



NEWSLETTER TEN, Spring 1994.

"Come thrust your hands in the warm earth,  
And feel her strength through all your veins."  
R.Aldington.

My wife Jane would respond to this odd invitation by saying "You don't even tempt me strangely!" Warmth has as yet totally eluded us this spring, leaving us with the feeling that we are gardening in the tundra. What have we done to deserve this? Have we erred and strayed so much....? However, warm feelings lie ahead! It's time for our A.G.M.!

Tenth Annual General Meeting 1994.

The notice for the A.G.M. is included with this newsletter. Hopefully you have already noted the date in your diaries from the last newsletter and so we are looking forward to a record attendance. This will be the tenth A.G.M. of the Federation and the first, held at Wells Town Hall in 1985, was attended by the representatives of twenty clubs. Last year only twenty five clubs came to the meeting, out of a total membership of a hundred! Surely we can do better this year!

You are welcome to bring a guest to the meeting and I am sure you will enjoy Nick Rigden's guided tour of the gardens beforehand, so make sure you come early so as not to miss it. Cannington College holds eight national collections of plants, among them the spectacular ceanothus, phormiums and osteospermums. The sun will shine on May 17th I promise you, so let's see if we can get at least half our members to attend.

If you are unable to come along please return the tear-off slip at the bottom of the accompanying notice.

Officers

The following officers and members of the Committee have expressed their willingness to stand for re-election for 1994-

- 5 John Starnes, Chairman. West and Middle Chinnock.  
Lyn Spencer-Mills. Vice-Chairman. Hinton-St-George.  
Bill Thomas. Treasurer. Banwell.  
Philip Harwood. Secretary. Wells.  
Ray Box. Kilmersdon.  
Barbara Child. Minehead.  
Fred Daw. Bath.  
Joyce Harding. Weston.  
John Lewis. Martock.  
Nick Rigden. Cannington College. ex-officio.

There is a vacancy. Nominations please to the Secretary before the meeting.



Hestercombe Gardens.

As you may have seen in the press the Somerset Fire Brigade HQ is to remain at Hestercombe but public access to the gardens still requires our attention. The inaugural meeting of the Friends of Hestercombe takes place on Sunday, May 1st, 1994 at 2 p.m. at Hestercombe. Please try to be there. Garden clubs as well as individual gardeners have a part to play in the maintenance of the plants and the stewardship of this lovely place.

Gardeners Wanted.

Here is a suggestion from a member of Wells Club. Since an increasing number of people find themselves in need of occasional help in the garden Wells members have been invited to let the committee of their club know of people who can offer a cheap and reliable gardening service. Such gardeners are often found among club members who are willing to give a few hours help occasionally in return for payment. Members who have retired or are unemployed and perhaps have a very small garden or even live in a flat, often welcome the chance to continue gardening and the arrangement can often involve a portion of the garden being set aside for the helper to grow his, or her, own flowers and vegetables, an added bonus. Clubs could organise their own scheme for the mutual benefit of all concerned.

Ideas wanted.

If you have an idea or suggestion which you think might be helpful, either to other clubs, or to individual gardeners, possibly on the lines of the above, please let me know and I shall be only too willing to publish it in a future newsletter.

Good luck with your gardening-get those onion sets in now and why is that parsley still in its packet? See you at the A.G.M.!

*Pip Stanwood*

## STOP PRESS : DIARY DATES

SATURDAY 30 APRIL	SUNDAY 1 MAY	MILVERTON GARDENS OPEN	2.00 pm
		PLUS ART EXHIBITION	
SATURDAY 30 APRIL - 2 MAY	SUNDAY + MONDAY	BATH SPRING SHOW	10am -