



NEWSLETTER XII. SPRING 1995

"The grass that grows in Janiveer

Grows no more all the year."

Whoever said that must have a different sort of grass to mine!

Those cheerful harbingers of spring, the daffodils, pushed up their spears well before Christmas but are putting on a splendidly prolonged display this year. In the grounds of my workplace they are annually plundered in the cause of Mother's Day by the local children. After all it's the thought that counts isn't it! Nevertheless we have had our pleasure from them before March 26th arrived.

This brings me to the second newsletter this season. Would secretaries where possible, please share this information with their members.

Obituary.

Mr. E. J. Burt.

Ken Dunn, Chairman of Martock, pays tribute to the late Mr Burt in the following letter:

"I am very sorry to have to let you know of the death at the age of 72 of Mr E. J. Burt, who has been President of our Society for some 20 years and a very active grower, exhibitor and judge of flowers and vegetables. He took the Federation's Judges' course and officiated at many of the local shows until recently when he gave up through ill-health. He was very well-known in this area, belonging to several of the village gardening societies. His widow Violet is also a very keen gardener and a staunch supporter of our Gardening Society.

Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society.

The Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society exists to help retired professional horticulturalists or professional gardeners who are incapacitated, and their spouses.

For most of the 156 years of our existence the Society has been concentrated in the S.E. but we are very keen to extend and expand our work throughout the land. We do now have properties in Eyemouth, Scotland, Kings Stanley, Glos., Barton, Cambs., and most recently Adel near Leeds.

My predecessor set up the scheme of Regional Organisers or secretaries and we are at present endeavouring to expand the scheme. We do not have anyone at this time in the Somerset/Avon area.

If you know of anyone who has a few hours a week to spare and would be interested in promoting the interests of this Society, through attending garden openings or shows with G.R.B.S. Enterprises goods to sell, or speaking to groups etc. we should be very glad to know about them. If you would like more details please do not hesitate to get in touch with me as I should be delighted to hear from you.

From: Mr C.R.C. Bunce,
Chief Executive GRBS,
Bridge House,
139, Kingston Road,

Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7NT Tel: 01372 373962

Organic Fertiliser

Jim Searle informs us that the price of Groworganic is again unchanged as follows;

Ex Factory single bags	£3.00 + VAT per bag
Minimum 15-24 bags	£2.80 " "
Twenty five bags and over	£2.60 " "

Orders over and including 15 bags delivered free to ONE address in the Federation area. Please contact Mr Searle direct at Organico Ltd. Hayes Lane, Compton Dundon, Somerton, TA11 6PF Tel: 01458 273337

Newsletter returns.

I am very pleased to record my thanks to all club secretaries who took the trouble to complete the yellow form enclosed in the last newsletter. Nearly 40% of club secretaries responded and the information which was gathered is extremely valuable. Your comments on speakers were interesting and informative. 57% of Speakers on our register have been recommended more than once and another 20% have been recommended once. Only a very few speakers have disappointed. The message is simple- Programme Secretaries may use the S.F.G.C. list with confidence, though, of course, if you do have any concern please contact me.

The returns also highlighted other news. One issue which I wish to raise is the problems faced by small clubs with dwindling numbers. There are a few clubs with a membership which continues to decline, despite the valiant attempts of the officers to keep the club going. Costs of speakers and meeting places continue to rise with no increase in income for the club. Has anyone any suggestions as to how these small clubs can be helped? Perhaps speakers can offer special rates to clubs with small numbers, perhaps neighbouring clubs can hold joint meetings several times a year sharing the cost of the speaker and the hall without losing their own identity? Has anyone any suggestions? Please let me know as I should like to return to this subject in the next newsletter.

Alpine Plant Society.

The local representative of the Alpine Plant Society is;

Dr.V.Davies,
Woodside House,
Woolaston Woodside.

Lydney, Glos GL5 6PA tel; 01594 529663

We ask secretaries to ensure that any of their members who are specialists or who are particularly interested in alpiners, are informed in case they wish to contact him.

New Speakers.

I hope to be in a position to offer a number of new speakers in time for the A.G.M. as a result of information from Hon.Secs. However, two new names can be added;

1.Jane Harwood,
Fernville, Bath Road, Wells, Somerset BA5 3HR Tel;01749 679182
on The Quest for the Garden Gnome
Band B or by arrangement with small clubs.

2.J.H.Akeroyd,
Twilights, Stowey Road, Firehead, Taunton, TA3 6PP tel; 01460-281835
on Fuchsias and Pelargoniums.

Deletions- please remove no 65 Mrs S. Brinkley who has moved to Australia.

The Yellow Book.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Yellow Book of gardens open to the public. I am sure you will inform your members of the details inside and urge them to support this splendid scheme.

N.C.C.P.G.

Also enclosed is a leaflet with details of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens. Again the cause is worthwhile and the benefits interesting. Your members may not know of its existence. Please inform.

Telephone Numbers.

As you all know by now, telephone numbers are to be prefixed by 01 and the BRISTOL code has been changed to 0117. I shall endeavour to publish an updated list of members complete with appropriate telephone numbers in time for the A.G.M.

Finally

I am delighted to welcome Spaxton Flower Show, Weston Chrysanthemums and Winford Gardening Society to our number. They, like the rest of you, will shortly be receiving notice of the A.G.M., once again at Cannington College on Tuesday, May 16th, at 7.p.m. A tour of the gardens beforehand is a special attraction. We look forward to a good turn-out.

Our own Gardens Open booklet will be with you shortly. You are asked to book a visit to at least one of the gardens included. Our club usually manages two or three—all successful!

So back to that grass. Mine is looking decidedly miserable, but I am not a lawn man. For those who are, I commend the Cambridge gardener's answer to the American tourist who asked him how he had got his lawns into such fine condition;

"We mows 'em for hundreds of years, and
rolls 'em for hundreds of years."

So there you are! Go to it!

Happy Gardening!

Pip Harwood

Pip Harwood. Hon. Sec.