



NEWSLETTER VI

SPRING 1993

When that great Australian cricketer D.G. Bradman notched up a century, he would acknowledge the congratulation, ask the umpire for a fresh guard, purposefully readjust his cap, take a hard look round the field, and settle to his next century. Well, we of the Federation may not be as skilled with the bat as Bradman, but I am delighted to report that the S.F.G.C. has achieved a century membership, which must give us even more enthusiasm for maintaining the value of the service we provide and, like Bradman, to settle in for the next century!

Since the last newsletter we have welcomed to the Federation Green Fingers of Comey-trove and Galmington, Colyton, Somerset Organic, Chard, Farrington Gurney, Cannington Fuchsia and Pelargonium, Chedington and South Perrott, and Yeovil Fuchsia Society. Your Vice-Chairman, Lyn Spencer-Mills, must take credit for the results of some publicity. New clubs are still being formed and I am in touch with more at the moment. However, if you know of any Gardening Club which is not on our list, please drop me a line.

* GARDENS OPENING SCHEME.

The list of gardens whose owners agree to open for S.F.G.C. visits is enclosed. Your Chairman, John Starnes, has worked hard to compile a list of delightful gardens and we urge you to back this initiative by paying some a visit this year. Please support this scheme in its first year. Note particularly the risk run if you, or the garden you visit, are uninsured; this problem is stressed in the Chairman's letter.

*INSURANCE-DON'T BE NEGLIGENT!

A note from your Chairman on Insurance cover is also enclosed. Secretaries are urged to pin this letter to their policy. It deals with some very important details.

OBITUARIES.

Gardening in Somerset has lost two very good friends since the last newsletter. Mr Denis Holmes was well known throughout Somerset, and Mr. Jack Ashdown was Secretary of Castle Cary for many years.

GUIDELINES.

Our Guidelines for Exhibitors are still available from me at £3.50 (post free) for 25 copies. These, as you may remember, were drawn up as a guide for novice exhibitors. It was felt that many new gardeners are unnecessarily apprehensive about entering their produce for shows. The Guidelines are an attempt to encourage more gardeners to fill the benches at our summer shows.

RECOMMENDED SPEAKERS.

We have had 23 responses from clubs, nineteen showing approval for the scheme. Lyn Spencer-Mills writes:

The questionnaire regarding recommended speakers which was circulated with the Autumn

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Newsletter 1992, has now been completed and returned by 23 out of the total of 98 clubs contacted at that time. It is hard to believe that those clubs which have not yet responded have been so disappointed in their speakers that they really have no-one they would wish to recommend? Surely you could remember someone who has given you an entertaining evening, who would appreciate your accolade - please let either Philip Harwood or Lyn Spencer-Mills know if you have any belated thoughts on the subject.

If you are one of the clubs who has already returned the questionnaire and have subsequently had a speaker you would like to recommend, please let us know, since it is only by this means that we can continue to update the "Recommended" list

Meanwhile, from the 23 responses to date, the following names have been recommended by at least two clubs :

Numbers 1, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 34, 56, 60, 64, 67, 68, 69, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76,
77, 81, 85, 86, 91, 94, 102, 103, 104, 106, 108, 112, 113, 118 .

I should again emphasise that the absence of a speaker's name from the above list does not mean that they are not excellent - perhaps they are new volunteers, or have not been asked to speak recently. There is also the strong possibility that they have given super, interesting talks to the clubs that have not yet put pen to paper! Please help us to help you.

Lyn Spencer-Mills, (Vice Chairman)
Hooper's Holding, Hinton St. George.

ORGANIC FERTILISER.

The prices for 1993-4 for Groworganic are as follows :

Ex factory Single bags £3.00 + vat.

Delivered free to one address 15-24 bags £2.80 per bag + vat

" " " " 25+ bags £2.60 per bag + vat.

Contact Jim Searle, Organics Ltd., Hayes Road, Compton Dundon, TA11 6PF, Tel: 0458 73337.

*SUBSCRIPTIONS.

As the time for subscriptions draws near, here is a warning shot across the bows from your Treasurer, Bill Thomas. A small minority of clubs are persistently late in paying their subscription. This year, he says, they may have to pay a penalty to cover the expenses of chasing up tardy clubs. So, you have been warned !

A.G.M. and OFFICERS.

The A.G.M. has been fixed to take place at Cannington College in May 1993. Details will follow in the notice to be sent out later. The Chairman's report of 1991-2 highlighted the problem of a lack of volunteers for future officers. One county federation is in difficulty for this reason, and we do not wish to find ourselves in that situation. If anyone wishes to serve on the committee, or to find out what it involves, please contact the Chairman or Secretary.

FINALLY

A word of exhortation from me to end. Please keep the information flowing. Various County Federations exchange ideas and news, and Kent Federation, for example, who have given us great encouragement in the past, have picked out, in their own newsletter, our Speakers' and Gardens schemes for serious consideration. We need information and we need ideas. If you have an idea which you feel would benefit the Federation, please let me know. Now we are a hundred, where do we go from here ?

Happy Gardening!

Pip Harwood

Hon. Sec.