



NEWSLETTER XII AUTUMN 1995

"Come, my spade.."

(W.S.)

Wrack, scud, wool-pack, squall, nimbus, stratus, cumulo-nimbus, strato-cumulus, call them what you will, they are all clouds of our winter skyscape, all bringing wet in one form or another. It is the appropriate and logical end to a season of drought and we should not complain. After all, a prolonged autumn has brought along its bonuses. Mid-November in Milverton saw delphiniums in bloom and Red Admirals on the wing. Our gardens are green once more, even if our Chairman's garage in West Chinnock has been flooded again, and our bean trenches turned to moats. Leaving the garden to get on with it, there's the club business to attend to. May I stress the importance of passing on our information to your individual members. Photocopy bits of it if you like, and pass them around at your next meeting.

S.F.G.C. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

At the A.G.M. the following were elected to serve on the Committee :

John Starnes, Chairman	01935 881308
Stoneleigh, Duckpool Lane, West Chinnock, Crewkerne TA18 7QD	
Lyn Spencer-Mills, Vice-Chairman	01460 76389
Hooper's Holding, 45, High Street, Hinton St. George TA17 8SE	
Philip Harwood, Secretary	01749 679182
Fernville, Bath Road, Wells BA5 3HR	
Bill Thomas, Treasurer	01934 822627
Littleton, 3, Littlefields Avenue, Banwell, BS24 6BE	
Joyce Harding	01225 317472
Eversley, 50, Broadmoor Lane, Weston, Bath	
Fred Daw	01225 858813
Sandbourne, 32, Morris Lane, Bathford BA1 7PR	
Barbara Child	01984 640765
20, Castlemead, Washford, Watchet, TA23 0PZ	
John Lewis	01984 822527
Orchard House, Hurst, Martock, TA12 6JU	
Ray Box	01761 434415
Tramore, 25, New Bath Road, Radstock BA3 3ED	
Brian Airey	01934 418998
123, Totterdown Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 4LN	
Nick Rigden, ex-officio member	01278 652226

Cannington College of Agriculture & Horticulture, Cannington TA5 2LS

As you see, most areas of the county are represented on the Committee.

All members would be pleased to offer advice or help should the need arise or should you encounter a difficulty.

THE FEDERATION QUIZ

A sufficient number of clubs have expressed an interest in participating in a Federation quiz and their secretaries will be contacted shortly. The idea is to hold the competition during the 1996-1997 season, culminating in a final at the A.G.M. '97

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

The 1995/6 insurance year started on 1st November and no less than 104 of our 128 clubs have now joined the scheme. One of the main reasons for so many clubs participating is the fact that they have checked with their Village or Local Hall insurance and have found that accidents caused by Gardening Club members in the Hall, are either not covered, or are a grey area in the Hall's policy, as some of the Hall insurers do, or may, take the view that accidents caused by Club members at Club meetings or functions are not the Hall's fault or concern.

We do suggest that non-participating clubs check most carefully with their Local Hall Committee that accidents caused solely by Club members at Club Meetings or functions are adequately covered by the Hall's insurance. If this turns out to be a grey area in the Hall's policy, the Hall Committee should be asked to check the position with their Insurer or broker. This is the only way to be certain. It is better to be safe than sorry and, after all, £15.37 is little enough to pay for peace of mind.

If you have a query relating to Public Liability Insurance you are asked to contact either John Starnes or Bill Thomas.

CUPS AND TROPHIES INSURANCE

We are often being asked by Clubs if cups and trophies insurance can be arranged. For many years we have had little success in finding any company to provide this cover, but our present Public Liability Insurance brokers have persuaded their underwriting company to consider taking on this insurance, provided a sufficient number of Clubs would wish to participate.

Will interested Clubs kindly complete the enclosed slip and return it to our Chairman as soon as possible. We can then see if there are enough interested Clubs to warrant our insurers giving us a quotation.

PRIVATE GARDEN INSURANCE

Many house and contents policies specifically exclude damage to fences, gates, outside walls and damage caused by blown down trees. Gales seem to be more frequent these days and they can cause major and expensive problems.

Our Federation insurers have arranged, at the reasonable premium of £16.40 per year the following cover :-

For Walls, fences, gates, lawns, hedges, patios :

Damage caused by :-

- * Storms, lightning, explosions, trees, falling masonry
- * Malicious acts of violence and theft
- * Wild animals such as birds, squirrels and foxes
- * Accidental damage caused by an unknown third party.

An explanatory pamphlet is enclosed and we ask that this information is brought to the notice of all your members. Anyone interested should contact Hill House Hammond direct and not the Federation. Further copies can be obtained from them. Their telephone number is 0117-9692366

HESTERCOMBE GARDENS

It is hoped to establish a management trust to look after the Lutyens/Jekyll Garden. A plan has been drawn up for approval with a view to handing over the management of the garden to this group by the end of March 1996. Michelle Pine, Chair of the Friends of Hestercombe writes, "From the Friends point of view this is good news in that it separates the Lutyens/Jekyll Garden from the House if at any time in the future a change of use or sale of the House is contemplated. We shall be holding a special Open General Meeting on Saturday 23rd March 1996 at 2pm. at Hestercombe House."

More details of the Friends of Hestercombe can be obtained from Ms. A.M. Pine, Cobbleside, North Street, Milverton TA4 1LG Tel. 01823 400404

GUIDELINES FOR SHOWS

It is the intention of the Committee to produce and publish some basic guidelines on the various procedures and problems involved in the organization of a Flower and Vegetable Shows. With this in mind, I am appealing to any Show Manager who would be willing to share their wisdom and offer advice. My own club organized its first show this year and a few of us were lumbered with most of the work. I confess that things became pretty fraught on the domestic front at times! So, help is needed from those clubs who are well experienced in mounting successful shows. Please contact any Committee member if you have any simple rules to follow or words of advice on avoiding pitfalls.

This will take time to organize, and it is impossible to have the guidelines in place for your next show.

SPEAKERS & JUDGES REGISTER

A new edition of the Speakers and Judges Register will be produced next year. Contact will be made with every speaker and judge asking for updated information. If you know of a speaker or qualified judge whom you could recommend and who is not on our Register, then I should be very grateful to receive a name and address, so that I can make contact.

I still wish to hear from Secretaries about speakers who give value and whom they would recommend to a neighbouring club. I am very grateful to all those clubs who sent back the yellow returns; they are still coming in! 40% of clubs returned them with most useful information.

As you can see, the evidence is still not complete. Nevertheless, on the question of recommended speakers, 77% of the names on our list have been recommended once and 57% have received at least two recommendations. Only 4% disappointed their audience. Clearly, programme secretaries can continue to use the Register with confidence. Should you have doubts about any name, or encounter a problem, then please get in touch, and I, or any other Committee member will do our best to help.

EVENTS CALENDAR 1996

Already I have received a few dates from members.

Hinton St George	Gardens Open Week-end	June 22 & 23
	Flower & Vegetable Show	August 3
NCCPG	Plant Hunters' Fair	April 27
	Hatch Court, Hatch Beauchamp	

I will endeavour to incorporate your events in a calendar if I receive the details in good time. Please send your dates and events if you are looking for extra publicity

ORGANIC FERTILISER SCHEME

Organico Ltd., Hayes Lane, Compton Dundon, Somerton will sell to member clubs bags of Groworganic (33lbs approx) at the following rates for 1996 :

Single bags collected from the site.....£3.10 + vat

15 - 24 bags delivered£2.90 + vat

25 bags and over delivered.....£2.70 + vat

Orders over 15 bags will be delivered FREE to ONE address. Please contact Jim Searle direct, mentioning the Federation. Tel: 01458 273337

FINALLY

Would Secretaries and Treasurers please ensure that all cheques on Federation business are made out to the Somerset Federation of Gardening Clubs and not to individual Committee members (except on our birthdays).

Since the last Newsletter in the Spring, we have welcomed the following clubs to our membership: Portishead Allotments, Montacute, North Petherton, Axminster, Neroche, Burrowbridge, Norton Fitzwarren and Draycott. Some of these are newly formed clubs and we wish them all every success in the future.

Please let me have your news and views, and return those returns. Since it has started to rain again, I shall leave that spade where it is..

The SEASON'S GREETINGS to you all !

Pip Harwood Hon Sec .