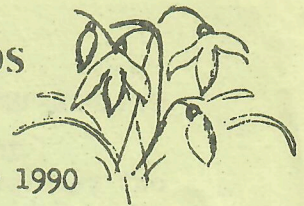


The Somerset Federation of Gardening Clubs

(Founded 1984)



NEWSLETTER No 1

January 1990

Since 1990 has been designated 'Gardening for Beginners Year', perhaps it is appropriate for us to welcome the New Year with a new venture ourselves. Horticulturally, we may not be babes, but the Somerset Federation is still in its infancy and this first issue of the Newsletter is an attempt to communicate to all our members in all our Clubs and Societies. I hope it works. As the new Secretary, I am a bit of a new boy myself, and would ask for your indulgence through the New Year.

Perhaps the success of this project, as well as that of the Federation as a whole, will depend upon you, the members of 69 Clubs throughout the County of Somerset and beyond. I wonder if you know who your neighbours are? If you know of any clubs who are not affiliated to the Federation, try to persuade them to join, or at least tell me, so that I can make contact. I would be grateful.

The advantages of joining the Federation are already known to you. Fifty two clubs participate in the Public Liability Scheme, a wise move in these days of exorbitant claims and awards. No Committee can afford to fork out huge sums just because of an accident at a Club Outing or some unfortunate trouble to a member of the public at the Annual Flower Show.

HORTICULTURAL SOUTH-WEST

After the success of the 1989 Show it is clear that the next one will be even better. Since our membership totals several thousand, the Federation must be represented. Any clubs or societies who wish to be involved in mounting a display or manning it, in order to publicise our work and enthusiasms, please contact me.

SOMERSET FEDERATION & RHS

The R.H.S. is making attempts to decentralise its position and it is anxious to investigate ways it can help societies through affiliation. What can the RHS do for member Clubs? The suggestion of Federation membership of the RHS will be put to the AGM next spring. In the meantime, thought should be given to examine the benefits.

JUDGES COURSES 1990

There is a shortage of Judges in Somerset and to ensure that numbers are increased, Mr. N.H. Rigden of Cannington College is very hopeful of running courses this year for people who wish to become judges. If anyone in your Club is interested, and you have not already contacted Mr. Rigden, would you please get in touch with him as soon as possible. Judges of quality standard are vital to the survival of all our shows, large and small.

Mr. N.H. Rigden, Cannington College of Agriculture and Horticulture,
Cannington, TA5 2LS.

FEDERATION COMMITTEE

I should like to take this opportunity, before the AGM, of inviting all members to give some thought to colleagues you would like to see on the Committee. Recommendations have to come from you, the members, and, if new faces are not regularly introduced, a stagnation of ideas could result. The work and time involved is not arduous; three or four committee meetings would be the maximum and often we can manage with only two per year. Will all Club Committees please treat this matter as urgent.

FLOWER SHOWS 1990

If Clubs which have open classes at their Shows would give me the dates of next years show, these can be circulated at the AGM, with a request that they be passed on to individual members. In this way entries in the open classes might be increased.

FINANCE-RECEIPTS.

In order to save time and postage, the Treasurer will no longer be sending out receipts to Clubs who pay subscriptions or premiums by cheque, unless a special request is made at the time of payment. It is appreciated that a few Clubs require receipts for all transactions, so will Club Secretaries please advise their Treasurers that, if they still want receipts, this must be mentioned when sending future remittances to Mr. J.L. Starnes, the Fed. Treasurer.

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

- 1) There are 52 clubs participating, of which 43 have opted for the £1M cover.
- 2) The relevant extracts of the new policy which was mentioned in the Treasurers letter of 15th Sept will be circulated to all participating Clubs in the first couple of weeks of 1990.
- 3) CUPS & TROPHIES Insurance: The minimum premium with effect from 1/1/90 will be £25 (plus £1 certificate fee). Up to now it has been £15.

S.F.G.C. SPEAKERS AND JUDGES LIST

- 1) Deletion: Mr B. Langdon, Stanton Nurseries, Pensford. (I am grateful to Mr. Belben of Martock for this information)
- 2) Recent additions:
 - S.R.B. Chambers, 4 the walnuts, Chilton Polden Bridgwater TA7 9ES
0278-722427 Work of N.C.C.P.G.-illustrated-no fee.
 - Mrs Christine Bleech, Linnets, Shute Road, Kilminster, Axminster
0297-34746 Flower Arranging and Garden Planning for Visual Effect.
- 3) Additions to judges:
 - J. Burt, 34 Steppes Crescent, Martock
Fruit, Veg, and Flowers. Expenses only.
 - G. Belben, 9 East St. Martock, TA12 6NF.
Fruit, Veg, and Flowers. Expenses only.
 - E.W. Crawford, Grovelea, Wyke, Axminster.
Vegetables. 0297-32671.
 - Mrs C. Heddy, Wynyards, Court St. Winsham, Chard.
Flowers. Winsham 30260.
 - G.F. Gillman, Little Pacehayne, Umborne Lane, Shute, Axminster.
Fruit. Wilmington 410.
 - Mr. & Mrs. W.F. Goddard, Newholme, Horslears, Axminster.
Flowers and Pot Plants. 0297-32629.

If any member knows of speakers or judges whom we could add to the list please let me know. It is important, too, that I should know of any names that need to be removed.

FINALLY.

Our membership continues to increase. We have recently welcomed Rode Major Horticultural Society and Wessex Daffodil Group to the Federation. I would urge you all to let us know how best the Federation can serve its members. Use the Newsletter to air your views and publicize events, and send in articles you would like to be published. Remember Kipling:

"Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made
By singing 'Oh how beautiful!' and sitting in the shade".

And lastly, my thanks to all members and Club Secretaries who have maintained the flow of information which enables us to provide the service you seek.

Best wishes for a Happy and Fertile 1990,

Fernville, Bath Road
Wells

Pip Harwood, Secretary.