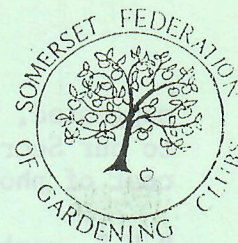


The Somerset Federation of Gardening Clubs



NEWSLETTER V AUTUMN 1992.

A garden is a loathsome thing-eh, what?
Blight, snail, pea-weevil, greenfly, such a lot!
My hardest tool is powerless, yet the fool
Next door contends that slugs are not-
Not slugs! in gardens! when the eve is cool?
Nay, but I have some lime;
'Tis very sure they shall not walk in mine.

H.W.Hodges.

The season when we reap what we have sown is once more upon us. We take some small comfort, as did Mr Hodges, in having limited the depredations of our garden enemies, and we resolve to do things differently next year: we shall plan ahead and be better organised. In this fixity of purpose I am sure I echo the feelings and determination of all Hon. Secs. throughout the country, including myself. It happens every year!

You will find a number of items of specific interest in this newsletter and I would urge very strongly, all well-intentioned secretaries to pass this information on to your members, in particular the asterisked* paragraphs! It will give you something to say at your meetings!

*Gardens opening Scheme.

Please read the attached letter and let us have your suggestions - it is a scheme which will benefit all our clubs, especially those who are finding it increasingly difficult to fill large coaches for long visits. Suggestions please to our Chairman, or to me. For example Mrs.E.Clarkson of Dicot, Burridge, Chardstock, Axminster (0460-20364) is already taking bookings for June-September 1993.

What we need is a reasonably comprehensive list, so please help.

Speakers' Register.

The Speakers' Lists for 1993 are with you; 32 new speakers, 6 new judges and numerous new subjects.

I would draw your attention to the page of amendments which you may like to fix inside your present copy.

* Enclosed too is a suggestion, endorsed by your committee, from Lyn Spencer-Mills, your Vice-Chairman. It is an attempt to deal positively with a perennial problem, that of speakers who do not give good value. Please read and return the form to me.

Dorset Federation List of Speakers.

We have recently been in contact with our friends in the Dorset Federation and have agreed to make each other's list of speakers available to clubs in both counties. The Secretary now has a copy of the Dorset list, which contains 56 names of speakers, some of which are common to our own list. We think this will be of use to clubs near the Somerset/Dorset border, although it will not, of course, be subject to the Star Rating system

2.

suggested. Club secretaries are invited to send a request for this list to our Secretary, with postage stamps to the value of 64p to cover the cost of photocopying and postage.

R.H.S. membership details stolen.

* If any of your members joined the R.H.S. at the Malvern Spring Show, would they please contact R.H.S. direct as all details of these members went missing after the R.H.S. vehicle was stolen. These new members have therefore not received their benefits.

The Committee discussed at length the extension of R.H.S. affiliation-concessions to Federation members. It was decided that the affiliation by the S.F.G.C. was a gesture of support to that prestigious body, and that individual clubs would do far better by joining separately. The subscription for 1993 is £22. Details from Peter Norman, Membership Dept., The Royal Horticultural Society, 80, Vincent Square, London, SW1P 2PE.

Public Liability Insurance Scheme.

If any Club would like to increase its Public Liability cover to £1.5m the total premium would be £20 per annum. If a premium has already been paid at the recent renewal, only the difference between the premium paid and £20 would be required. Similarly, the premium for £2m cover would be £25. Please contact the Chairman if interested.

Following up the letter to non-participating Clubs about the Scheme, one Club has had written confirmation from its Village Hall that accidents caused by the negligence of their own members are not covered for Public Liability. We hope that all non-participating Clubs are checking up on this point!

SFGC Membership List.

All Clubs are asked to note that the Federation's list of member organisations, now 92, is available to commercial interests at a charge of £25 per copy. Please direct interested parties to me, as Secretary.

1993 Programmes.

Please send in your programmes for 1993 when you return the Vice-Chairman's questionnaire. I should like to thank those who have given me information already and who keep doing so. It does help the smooth running of affairs and is much appreciated.

* R.H.S./ City and Guilds Gardening Scheme, in conjunction with Cannington College.

The R.H.S. and City and Guilds have developed a new gardening scheme for its members and affiliated societies. The scheme offers the gardener the opportunity to study a foundation course, to which specific courses or units can be added. It is designed to be as flexible as possible in order to address the needs of different gardeners. Cannington is piloting the new course which will be offered as a 20 hour foundation course comprising ten two hour morning sessions, running from 26th February to 14th May 1993, with a two week Easter break. All enquiries should be made to the Admission Officer, Cannington College, Bridgwater TA5 2LS, tel; 0278-652226.

Finally

* From me, a final word of exhortation to ask you to pass on all this information, in particular those asterisked paragraphs!

I wish you all a winter of happy gardening interest, and success in planning your programmes.

Pip Starwood

Hon. Sec. S.F.G.C.
Fernville, Bath Road, Wells, Somerset,
BA5 3HR 0749 -679182.