



Somerset Federation of Gardening Clubs

Issue LV I I

Autumn 2018

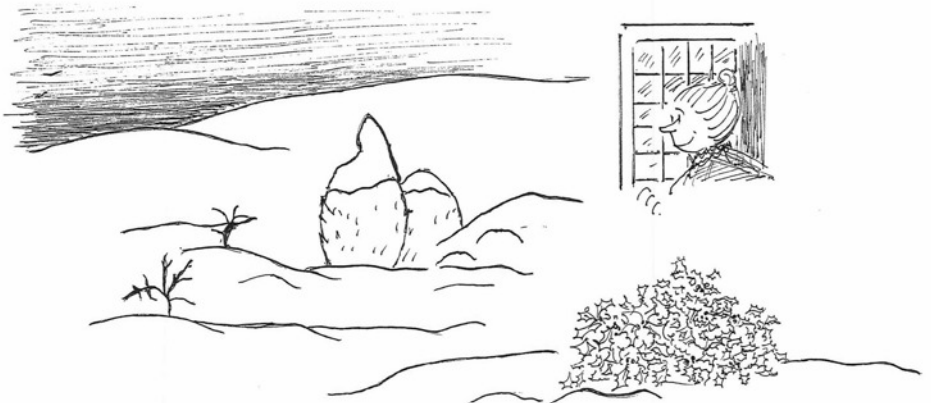


The patient beauty of the scentless rose,
Oft with the morn's hoar crystal quaintly glassed,
Hangs a pale mourner for the summer past,
And makes a little summer where it grows;

Hartley Coleridge - November

I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the Rose should grow:
I shall sing when night's decay
Ushers in a dreamier day.

Emily Bronte - Fall, leaves.



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Introduction

It appears that the right time to begin gardening is last year.

Stephen Leacock

For about 27 minutes in May there was a satisfactory lushness about the place. Even late pruned plants were sprouting with promise. Branches overhung the path and tangled the hair and so on. The Sun rose higher and we had an unusually fine summer whether we liked it or not. The heat was on and the jungle turned to desert. Compost slung about as mulch, far too late, and pots kept moistened. Herbaceous delights wilted, sulked, went into reverse gear and disappeared underground. Some things revelled in the heat of this special summer. It was all rather odd. Even odder when the process did an about turn; the wizened phloxes blossomed once more, the stunted heleniums stood proud and we were blessed with a glorious late blooming.

This issue sets out to be an autumn/winter edition and ends up being put together in what looks like late summer. The mid-winter season of festivity seems a long way off at present. Pass it on as you wish and distribute as widely as possible. There might be something of interest for your members.



Harvest Time

I am one of the legion of men - quiet, resolute determined men - who went out last spring to plant the land, and who are now back. We have, as everybody knows, failed. We have been beaten back all along the line. Our potatoes are buried in a jungle of Autumn burdocks. Our radishes stand seven foot high, uneatable. Our tomatoes, when last seen, were greener than they were at the beginning of August, and getting greener every week. Our Indian corn was nine foot high with a tall feathery spike on the top of that but no sign of anything eatable about it. Our celery looked as delicate as it maidenhair fern.

Stephen Leacock



Near Canterbury

At Lip Street I was struck with the words written on a board which was fastened upon a pole, which pole was standing in a garden near a neat little box of a house. The words were these:

*'PARADISE PLACE.
Spring guns and steel traps are set here.'*

A pretty idea it must give us of Paradise.

Wm. Cobbett. - Rural Rides.



With the coming of Autumn, a certain melancholy attacks the ardent horticulturist, causing him to sigh and refuse his porridge; for it is then that his treasured garden begins to fall apart. One by one, the flowers that made such brave a show in August begin to wither and turn black round the edges, while the risk of being stunned by falling leaves adds a new hazard to the daily tour of the estate.

*How to Make a garden Grow
Robinson & Browne*



Chairman's Corner Autumn 2018



Well, we have (in my opinion!) experienced the best summer in years, weeks of wall to wall sunshine, nice and warm with temperatures in the mid-twenties here in Holford, with the benefit of being a 'little cooler' than the big cities where temperatures reached the low 30's, there's a lot to be said for living in the country at times! As one gets old, I find it increasingly difficult to deal with the cold, especially when wind and rain prevail - the 'beast from the east' brought really cold weather with two falls of snow earlier in the year and in parts around our village, over two feet deep and yet within three

months we had this wonderful sunshine and warmth, our weather is definitely on the change with these extremes!

Of course with a prolonged dry spell come problems with drought. In our village gardens, as elsewhere, plants have suffered with grass and shrubs turning brown and some trees setting in for an early autumn. Well, not one to boast but in our garden, our lawn has been a green oasis, with six sprinklers spraying water from our stream, not just over the grass, but shrubs and plants have benefited too. Our garden as you may recall from previous articles, lies on the slopes of the Quantock Hills and drains very quickly, without the present system I am sure most of our plants would not have survived.

When we first moved here, we had a rather dry warm spell one summer and Mo and I were up and down the garden every day with buckets and cans of water from the stream that runs through the lower part of the garden, we lost count of the times we used to trudge up and down and there's no need to explain what a back breaking job that can be! We both decided that there must be an easier way!

I contacted a couple of irrigation companies for estimates on installing a suitable system, but not before we checked with Wessex Water that we could pump from the stream. The reps duly arrived and quotes were promised for the following week, we never found out why - but we never received them! So we resigned ourselves to watering by hand again!

A few months went by and one afternoon we were over near Salisbury visiting family and on a walk with our little spaniel Benjie, came across a chap who also had a spaniel; as you dog owners out there well know, like minded people can start all sorts of discussions, mainly over the dogs...but during our conversation, I discovered this man had his own water irrigation company. Well, coincidence is a funny thing but I didn't think he would be interested in coming all the way from Wiltshire to have a look at our needs. 'No problem at all', says he...and a couple of months later, Paul and Darren (their company is called

'Double Act') arrived and installed our system. Laying pipes all over the garden, fitting five hydrants and six separate taps positioned for the sprinklers, two tanks dug into the stream and a pump installed. Several months later they returned and fitted more pipe-work and hydrants on the other side of the garden enabling us to water the front garden.

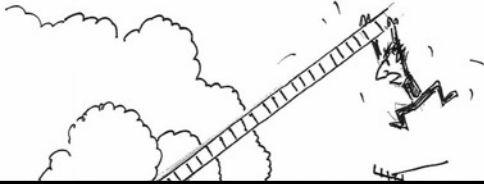
This system has been in situ for over sixteen years with no problems and with '4 bar' (water pressure) generated by the pump in the stream all around the garden, amazing! As I said earlier, we are very fortunate that our garden has survived the summer. It may well have been an expensive outlay at the beginning, but goodness me, it certainly has paid off!

Now I am 'off' down 'under again' where I am told heavy rain awaits me...!

My warmest regards to you all, with very early good wishes for the festive season, which no doubt will be upon us before we know it!

God Bless

Erl



Famous Last Gardening Words

- 1 Don't worry, it's not the first time I've handled a chainsaw.
- 2 It looks a tad rickety I know but this old ladder is good for a few more.....
- 3 Of course it's safe...I've mended the flex with Sellotape !
- 4 Me, Tarzan!
- 5 A HANDRAIL! Who needs a HANDRAIL?
- 6 I've climbed higher than this in the Alps.
- 7 The greenhouse roof should just about bear my weight!
- 8 Poisonous? Nonsense! I've been eating these things since I was a kiddie.
- 9 There's nothing like heaving flagstones around to tone a chap up!
- 10 If you stand on one leg, you should just about reach that last apple ...
- 11 OOps!!
- 12 **%oX@**!!X!!

Pip Harwood



Hard Graft.

I don't need to point out to gardeners what a strange growing season we have just had, especially in the vegetable garden. After enticing those of us who like to get planting as early as possible with what looked like an early Spring, we were faced with 'The Beast from the East'. After the subsequent delayed Spring we had to watch many of our efforts either fry in the drought or commit to extensive watering.

In my own veg garden some things have done exceptionally well while others failed to thrive. One plant group that did really well was the potato and tomato family which managed to avoid the blight that normally plagues those of us who don't like to spray.

I have been growing tomatoes for more years than I care to admit. For much of that time I would dig out and change the soil in the polytunnel every few years, a tedious and exhausting but worthwhile exercise. Getting older and perhaps lazier I was always on the lookout for a less energetic alternative. I had experimented adding mycorrhizal fungi when planting my tomatoes out which produced good strong but leafy plants without replacing the soil.

Some years ago a few seed catalogue companies started to offer a limited number of varieties of ready grafted tomato plants. At that stage the varieties on offer didn't include anything I wanted to grow. I have over the years found several varieties I wouldn't be without. Then I discovered that Kings Seeds sold a tomato rootstock seed variety called Estamo. I haven't looked back! I can grow any variety I please on this vigorous rootstock. Grafting tomatoes is really easy to do and I encourage anyone with even the palest of green fingers to have a go. The seeds come with full instructions, are initially expensive to buy (£4.35) and it would be prudent to buy the grafting clips. You can re-root the severed shoots of the rootstock as many times as you like. I use these to graft the later outdoor tomatoes.

Last year having an excess of rootstock cuttings I decided to try grafting aubergines, another member of the tomato family, onto these cuttings. The variety I used was Early long purple and to my delight it worked. This year the crop has been so good even four vegetarians and three omnivores couldn't keep up with the supply. The hens turned up their beaks, they would prefer a glut of cucumbers, so to my daughter-in-law's consternation some have ended up on the compost heap.

Sally Hawkes 





Wonderful Weather, Weird Weather

I've just read through the articles I have previously written for the SFGC newsletter, partly to remind myself what I've said in the past but mostly, having been reminded, to ensure I don't repeat myself. However, one thing I did mention earlier this year (the date of my Word file is 3rd March 2018) was the 6 inches of snow on the ground at the time, accompanied by the bitterly cold wind being brought by the Beast from the East. And yet, within a matter of only 10 weeks after that, we were basking in almost Mediterranean summer temperatures. How on earth did the plants cope? In my garden and on my allotment most of them did.

In the shorter than usual transition from winter to spring in 2018, whether it was just our collective imagination and relief or whether it was reality is hard to say, but the spring blossom and early flowers seemed more lush and plentiful than usual, almost as though they had gained more strength and energy from their longer period of dormancy. Along with everyone else, I was sowing vegetable crop seeds later than usual but it didn't seem to make any difference – the seedlings quickly caught up and I was planting everything out at the normal time.

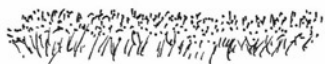
But by early July the hot, dry weather had started to make its mark and watering became a necessity. Early on, having once used my hose to water as much of the garden borders as it would reach I became rather concerned about what repeated watering sessions might do to my water bill and so resolved not to use the hose again but to save and use as much water as possible from my kitchen. I did actually manage it – perhaps I'm just rather profligate with my use of water! – but became oh so fed up with lugging bowls, buckets and watering cans full of water to the garden. I didn't bother watering the lawn – I mean, my mown green space – which quickly became brown and very crunchy. But, at least, there was no necessity for weekly lawn mowing! (Actually, the worst affected areas of my lawn still haven't recovered because since early September something has been systematically digging them up.) On my allotment I did water everything with a hose: there was no hosepipe ban and anyway we allotmenters pay an annual water charge, irrespective of usage. With the water pressure doing the work, watering with a hose can be quite relaxing and I dismissed nagging thoughts about "such a waste of time, I've got better things to do" with the knowledge of saving time because of not having any, or not much, weeding to do.

I have had some casualties, both from the cold in March and April and from the summer drought. From the cold: a large, beautiful convolvulus cneorum; there were virtually no ripe figs because the fruitlets had such a late start; and absolutely no greengages because I reckon the snow and the Beast killed all the blossom buds. From the drought: despite frequent watering, a dainty, dark

leaved heuchera; there has not been a single flower on the rodgersia or on a canna in a large pot; I had a poor crop of calabrese because the flower heads just didn't develop very well and I've cropped very few pumpkins – pumpkins for Halloween carving rather than for the table.

But, looking on the bright side – we gardeners are, after all, optimists – there were definitely some horticultural bonuses along with the hot weather. Some of my plants really relished the heat: I've picked large quantities of plums, pears, sweetcorn (yes, my badger defences did the trick!) and peppers, I had a spectacular crop of red onions and now tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuces and autumn raspberries are still going strong, here in the first half of October. At various stages during the summer the fragrance from lilac, honeysuckle and jasmine was intense and more widely pervaded my entire garden than I've known for a long time. Even now, with a – so far - warm autumn, the profuse, late flowers on the eleagnus ebbingei I put in about 4 years ago are sending out an exotic, sweet, spicy perfume which is particularly noticeable when the sun is on them. It makes a delightful change to the usually rather dusky, musty smells of an autumnal garden where the leaves of everything except evergreens inexorably fade, die and drop to the ground in wet, claggy piles and so much else starts to fade away.

So, what are we to make of our weather so far this year? Have the main events (I won't say extremes, not in our temperate zone) just been by chance or do they point to a warming change in our climate and a consequent increase in seriously unsettled weather? For most of us the hot summer was a welcome change: we just slapped on more sunscreen lotion and enjoyed more al fresco living. For most of us, on the other hand, the really cold weather (and so late in the winter!?) was a worryingly miserable inconvenience, sometimes dangerous. And what of the ferocious gales in September? This is not the place for a debate about climate change and what the carbon dioxide emissions due to the developed world's energy-hungry lifestyle are doing to our planet. We know that our climate does change: we know that the Romans quite happily planted vines for wine making -it may be, of course, that, were we to drink the wine they produced here, by the standards of our "refined" palates today, we would deem it totally undrinkable! – and we also know that there was much more ice and snow around in the winters some 500-600 years or so ago. But maybe, just maybe, we should actually be thinking about things like turning part of our lawns into gravelled areas and planting more drought tolerant plants. Me? I love lavender and, as I said a little earlier on, something has already started to remove my lawn.



*Vee Cockerel
West & Middle Chinnock
Gardening Club*



Don't Tell the Neighbours

Summer merges into Autumn and Autumn into Winter. These are the Greater Mysteries in the garden. At the other end of the spectrum it's a different kind of puzzlement. For instance, the other day I came across a long-forgotten arisaema which had suddenly emerged out of nowhere 3 months late. I am still stumbling uncomfortably over pine cones lying underfoot on the garden paths - the fruits of the 60 foot Norway spruces next door. The thing is this. They were all cut to the ground three years ago. Could they be Phantom Cones? Not when I bung them back over the hedge!

Then there was the Mysterious Case of the Dearly Departed Jackdaw. There it lay, toes turned up on the grass by the garden shed. Since Jane hates dead birds even more than fluttering ones, this was no time for niceties. With one swift gesture it sailed over the fence and landed with a pleasing thump behind my neighbour's shed. Two days later, the darned thing was back again in exactly the same place on my lawn, still dead as a Dodo. Still an ex jackdaw. So It was with a hint of apprehension and only mild satisfaction that I watched it hurtling over the fence in the opposite corner of my garden. Was this good-bye or just au revoir? All rather bewildering .

It is our good fortune that we have very good neighbours though I steer the conversation away from fir cones and jackdaws. I haven't yet told my wife of the Sad Case of the Gluttonous Rat stuck in the hole in my compost bin.....

Pip Harwood

<p>Committee Members for the Somerset Federation of Gardening Clubs</p> <p>Comittee meets twice a year plus the AGM. Must be a Team Player & PC literate and able to give some time.</p>	 <p>★ ★ ★ ★ ★ WE NEED YOU!</p>
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A Basic Guide To Home Composting



Composting is important to the natural garden as it enables us to recycle organic matter that would otherwise be thrown away. Any organic matter, if left long enough will eventually rot away, but by composting, we can speed up the rate of decomposition, and be left with a good source of natural plant food.

C:N ratios of some common compost materials

Chicken Manure	7:1
Lucerne hay	13:1
Cow manure	15:1
Food Waste	15:1
Weeds	19:1
Lawn clippings	20:1
Seaweed	25:1
Fruit waste	35:1
Leaves	60:1
Straw	100:1
Paper	170:1
Eucalypt bark	250:1
Sawdust	450:1
Pine bark	500:1

The Carbon:Nitrogen ratio

Gardening books will frequently refer to an elusive C:N ratio, particularly when they are talking about composts. The most important requirement for effective decomposition in the home compost is the ratio of carbon (C) to Nitrogen (N) in the materials.

This is called the Carbon-Nitrogen (or C:N) ratio. C:N ratios are sometimes written as a ratio, such as '20:1'. Other times they are written as a simple number, since the ratio always refers to the quantity of carbon for each one unit of nitrogen.

The C:N ratio of a freshly made compost should be about 30:1. The C:N ratio of a finished compost is usually more like 10 or 20:1, since the carbon is utilized by organisms as they compost the materials

To get a suitable C:N ratio it is necessary to mix materials with a high C:N ratio such as sawdust, with materials such as manures that have a low C:N ratio. It is not necessary to get out the chemistry equipment and measure the C:N ratio of the compost as you make it, but you should think about the approximate quantities of carbon and nitrogen in the materials you use. The table provides some C:N ratios for common materials that might be added to home composts. It is perfectly acceptable to make guesses about other materials, based on this table and what the material looks, smells, and feels like.



Compost needs the following:

- Plenty of organic matter.
- Sufficient nutrients, particularly nitrogen - The bacteria that break down material in the compost need Nitrogen to survive. If the Nitrogen levels become too low then they will die out.
- Sufficient, and well dispersed oxygen - to speed up the rates of decomposition. Oxygen can be added to a compost heap by using ventilated pipes running through the heap to introduce oxygen, or by turning the compost regularly.
- Sufficient and well dispersed water - The compost should have the moisture content of a squeezed sponge, damp but not soggy. If the compost is too dry, water can be added to the compost when it is turned. If the compost is too wet, drainage pipes can be placed underneath, or the compost can be turned more readily.
- A source of cations - especially calcium, to stabilize the compost. The calcium will act as a buffer to stop pH levels from varying too much. Gypsum is sometimes added to compost heaps as a source of calcium at the rate of 1-3kg per cubic metre of compost. Gypsum also has the effect of reducing odours and reducing nitrogen losses.
- Appropriate temperature - For the compost heap to decompose effectively, the heap needs to reach a heat of between 40 and 60 degrees C. This heat is generated by the 'body' heat given off by the microbes in the heap.
- Appropriate pH - as plant sap is acidic, compost heaps will start off acidic and may even become more acidic in the early stages of decomposition, but this will return back to earlier levels later.

Moist or juicy material should be in thin layers (no more than 3cm thick) covered by dry organic material such as dry straw or shredded paper

The layers of organic material should be between 5 and 10cm thick when first laid down (note that as the heap settles this will settle.)

If using a large amount of cooked food, or dry material such as straw, woodshavings or paper, add some manure to boost the levels of nitrogen in the composting material.

Compost bins

Compost bins are useful as a tidy way of making compost, and will fit well in many urban situations. In direct sun, the plastic can trap heat, speeding the decomposition process, but can sometimes get too hot. The plastic bin also holds in moisture well, but can sometimes get too moist.

'Worm farms'

When earthworms feed, they work with raw materials and turn them into rich fine compost. This compost is rich in castings or manure of the earthworms which is superior to animal manures. Worm 'farms' can be purchased or made from just about any sort of container that will hold the worms and the material they are being fed on, but will allow drainage. Worms can be fed kitchen scraps, straw, manure, paper, etc. An example of the proportions of materials is: 70% weeds, leaves, grass clippings, 25% manure and or table wastes; 5% topsoil. It is advisable to use purchased worms as they thrive best under domestic conditions. Tiger worms or red wigglers are two of the best varieties. The worm farm should be kept moist but not saturated, and ideally should be maintained at a standard temperature (not too hot and not too cold) with as little temperature fluctuation as possible. It is the combined action of the earthworms, bacteria and fungi that produces the best kind of compost.

The Finished Product

Compost is ready to use when:

- It is crumbly and generally an even texture (Material such as straw, or flower stems might be intact still, but will frequently crumble when squeezed between the fingers).
- It should drain well, but still have good moisture holding capacity.
- It should be dark in colour
- It should smell earthy, not rotten or mouldy.
- The high temperatures that occurred in the centre of the heap during decomposition should have dropped.

Compost can be used either as a mulch, spread on the surface of the ground, or dug in (mixed with soil), to improve the structure of soil. Compost can be applied at almost any time of the year, but best results will frequently be had if it is applied in autumn or spring, and dug into the topsoil. Do not leave compost too long before using it, as nutrients can be lost over time – particularly in warm wet weather.

acs garden.com

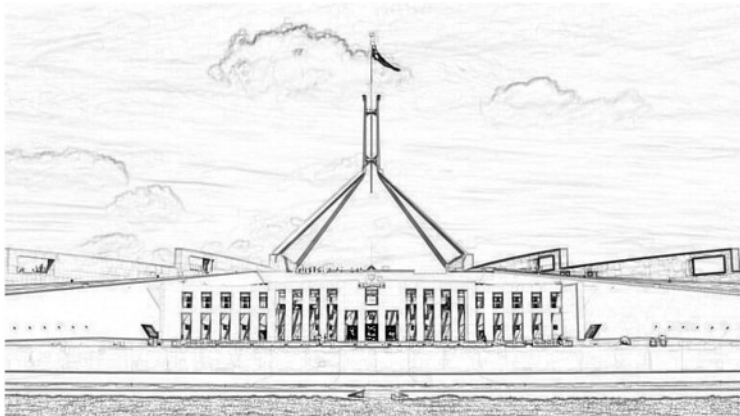


A Letter from Canberra

By the time this goes to print, Chairman Erl will have returned from his recent visit to Australia. He can give you first hand his impressions of Canberra.

A feature of the city is just how dry and brown it is, not dissimilar to many other inland areas of Australia. It is just so different to the English landscape.

In early August 2018, ninety-eight per cent of NSW and around two-thirds of Queensland was in drought or drought-affected.



Parliament House, opened in May 1988 by Queen Elizabeth II

Bush Capital of Australia

The Australian Constitution said the Parliament must choose a site at least 100 miles from Sydney. The location selected in 1908 was a compromise between Sydney and Melbourne and construction commenced in 1913. Canberra, as a new name for the capital, was a sentimental favourite and logical choice. The name derived from a local Aboriginal word for "meeting place" and had been in common use in the district for some time.

Canberra is a planned city, based on a blueprint by architect Walter Burley Griffin. It features geometric motifs such as circles, hexagons and triangles, and is centred on axes aligned with significant topographical landmarks. The city's design was influenced by the garden city movement (initiated in England in 1898 by Sir Ebenezer Howard) and incorporates significant areas of natural vegetation, green spaces and lakes.

Canberra has 5 satellite townships with a total population of over 400000. There are few cities of its size in the world that have native birds and wildlife in such abundance. Kangaroos regularly grace Canberra's roads and suburbs.

Lonely Planet named Canberra as the 3rd best city in the world to visit in 2018.

National Arboretum

In 2003, bushfires caused severe damage to suburbs and outer areas of Canberra, including the destruction of large pine plantations. Instead of replanting pines, the National Arboretum was established at the beginning of the millennium.

One of the largest tree conservation projects in the world, the National Arboretum focuses on the conservation, display and study of rare, endangered and significant trees from Australia and around the world. It is home to over 44,000 trees growing in 94 forests across a 617-acre site. While many of the forests are still very young, two are almost 100 years old – the Himalayan cedar and Cork oak forests.

The Bonsai Welcome Garden, or "Yokoso Niwa" is inspired by Japanese bonsai and moss gardens. The garden represents a landscape of mountains, symbolised by the large rocks, with a dry river bed flowing between them.

A forest map can be viewed or downloaded from https://www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/463472/FINAL-Forest-map-and-list-Dec-2017.pdf

Bill Upton - Canberra - August 2018

Growing Support for St Margaret's Hospice!

St. Margaret's Hospice were delighted to host a celebration event recently to thank the Somerset gardeners that kindly opened their gardens, this summer to raise vital funds totalling £16,600 for the hospice.

Unlike nationwide open gardens schemes, all donations raised from the St. Margaret's Open Garden Season are used to support local patients and their families in Somerset and the Sherborne area of Dorset.

St. Margaret's Hospice is very keen to hear from anyone who would like to take part in 2019, be it a garden, allotment, orchard or farm, or as a garden volunteer. There are many other ways to support the scheme, including plant sales, serving refreshments at local shows, or a community scarecrow trail. We are also seeking local businesses who would like to advertise in our 2019 Open Garden Brochure or donate a prize to the Open Garden Raffle.

For more information and an informal chat, please contact

Susan on 01935 709182 or

email susan.bickle@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk

Federation Website - SFGC.org.uk



For those of you who have been looking at the Federation website for over 6 months you will have noticed it has changed quite a bit with new colours and layout. We do hope you like the new format and find it easy to find what you are looking for. Constructive criticism is always welcome. If you use a smart phone then the website has been specially set up so pages fit perfectly on your

screen. Check it out.

Please do check your club entry and let us know if there is anything you need changing.

The Noticeboard is there for you to advertise **SPECIAL** events that may be of interest to people from a wider range than you normally have. Posters that you will be using locally to advertise the event can be displayed on the website. Almost any format can be used but a picture in JPEG, BITMAP, TIFF etc is preferred..

If there are any changes or insertions you feel would enhance the website then do not be shy - email us and we will seriously consider your suggestions. It is YOUR website.

David Talling webmaster@SFGC.org.uk

From the Data Base Secretary

At this time of year with the renewal of subscriptions, our data base is updated where applicable. However, during the course of a year, there are occasions when clubs/societies have changes of committee and the 'main contact' currently on our records could alter. In those circumstances, it is really important that we have those amendments so that we can maintain an up to date data base.

On the Federations website – at the bottom of the Membership Page, there is a CLUB DETAILS FORM.

This should be completed and sent either to our treasurer Mr John Dunster or to myself, Mo Plomgren. Thank you.

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

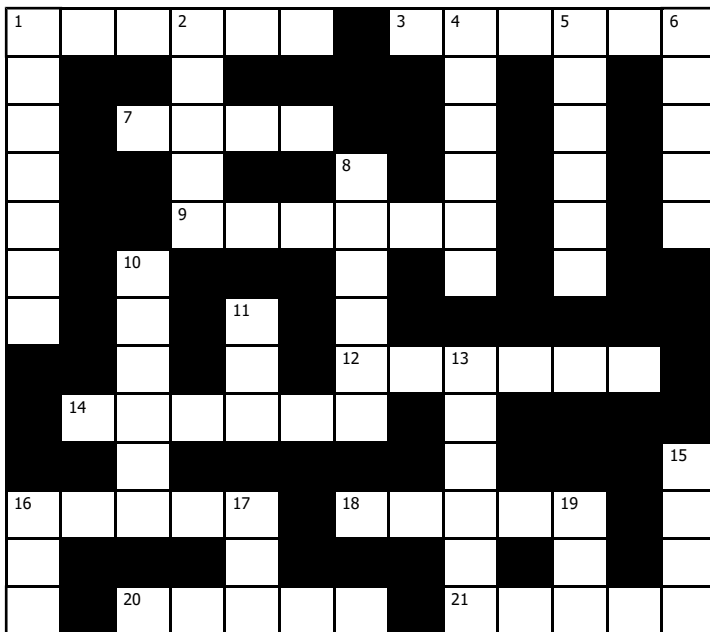
Thursday 23rd May 2019

Drimpton Village Hall, Nr. Chard

Hosted by Clapton & Wayford & Drimpton Horticultural Society

Full details in the Spring Newsletter

Gardening Crossword



Across

1. Very quietly look round for something hot.
3. Shrubs from the Americas
7. Scheme for growing vegetables
9. Lily's wild
12. Vanilla for instance
14. Where the slugs may spell danger
16. Asparagus say could give one a stabbing pain
18. Hotel cabbage
20. She will prepare the peas
21. A tree or horse out west

(Crossword submitted by John Dunster)

Down

1. Get information from people and food item.
2. Growing source of new lamps
4. Bean smuggler
5. See an apiarist's needs in garden
6. Diggers home in the south east
8. Plum like fruit
10. The plant uncle has to look out for
11. Come out in the garden
13. Does it grow a lot too much
15. Old fashioned stuff but may be sweet
16. Broadcast in a manner so pointed
17. Gruesome plant
19. You heard

Gardening Crossword - Spring 2018 Answers

- Across:** 1. Juniper 6. Peas 7. Reset 9. Swede 11. Spear 12. Loam
 16. Cos 18. Trowel 19. Strew 20. Hoed 21. Couch **Down:** 2. Nettles
 3. Peppers 4. Desert 5. Fruit 8. Aster 10. Elm 11. Spades 12. Leaf
 13. Roses 14. Mewed 15. Fall 17. Broom



Tintinhull Village Hall Garden Planting Day **Saturday 3rd November**

The Village Hall garden planting day was a huge success. There was a great turn out of volunteers - well over 20 - who arrived armed with spades to dig and plant up the various beds and garden areas. Another team of volunteers looked after the kitchen and cafe, providing hot food, cakes and hot drinks to keep the planting team and passing well-wishers fully energised. Mike Burks from the Garden Group was on hand throughout - bringing in all the plants, shrubs and climbers, bags of compost and planting materials, rolls and rolls of fence wire for the climbers etc - and offering expert advice and planting assistance to all the volunteers.

Hard work and endeavour were obvious but so too was great humour and fun, and working to a clear planting plan the time flew by and by early afternoon, much to Mike Burks amazement, we'd finished. So a return to the cafe to have a second go at the tea/coffee and cakes and to end the day on a hugely enjoyable and sociable note. In working so quickly though, it meant one family turned up with wheelbarrow, wellies, spades and two eager children - all ready to help - but arriving just as we'd finished, had to make do with just a cafe visit. Such a shame!

Generous donations and contributions from individuals, groups and clubs from the village have been received over the last few months to allow this significant planting and landscaping programme to be carried out. So we were keen to do justice to that support and we certainly now have garden areas, albeit very newly planted, that complement the new building and brighten up the whole site. Let's hope it's appreciated by everyone who now visits the Hall.

With the weather mild and dry, being outdoors planting was extremely pleasant but with some heavy rain forecast over subsequent days, the timing garden-wise was perfect. Thanks again to all volunteers for freely giving their time to the project and to Mike and Garden Group for adding all their expertise and financial support.

What we really need now though, is for parking motorists to stop driving over our flower beds!

Neil Garnett

Tintinhull Gardening Club

Note: photos of their efforts can be viewed on the Federation website Gallery
www.sfgc.org.uk/gallery.htm



Final Cuttings

Final words and Christmas hasn't had a mention. Before the appropriate seasonal aspirations here are a few important pointers and reminders for your consideration. Some of them are reinforcements to what has already been said but all are worth noting. After all, the object of this newsletter is, like the BBC, to entertain and inform.

Quiz Booklet

I now hold a small booklet of three quizzes which clubs may like to have in cases of emergency and so on. Just give me a ring (01749 679182) and a copy will be sent. The quizzes have been tried and tested at Wells and District Gardening Club which may or may not be a recommendation.

The Website.

This, too is yours and has been updated and has a new look. Well worth a glance - just type in SFGC.org.uk. It is now organised for smart 'phone usage. Send in your big events for the Noticeboard, and photos of your shows, gardens, favourite flowers etc. to David Talling for the Gallery. Please use the website.

AGM 2019.

We are hugely grateful to Clapton, Wayford & Drimpton Horticultural Society for hosting next year's event. Make a note of the date in your new diary and send a party along. It's always a very enjoyable evening.

Speakers and Judges Register.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a list of changes and amendments to the 2017 Register. Please pass this on to your hard-pressed program secretary. A complete revision of the register will be undertaken next year and should be published towards the end of 2019 or a bit later. So give some thought to giving some new names to the list; a form for your suggestions will be issued next Spring.

Calendar of Events.

The form is enclosed. Please return this to Mo Plomgren by the end of January. As with the website Noticeboard please include only major events such as shows, guest nights and open gardens i.e. not your current programme.

Now a word of welcome to new clubs. Though a number of clubs have folded and withdrawn we extend a warm welcome to St. Margaret's Somerset Hospice Open Gardens and to Exmouth Gardening Club and wish them a happy affiliation.

My grateful thanks to Mo, Wendy and David for all their hard work in helping to keep things going smoothly. And to all the contributors to this, your Newsletter.

All that's left for me is to extend on behalf of your Committee every good wish for the coming festive season and for a fruitful and successful 2019.

Pip Harwood



