time of year must give us pause for thought. The consequence is that we are left with names, but which one is correct?

*What's in a name? that which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet.*

Exam. quote Romeo and Juliet 1994

The late Stuart Chambers of Cannington College used to say that he grew two sorts of plants: those that grew and those that died. With the latter, he said, he would just look at the label and use his imagination. I know precisely what he meant. In the middle of a frantic rummage in the garden I unearthed a long hidden label. It read 'Everlasting Pea'. Now, in my book that's a misnomer if ever there was one, on a par with Cream Crackers and Brandy Snaps. Those charged with naming these things have long passed on and have left the question marks dangling. How long for instance, would you say an 'Everlasting Pea' should last? About two weeks in my case.

And another thing. It's always those unimportant labels neatly inscribed in permanent black which manage to endure all the onslaught of winter weather, whereas the tricky seedlings transplanted with delicate care, the precious tender cuttings not only have been mixed up but the labels either illegible or written in lemon juice. Reading these little pieces of plastic cut from ice cream cartons becomes, in effect a trip down Memory Lane. All of which ramblings brings us at this time of year to calendars and diaries. So let's look ahead.

Next year Thorncombe Gardening Club have kindly offered to host the 2018 Annual General Meeting in their pretty village near Chard. The date will be the 24th of May 2018, written in your diary and on your new calendar in indelible ink!

Pip Harwood

Speakers and Judges list updates

New Speaker

Julie Henderson 25 Stonewell Park Road Congresbury BS49 4DP 07791 657731	Botanical Latin demystified – why we use it & how it helps Pruning basic principles to get the best from shrubs Propagation Attracting pollinators +++	C 45p/mile S/Y
---	--	----------------------

Email: julie@juliehendersongardens.com www.juliehendersongrdens.com

Mark Walker The Cottage Post Office Lane Blagdon North Somerset BS40 7RA Tel. 07886 185853	RHS show gardens for charities The Woodcutters Story Henley Wood (from child to older kid) Garden design for beginners Sustainable planting Plants for sale (subject to season)	C Mileage negoiable No Judging
--	--	---

Email: tentorsgardening@gmail.com www.woodcuttersgarden.com

Speaker detail amendment

Mr Paul Hending (page 19) is not available between October and March

Speaker withdrawals

The following have withdrawn from the speakers list:

Mr Paul Newman (page 25)
Mr Antony Turpin (page 34)
Mr. Gerald Fisher (page 15)
Mr. David Hitchcock (page 19) Three Counties Nursery - passed away in September

Speaker subjects

Mr Caradoc Doy (page 14) is adding the following subjects:
Seaside gardening - Solving shady problems - Fantastic foliage plants -
Winter flowers - Fragrant beauties - Planting for bees - Exhibiting at Chelsea -
Putting your garden to bed for winter

Change of Address

Christopher Bond (page 6)
The Walled Garden, Chamberlain Street, Wells. BA5 2PE Tel. 01749 678877
Two extra talks: Climbers Galore & Sculpture in the Garden

If you can recommend a speaker then do please let us know using the Speakers & Judges form available on the Federation website.

Chairman's Corner Autumn 2017



Well, the seasons roll round and the leaves are now falling, and as soon as we rake them up, another load comes down. Sometimes I think it's best just to leave them all there until not one is left on a branch or twig... but then they get damp and wet, making the task even more arduous, although the benefits are bagging them up for leaf mould. I did this a couple of years ago and have a large 'builder

merchants' bag full of wonderful compost, nothing comes easy, but worth the hard work and the wait! This brings me onto another 'wait'.... after losing our dear little dogs during the last two years, there has been a huge gap in our lives and those of you reading this who have lost beloved pets, will understand exactly what I mean. So in July, we decided to search around for another companion...Louie has now entered our lives, a reincarnation almost of our two previous dogs, and comes with all the traits of a lovable, mischievous blue roan cocker spaniel who at the time of writing this, is three and a half months old. Now, our lives have turned around again, but... the once tidy neat immaculate green lawn in our back garden, is now a building site of brown patches and holes. In a border there is a cavity so deep that I am sure I can see my brothers' house 'down under!'...and the once beds of colourful compact herbaceous plants now resemble the aftermath of the Battle of the Somme and as for pruning, well Louie is saving me £'s on hiring a gardener or tree surgeon to cope with the shrubs and from the cuttings and twigs bought into the house, over the last couple of weeks, a ten year old clematis may have 'had its' day! But do we care, no we do not! The grass will grow back, the plants should recover and nature has a way of dealing with not just the traumas of weather, but little paws and a muddy nose, not to forget tiny sharp teeth and so I am sure it will be patient with our garden.....they do say rejuvenation is good for the garden, perhaps then Louie is doing us a favour!

Our Wonderful Past

Looking back through previous Federations newsletters, I read an article written by our secretary Pip Harwood in an edition of 2010 and I quote:-

'As chairman of the local club, it's my job to introduce the speaker. In my introduction, what I said was.... "I am delighted to welcome a real expert this evening, what he knows about trees and shrubs isn't worth knowing"...pause - bemused laughter from the audience and a voice from the back (my wives') "I think you had better re-phrase that!" "Re-phrase what?" I thought...only afterwards did they tell me!'

When I read this, I thought I'd burst with laughter..... Dear Pip, only you....so funny!

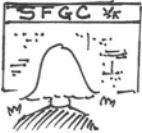
Well to end this little 'corner', it just leaves me to wish all of you an enjoyable Festive season, and hope your clubs are thriving and 2018 brings you much joy in your gardens! My sincere and warm regards to you all and your members.
God Bless

Erl



Attention !!

Notice from Data Base Secretary



I have recently been updating the data base for the Federation, and this year a new form was compiled which was sent out to all clubs requesting information for our records. When going through forms that have been returned to us, there are several clubs/societies etc., who have not indicated (amongst other things) who is the main contact for their club. We also requested whether that contact would like to receive documentation (when applicable) by email or by post, we also asked if those details could be included on the Federations' website. Under the Data

Protection Act, we do not publish email addresses unless we are given permission.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to update all of our records satisfactorily due to a number of members clubs not providing the information requested, so there are details missing and what is more frustrating, finding the odd form illegible!

For those of you that have internet access, please would you check the website to ensure that the details for your clubs have been published correctly (or not if that be the case!) and for those of you receiving our newsletter and other notices by post, please let me know if you have any discrepancies and I will amend.

I know you will appreciate that with over two hundred and thirty odd forms to scour, cross checking can be a nightmare - even in these days of technology, and this is no mean task... therefore your co-operation is much appreciated to enable our records to be kept strictly up to date and importantly - correct!

With thanks, *Mo (Plomgren)*

<http://www.SFGC.org.uk>

My Allotment

More years ago than I care to remember, I found myself at home with three young children. I needed something else to do. I thought I would like to try and feed us. I had visions of lovely fresh pesticide free vegetables.

In those days allotments were not as sort after as they are nowadays. I applied for and got one immediately.

I soon discovered my plot had not been cultivated for many years and was full of couch grass. Not only that, but as a woman I had invaded what was very much an elderly gentleman's club. I was regarded with a certain amount of suspicion by some of the old guard, especially when I let it be known I intended to garden organically.

Organic gardening I was assured was a fad that wouldn't last. I would be responsible for spreading all manner of nasty pests around the allotment site.

With help from my better half we set about my plot, digging it three times over pulling out as many weeds as we could. I planted early potatoes that first year. It meant the site was dug a couple of extra times but the more tenacious weeds still didn't give up. Why didn't I just spray with weed killer I was asked.

One gentleman told me on several occasions that what I needed was a rotovator. He had one but he wouldn't lend it to me because it was far too powerful for a woman. Imagine my glee when a few years later I inherited a rotovator with a big five horsepower Briggs and Stratton engine from an old friend. I still use it every season with no problem.

Over the years I managed to produce a variety of vegetables learning all the time. I ignored the comments as I picked caterpillars off my brassicas by hand. Eventually a new man appeared on the allotments, not only was he organic but he was 'no dig'! Wonderful the heat was off. There was much shaking of heads. He just covered his plot in a thick layer of manure. The following year his brassicas outshone anything the rest of us managed to produce.

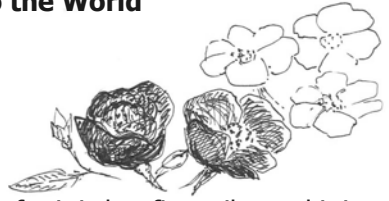
There was one gentleman who didn't view my efforts as completely batty. He was always cheerful and filled his allotment with flowers which he took great pleasure in picking and giving away. I was really sorry when he had to give up due to ill health. I took over his well kept patch (I had learned my lesson) and doubled my vegetable production. My husband built a shed on the new plot from scrap timber and a couple of old window frames.

I was now if not fully accepted then at least tolerated. It was the late 80's. There were other women and organic people appearing on the site, the tide was turning.

I was just considering taking on third allotment when my husband suggested in exasperation that we move to somewhere with a bit of land. In 1993 we moved to an old farmhouse that was falling down, but it had enough land to keep me occupied. My husband now also had (and still has) a new project, but that's another story.

Sally Hawkes

How Roses Came first into the World



From Hebron men go to Bethlehem in half a day, for it is but five mile; and it is full fair way, by plains and woods full delectable. Bethlehem is a little city, long and narrow and well walled, and in each side enclosed with good ditches: and it was wont to be clept Ephrata, as holy writ saith, Ecce, audivimus eum in Ephrata, that is to say, 'Lo, we heard him in Ephrata.' And toward the east end of the city is a full fair church and a gracious, and it hath many towers, pinacles and corners, full strong and curiously made; and within that church be forty-four pillars of marble, great and fair. And between the city and the church is the field Floridus, that is to say, the 'field flourished.' For as much as a fair maiden was blamed with wrong, and slandered that she had done fornication; for which cause she was demned to death, and to be burnt in that place, to the which she was led. And, as the fire began to burn about her, she made her prayers to our Lord, that as wisely as she was not guilty of that sin, that he would help her and make it to be known to all men, of his merciful grace. And when she had thus said, she entered into the fire, and anon was the fire quenched and out; and the brands that were burning became red rose-trees, and the brands that were not kindled became white rose-trees, full of roses. And these were the first rose-trees and roses, both white and red, that ever any man saw; and thus was this maiden saved by the grace of God. And therefore is that field named the field of God flourished, for it was full of roses.

The Travels of Sir John Mandeville

14th Century

Rosemary for Remembrance

On Winter Nights when the frost bit keen, Miss Benedict fetched out an iron "shoe" - a utensil made by the blacksmith for this especial purpose - and heated it in the fire. She placed in it some brown ginger and some spice and a sprig of rosemary, and kept it filled with beer. It was a drink to warm the cockles of your heart. It loosened the old men's tongues, and perhaps the rosemary loosened their memories. At any rate on these occasions there was always good talk in the Swan.....

John Moore - Portrait of Elmbury

The Bishop's Palace Garden



We have had a good year at the Bishops Palace, visitor numbers are well up again and in general most other gardens have seen a significant rise in visitors this year. There have been lots more foreign tourists with the weakening of the pound and perhaps more people staying in Britain due to concerns about terrorism and the uncertainty over Brexit at the time of booking in 2016 although probably just because of the gardeners hard work! We have been very busy in the gardens this year creating and planting the new winter border which will give interest in the darker months. Plants like Hamamelis, Cornus, Daphne's and different conifers each adding colour, scent and structure. We will finish the area opposite and next to the wall during the winter and plant with similar plants, we will also set the two lovely new benches into the border for maximum enjoyment. We were also able to plant up a new area near St Andrews Well in a very different style thanks to a kind donation by the Harry Crook Foundation. The area is much more natural and we decided to plant amongst other things Tree Ferns, lots of Hydrangeas from Sally Gregson, Cornus kousa cultivars like Porlock, Fothergilla, Desfontainia, Pseudopanax, Prunus and Acer cultivars, lots of Primula's like chungensis and viallii and Omphalodes for bright blue spring flowers. Over time we will add lots more unusual plants to this area and give it an unusual woodland feel. We will be digging over and planting up the lawn in front of the apple store (where the swing seat is) with lots of herbaceous perennials, roses and some topiary. A similar style to the rest of that area of the garden but some different plants and some extra Asters for autumn colour. It has been a good year for plant sales and produce from the Community garden where we have a really dedicated team of volunteers, the cut flowers have been particularly popular because they are presented so well by Janet, Gwen and Liz. I hope you have a good Christmas and please remember our Christmas market in November and come and see the Palace beautifully decorated by one of my gardeners Liz and band of volunteers from the 9th of December. Next year we will have our fourth garden festival from the 22nd to the 24th of June so please keep that in your diaries, lots of plants, garden speakers, music and food!

James Cross

A Year of Change

The clever-clogs who first coined the phrase about a change being as good as a rest was clearly not a gardener. OK, I suppose one could argue that to sit in the garden on a nice day (there have been a few in 2017) and contemplate the natural changes driven by the weather and the seasons is restful – albeit with, probably, a few nagging doubts about not using the time to better advantage by doing the overdue weeding, lawn mowing, dead heading; the list is always long. No, I'm talking about change by intervention, the complete opposite of restful, gardening-wise. In my experience, such change usually requires some level of expense, is normally more difficult than at first expected, is generally done using a wheelbarrow because everything is heavy, always takes a lot longer than thought possible and probably involves one or more trips to the tip! But we gardeners do persist in dreaming up new ideas, or suddenly taking a dislike to how things are or to a particular plant. Sometimes, of course, a radical change becomes necessary because something large dies, or has been planted in a totally inappropriate place, or something gets damaged or simply blows down; during the past growing season I seem to have experienced most of the aforementioned situations; planned and unexpected.

A couple of times last spring a sudden sharp frost after a lot of rain put an end to several plants including, as I thought, a 4' tall cordyine "Torbay Red". But after a few anxious weeks it started to produce new growth at soil level and the five or six babies are now a healthy 12" high and looking really good. But removing the completely dead, leafless original stem was more difficult than it should have been and surrounding plants, previously sited to hide it, have had to be moved to allow plenty of room for the new, lower growth.

I got rid of a cotoneaster horizontalis growing in a narrow border alongside the path between the house and the garage because I became absolutely fed up with it whipping across my face and with the berries getting squashed underfoot and treading everywhere. It took hours, the old central framework was really hard to cut and saw through and the volume of stuff, too large to shred, necessitated two tip trips.

A grapevine in the courtyard is no more. It was neither use nor ornament: an absolute thug which insisted on finding its way right up behind the guttering and under the eaves; it produced insignificant flowers with no perfume, grapes too sour to eat and too few to make more than an egg-cup of wine and the grapes anyway preferred to rot rather than ripen. But the effort involved in removing it was enormous. Instead, I shall plant an evergreen honeysuckle – I think the variety might be Graham Thomas. The layering I brought to Somerset when I moved five years ago is really well established now and is happily producing more layerings, so, hopefully, next summer the courtyard will be filled with the rich, heady perfume of its flowers for several weeks.

The trellis above the wall at the bottom of the garden was blown over in the autumn gales and it's now at an interesting angle with a top-heavy honeysuckle still entwined in it. I'll have to get someone in to deal with the trellis and shall myself heave out the honeysuckle (it anyway doesn't get sufficient sunshine for more than the odd flower) and I'm thinking of replacing it with an evergreen clematis armandii which doesn't mind the shade. I'll also take the opportunity to tease out the small remaining clump of ground elder which cosies up so closely to the honeysuckle roots that I've never been able to eradicate all of it; but now's my chance.

Two untidy clumps of day lilies came out – golly! that was hard, heavy work. They had horrible brash orange flowers that come and go in a day but, being sited in a shady corner, they did not flower profusely and for most of the time from late spring until well into autumn the leaves, desperate for more light, were always long, lanky and prone to rotting very quickly. One of the gaps created already has a new resident: a lovely, recently-introduced variety of hydrangea that I bought from a specialist grower at the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show. It has scallop-edged, white flower petals like tiny doilies and it looked stunning in its pot during its long flowering period. I have my fingers crossed that it will happily settle into its new home.

While I love soft, dusky colours in the garden – not for me the “hot border” look of, say, Great Dixter – I had the idea of sparking up the shadier side of my garden by planting white: *lychnis coronaria* “Alba”; *brunnera macrophylla* “Jack Frost”; another *spiraea* “Pink Ice”. They create a good balance with the “silver garden” (excuse the grandiose title) that I have in the sunniest area opposite to which, this year, I've added a *hebe franciscana* “Silver Queen” and a green and white variegated *pittosporum*. In most cases I've managed to place the new plants close to really dark neighbours which seems to exaggerate the colour contrasts really well.

But now the garden is at rest and the only remaining chore is to sweep up the leaves regularly. But, hang on. I've noticed the pointy tips of some of the late winter bulbs just coming through the surface of the soil. We'll all be back in full swing before we've had time to blink.

And it's been an interesting year on the allotment too!

Vee Cockerell



Multiple Email addresses

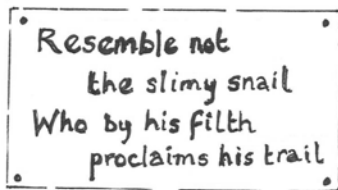
I get quite annoyed when my email address is broadcast to others without my permission. Why do people list all the people they are sending an email to so half a page or more is taken up with email addresses. Not only is it breaking the Data Protection Act but makes the Email wide open for hackers, phishers etc.

The Data Protection Act states that information (email addresses) gained by a company (church/society or club) can only be used for the reason they were given and should not be passed to a third party without the express permission of the originator.

The easiest way to overcome this is to send the 'block email' using the bcc box. The term bcc means blind carbon copy and ensures that those receiving the email do not have the email addresses of all who the email has been sent to thereby adhering to the Data Protection Act.

Those who send out emails to multiple people have a duty of care and MUST adhere to the law. So, next time you are about to send an Email out to more than one person, make sure you are adhering to the Data Protection Act.

David Talling



Calendar of Events Form

This form is purely for those clubs organising major events/flower shows. Unfortunately we do not have the space for including every member club's programme for the year! The Calendar of Events will be published and sent out next spring with the Newsletter and AGM notice, however, so that you can take advantage of advertising any event before this is circulated, they can be included on the Federations website, contact is on the form.

Thank you.

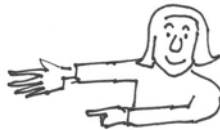


Website News

www.somersetfederationofgardeningclubs.org.uk

We hope you like and use the Federation website. You will find details of the Clubs/Societies that are members along with details of publications available to members. One section that some members find very useful is the Noticeboard where member Clubs can advertise their major/special events. Standard monthly meetings can be advertised but special events such as Flower Shows or Celebrity Speakers will take priority. Please do use this facility as it will give a wider coverage of your special events.

Please publicise the website amongst your members. It is yours to use and advertise on.



Insurance Cover

Would all member clubs please ensure that the venue (eg: village hall etc.,) where they hold events /shows /meetings for their gardening activities has insurance cover. Most village halls have insurance but it may not cover individual clubs/societies when hiring their venue. If you require clarification on this, please contact our treasurer.

**Somerset Federation of Gardening Clubs
Annual General Meeting**

hosted by Thorncombe Gardening Club

Thursday 24th May 2018

**Village Hall, Chard Lane, Thorncombe.
TA20 4ME**

**More details will be in the next Newsletter
and, nearer the date, on the Federation Website**

www.SFGC.org.uk

A Vegetable Plot Rejuvenated



A few years ago our Garden was beautiful, well tended borders, neatly cut lawns and a productive vegetable patch. My wife had been the driving force and was justifiably proud of 'her' garden. She even managed to become overall champion at one of our Flower Shows.

Unfortunately, due to illness, the garden became a little neglected. With the help of a professional gardener, calling in for one afternoon a fortnight, the borders have been kept in reasonable condition. The lawns have been kept cut by myself but the main area of concern was the vegetable plot. The situation was really getting me down. So much so I worried whether we would have to move house. This would have been terrible as we live in a pretty village with good neighbours and know most of the people in the village.

Before we bought this house, the previous owner had an arrangement with a local gardener (with not enough garden of their own), that they could have full use of the vegetable plot to keep it looking good. This person also looked after the rest of the garden for the owner and looked after it like his own. When we viewed the property my wife thought the garden wonderful.

Another person in the village also has a 'visiting gardener' who looks after the vegetable plot sharing the produce with the garden's owner. I wondered if there was anyone nearby who would be willing to cultivate the vegetable plot to ensure it was kept in good productive order. I let it be known that we were looking for someone who would like the use of a decent sized vegetable plot and in a very short time a member of the village Gardening Club approached us with the possibility of caring for the patch. After a visit, measuring up and due consideration they agreed to take on the project.

As it was late summer they decided to prepare the garden for the next spring, weeding, digging and composting. What a transformation, the plot went from overgrown, unkempt to neatly dug area. Some gooseberry bushes have been planted, the plum tree pruned and some seedlings planted. Even the low fence separating it from the rest of the garden has been painted. We look forward to seeing it producing an abundance of vegetables next year.

Because of their help in taking on the vegetable plot it has meant my wife and I can stay in a house and village we love. As I mentioned before, the previous owner of this house and a current neighbour have a similar arrangement. What I wonder is if there is anyone in your area that would benefit from such an arrangement as we have. As we get older we find it increasingly difficult to tend our gardens and it is a shame to see them deteriorate. Have a look around and if there are members of your Club/Society who would like a bigger plot then ask around to see if there is someone who would welcome help in their garden.

David Talling

A Letter from Canberra - Australia's Unique Flora



One of Australia's greatest treasures is her flora – a staggering 24,000 species of native plants have been identified compared to England's 1700 native plants.

William Dampier first introduced Europeans to Australian plants in 1703 in his book "*A Voyage to New Holland*", with illustrations of specimens from the Western Australian bush.

On Captain Cook's *Endeavour* voyage in 1770, Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander collected over 30,000 botanical specimens and Sydney Parkinson made 674 drawings on the voyage. The Botany Library at the Natural History Museum in London holds all of the surviving botanical artwork from Cook's first Pacific voyage.

Australia is an island continent with a distinctive and unique flora unlike that found on any other land mass. The evolution of its plants was a result of Australia's long isolation from the other continents. About 80% of Australian plant species are only found on, or endemic to, the Australian continent.

Australia is located on the Indo-Australian Plate which was originally connected to Gondwanaland before it began to drift north almost 100 million years ago and unique flora and fauna and diverse organisms developed. Temperatures on the continent remained constant and plants and animals were able to evolve and adapt to particular ecological conditions. The Australian continent is very old but there are areas of high fertility and some species have remained more or less unchanged for 90 million years. A number of these ancient species can be found in the Great Dividing Range.

The Gondwana Rainforests of Australia include the most extensive areas of subtropical rainforest in the world, large areas of warm temperate rainforest and nearly all of the Antarctic beech cool temperate rainforest.

Quarantine

Quarantine is fundamental to the protection of Australia's unique environment. It keeps out pests and diseases that could have a devastating effect on native fauna and flora. Australia's native plant and animal species have evolved without exposure but this has made them particularly vulnerable to introduced pathogens.

Australia has a strict quarantine policy with a long and effective history. Originally focusing on human health issues, the quarantine function is now designed to prevent the introduction, establishment or spread of human, animal or plant pests and diseases.

Bill Upton (Canberra)

The following is a French children's rhyme - what they call *poesic enfantine*

*Il pleut, il mouille
C'est la fete a la grenouille
Il pleut, il fait pas beau
C'est la fete a l'escargot*

*It's raining, there's a fog
It's the party of the frog
It's raining, there's a gale
It's the party of the snail*



HANDEL UPDATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE



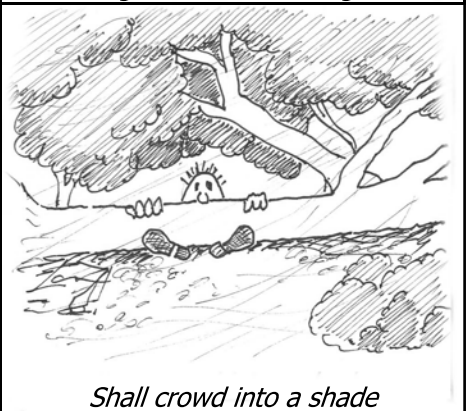
Wher'er you walk



Cool gales shall fan the glade



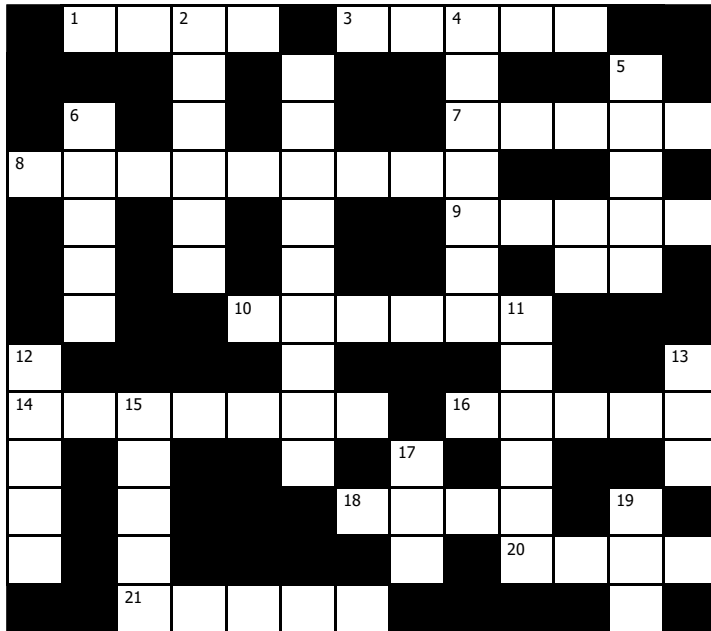
Trees where you sit



Shall crowd into a shade

Pip Harwood

Gardening Crossword



Submitted by John Dunster

Across

- 1 They like bananas and split peas.
- 2 Brush making plant.
- 7 Small plant blown about in a gale.
- 8 To say flattering things about Charlie is a bloomer.
- 9 There's many a tree to reduce to pulp.
- 10 Arranging asters look hard.
- 14 Encouraged to break ground out east.
- 16 Good variety of rose or evergreen.
- 18 Run not necessarily to seed.
- 20 Missile not welcomed by gardeners.
- 21 Though slow can confuse most villains.

Down

- 2 It's noted this annual flower.
- 4 Spare change one gathers.
- 5 Is it time for Michaelmas may be.
- 6 Murphy could be a brute.
- 11 Fire that may be so hot.
- 12 Put up about £1 for a plant.
- 13 The place for tired flowers.
- 15 Oak apples for instance contain the lot.
- 17 What's not a Sin in math class.
- 19 Some legumes can take a lot of chewing.

Answers, if required, will be published on the Federation website in January

Gardening Crossword - Spring 2017 Answers

- Across:** 2. Garden. 5. Phlox 6. Conifer 8. Potato 10. Iris
 12. Crocus 16. Rowan 17. Gourd 18. Hotbed
- Down:** 1. Bloomer 3. Dense 4. Fern 6. Cos 7. Floral 9. Nut
 11. Shoot 13. Slugs 14. Plant 15. Geum

Come Hell or High Water



Overnight, a torrential rain storm soaked Southern England.

When morning dawned the resulting floodwaters came up about 5 feet into most of the homes in the south Portsmouth area, an area below sea level.

Doreen Bryant was sitting on top her roof with her next door neighbour, Molly Borden waiting for the emergency services to rescue them.

Doreen noticed a lone straw hat floating near the house. Then she saw it float far out into the front garden, then

float all the way back to the house, it kept floating away from the house, then back in. Her curiosity got the best of her, so she asked Molly, 'Do you see that straw hat floating away from the house, then back again?'

'Oh yes, Doreen,' grinned Molly, 'that's Bert, my husband, wearing his gardening hat; he told me yesterday that he was going to cut the grass today come Hell or high water'

Lawn Mower

A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.

Why are husbands like lawn mowers?

They are difficult to get started, and then they don't work half the time.

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

Will - Why do you water your lawn with whisky?

Guy - So that it comes up half-cut.

My neighbour Bill asked if he could use my lawnmower. I told him of course he could, so long as he didn't take it out of my garden.

What do you call someone who used to like tractors?

An extractor fan.

What do you call a cow who works for a gardener?

A lawn moo-er.



Final cuttings

Back to name calling: describing the seasons these days is a tricky affair. Early Spring shrubs blooming. Primroses out, *Spartium junceum* having another flush and the birds and beasts getting frisky in mid November.

Time, therefore, to a grasp the nettle of 2018 with a few exhortations:-

- The Events Calendar form is for your special events - please return by post or e-mail when you know your dates.
- For your Big Events send details to the Federation Website Noticeboard.
- Send in photos of your gardens or pictures of plants to identify to the website.
- Check your insurance cover. Don't rely on the village hall insurance for club liability. If in doubt have a chat with the Treasurer John Dunster or Secretary Pip Harwood.

A number of clubs have withdrawn but we warmly welcome Farmborough Flower Show and Fivehead Gardening Club to our membership and wish them well.

Grateful thanks are due to all those who have made a contribution to this newsletter and we are always delighted to receive any snippets you have at the back of the garden shed. Particular thanks to David Talling who has made sense of it all. Keep the info coming.

To end, on behalf of your Committee, I wish you and your club a Happy Christmas and a flourishing New Year.

Pip Harwood Hon. Sec.



And now here's the weather forecast...

CLOUDS

Small and round, like a Dapple-grey, with a North Wind --- Fair weather for 2 or 3 Days



Large like Rocks --- Great Showers



John Claridge The Shepherd of Banbury's Rules 1670

