



**GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
FEDERATION OF  
GARDENING SOCIETIES**

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**N E W S L E T T E R**

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# FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Many thanks for the welcome I have received from so many of our Societies and Clubs. It has made settling into the job less arduous than it might have been. Despite a lot of experience with Committee work and AGMs, I still have the "tummy wobbles" whenever beginning anything new - as indeed I do whenever I preach even now after all these years.

Thank you also for the invitations to visit your Groups - I will do my best to fit in as many as possible during the coming Spring and Summer.

I hope you are beginning to appreciate the new website if you are able to access the internet. There is a further report from Cliff Powlesland on page 5 who has been a very good friend to the Federation in building the site and in continuing to advise and support us.

We have started on the project of updating the List of Speakers and I have received the names of a few new people asking to be placed on the list. Please let me know of anyone you think may be interested in joining the ranks - or if you yourself would like to have a shot at it!

This Newsletter looks as if it's going to be a "bumper" issue with all the news, information and the other contributions that have come either by post or by email. Thank you for your efforts - sorry I have had to edit them a little. You will notice that we have cut down on costs with the cover page!

Yours sincerely,

John Wilson

## REMINDERS.....????

### AFFILIATION FEES and INSURANCE RENEWALS for 2006 are NOW DUE!

The Insurance covers your legal liability.

Extra optional Insurance to cover Cups/Trophies or special equipment is also available. Premiums depend on the value of the items to be insured. Details from the Treasurer.

- The cost of Insurance?

#### Liability Insurance:

£42.00 for ALL Clubs which run Shows.

- OR -

£22.00 for Clubs having **less than 50 Members** and who **do not run any Shows**.

- The cost of Affiliation?

£10.00 in ALL cases.

Please contact the Treasurer on 01452 548 478 as soon as possible if you have any queries

**\*\*\* PLUS \*\*\***

The **LIST of JUDGES** is kept by:

Mr. M. Davis,  
Secretary, Guild of Judges  
Osric,  
115, Calton Road,  
Gloucester GL1 5ES.

01452 539 749.

[martin@osrics.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:martin@osrics.freeseve.co.uk)

Other information about Judges can be obtained from Mr. Davis

# DIARY PAGE

Somewhere to go? Something to do? Try these....

## ASHTON-UNDER-HILL OPEN GARDENS

Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 June: 1.30 - 6.00 p.m.  
Entrance: £3 - Children free

More information: 01386 881 487

Website: [www.ashtonopengardens.co.uk](http://www.ashtonopengardens.co.uk)

*GLOUCESTER BRANCH OF THE  
BRITISH CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY*

ANNUAL SHOW: HARDWICKE VILLAGE HALL  
GREEN LANE, HARDWICKE, Nr. Gloucester

Saturday 20 May 2006  
Open to the Public: 11.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

### THE COTSWOLD FUCHSIA & PELARGONIUM SOCIETY

PELARGONIUM SHOW  
SATURDAY 3 JUNE 2006: 12 NOON - 4.30 p.m.

THE PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHANCE STREET, CIRENCESTER  
ENTRANCE £1 + REFRESHMENTS & STALLS

SCHEDULES/INFORMATION: 01242 523 740

ALSO:

### **FUCHSIA SHOW**

**SATURDAY 13 AUGUST 2006**  
VENUE & INFORMATION: AS ABOVE

27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SHOW OF  
BRISTOL & DISTRICT FUCHSIA SOCIETY  
Incorporating PELARGONIUM SHOW

**SATURDAY 22 JULY 2006**  
**12.30 - 5.00 P.M.**  
Presentation of Trophies at 4.00 p.m.

ALMONDSBURY GARDEN CENTRE  
OVER LANE, ALMONDSBURY  
ADMISSION FREE  
Hearing dogs for deaf people

Reduced Admission Rates  
If booked in advance

## RHS

**SPRING FLOWER SHOW**  
BUTE PARK : CARDIFF  
15 - 17 APRIL 2006  
Ticket Line: 0870 066 77 99

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## STANTON GARDENS OPEN DAY

20-25 PRIVATE GARDENS  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
SUNDAY 18 JUNE 2006: 2 - 5  
p.m.

Stanton Village is on main road from  
Winchcombe to Broadway

Entrance: £4  
Children half : under 10s free

Information: 01386 584 909

Email:  
ellis.thestumps@btopenworld.com

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## MAY HILL GARDENING SOC.

PLANT SALE  
SATURDAY 6 MAY: 10-12 noon

THE SATURDAY MART  
MAY HILL VILLAGE HALL

Everyone invited

## WYCHE & COLWALL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

63<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL SUMMER SHOW

SATURDAY 12 AUGUST 2006  
2.00 - 5.00 p.m.

COLWALL VILLAGE HALL  
& SCOUT HUT COMPLEX

Further information: 01531 640 622

And there's more to come on DIARY PAGE...

**CHEDWORTH & DISTRICT  
ANNUAL SHOW**

**SATURDAY 26 AUGUST 2006  
2.00 – 5.00 p.m.**

**THE VILLAGE HALL, CHEDWORTH**

**Special interest this year: Open vegetable class**

**Catalogue from: Mr. I. Robb: 01285 720 033**



**MICKLETON GARDENING CLUB  
ANNUAL SHOW**

**SATURDAY 26 AUGUST (BANK HOLIDAY)**

**2.30 – 4.00 p.m.**

**KING GEORGE'S HALL, MICKLETON**

**Information: 01386 430 045**

**Email: [sallyravenhall@aol.com](mailto:sallyravenhall@aol.com)**



**Churchdown  
Horticultural Society**

**56<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SHOW**

**SATURDAY 5 AUGUST 2006**

**Further information from the Chairman:  
Terry Saunders: 01452 856 401**

**The Time-Trail of Roses**

**About 1,000 different plants**

**WESTFIELD ROAD, WELLS  
SOMERSET BA5 2RB**

**Susan Lee: 01749 674 677**

**GLOUCESTER  
AMATEUR  
GARDENING SOCIETY**

*ANNUAL SHOW  
SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2006  
DOORS OPEN 2.00 P.M.*

**ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH CENTRE  
GRANGE ROAD, TUFFLEY**

**Admission: 50p**



**AND NOW FOR SOMETHING  
COMPLETELY  
DIFFERENT.....**

**THE GARDENING DOCTOR**

*Do you suffer from PLUMBAGO  
Is your back a little sore?  
Or perhaps its PYRACANTHUS  
Which you caught in Singapore?*

*You've got a nasty little HOSTA  
Which I think I'll have to lance;  
And I notice a SPIREA  
Has been leading you a dance!*

*Are you getting quite forgetful?  
Is NEMESIA the cause?*

*Does your ANTIRRHINUM pain you  
When you're working out of doors?*

*You've had a SKIMMIA RUBELLA  
I can see that by your nose.  
And CORNUS CAPITOSA  
Has played havoc with your toes!*

*How is your VIBURNUM TINUS?  
Have you lost your sense of smell?  
Use a SYRINGA REFLEXA,  
That should help to keep it well.*

*I'm afraid MACROCARPUS  
Isn't really up to scratch,  
And do avoid NIGELLA –  
It's a nasty thing to catch!*

*Still, I think you're doing nicely –  
Watch the QUERCUS in your knees,  
Take your BERBERIS twice nightly.  
Cheerio! Next patient please!*

**Contributed by a Member of  
Blakeney Garden Club –  
Thank you.**

## THE FEDERATION'S WEB SITE

[www.gfgs.org.uk](http://www.gfgs.org.uk)

Some Member Clubs have their own web sites or pages on other web sites. GFGS has had a page on [beehive.thisisgloucestershire.co.uk](http://beehive.thisisgloucestershire.co.uk) for some years but it has remained static and uninteresting. Now we have our own site.

What are the benefits for your Club/Society?

- You can have your own page on the site:  
Simply send your information to the General Secretary by post or email and we will do the rest.
- Alternatively, GFGS can link into your own web site.
- The service is free of any charge.

Use the web site's facilities to publicise:

- Meetings, details of Speakers & topics.
- Competitions – categories, times etc.
- Shows.
- Open Gardens & other events.
- Bus trips with spare seats available.

In addition, items of specific interest to the public and to Members are on the **News, Shows, Open Gardens and other pages** on the site. Photographs and Competition Entry forms can be accepted. **Your Club/Society** can help the GFGS web site to become a valuable source of information and ideas for the gardening public in Gloucestershire and the surrounding counties. Because of the publicity the web site offers, ventures that seemed too risky may now become feasible. Collaboration with other Clubs becomes easier. Use of the web site might save Clubs/Societies money and time with printing. Additional Members and Visitors could be attracted to Meetings and Shows or to take part in Competitions.

For the web site to be a real success we need you to do two things:

- ❖ Put **your** Club's/Society's information on the site.
- ❖ Tell your Members about the site.

To see what other affiliated Members are doing, and for them to see what you are doing, visit [www.gfgs.org.uk](http://www.gfgs.org.uk) and click the **Members** button down the left hand side of the screen.

And remember – it's [www.gfgs.org.uk](http://www.gfgs.org.uk) (in lower or upper case or a mixture of the two).

**It is your web site – use it.**

Cliff Powlesland

## News from the Executive Committee

- ✓ Mr. K. Vaughan has resigned from the Committee due to ill health.
- ✓ The Tree Planting Ceremony in memory of David Brownjohn will now include a similar tree commemorating the life of Peter Thompson, a former Chairman and Vice President. Saturday April 2006 at 3.00 p.m. in the grounds of Hartpury College.
- ✓ **The Chairman requested the Committees of affiliated Clubs to offer Speakers assistance both in setting up equipment at the start and in dismantling it at the end. He noted that some Speakers travel very long distances and he hoped that they are offered some refreshments on arrival. A request was also made to Secretaries to confirm arrangements with Speakers in writing and to 'phone Speakers three days before the event to confirm all is well – both with the Club and also with the Speaker.**
- ✓ The Treasurer requested that the AGM be held later in the year to assist the Auditor.
- ✓ Mr. Davis advised that three Training Courses for Judges have been agreed.
- ✓ There are now 126 affiliated Clubs/Societies – four have either closed or are on the verge of closing.
- ✓ It was agreed that Mr. Lowe, Board of Directors, Hartpury College, should be deemed to be an ex officio Member of the Committee.

**SOME NOTICES OF INTEREST**

Be warned.....

**BUGMAN'S PERSPECTIVE AND ASSURANCE**

My little invertebrate friends have spread more viruses and produced more worms than we can ever begin to imagine, and they'll be around doing it long after we humans have self-destructed.

They are obviously smarter than we are because – they don't demand reports with impossibly short deadlines, they don't ask for the same data in umpteen different formats, they don't work to 'Standard Operating Procedures', they don't re-organise every time they have a new leader, they leap into the unknown without doing a 'risk analysis', they don't erect warning signs of the obvious, and their societies are not run by economists.

But rest assured that NOD32, the most effective non-entomological virus protector, is alive and checking my, and your(!) messages.

*Relax and just 'Love-a-bug'.*

**Roger Umpelby**

^^

**BERRY FRUSTRATING**

I have a hedge of twelve different species/cultivars of *Pyracantha*. Each September one of the earliest to colour – *P. rogersiana* "Flavia" – is stripped (and I do mean stripped) by birds as soon as the berries turn yellow; so promptly, in fact, that I hardly see them and I'm left to admire the naked pedicels. The other cultivars are left alone – at least until the weather turns hard.

Now I know we are in a wildlife-friendly era, but I **should** like to keep the berries for a few weeks. I emailed the RHS to ask if there were a deterrent that I could spray on for a while and they suggested trying "Stay Off" (aluminium ammonium sulphate), marketed by Vitax Ltd. This was not even dry when the blackbirds and thrushes descended (much too early for redwings) and tucked in as usual.

**Is there anyone who has a solution – no pun intended!**

I've thought of quinine, but that might be expensive.

**Larry Bellamy, Newnham GC**

**THE NATIONAL VILLAGE SHOW**

This summer the BBC will be holding regional heats around the country to find the best exhibition & giant vegetables, floral arrangements, cakes, jams, crafts & many more of your favourite village show categories

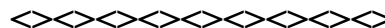
***If you would like to find out more or are interested in taking part then please contact***

**0207 432 2935**

or

[\*\*gbvs@12yard.com\*\*](mailto:gbvs@12yard.com)

**The National Village Show Team  
12 Yard  
10 Livonia Street  
London W1F 8AF**



**"Testimony Films"  
A TV Company  
is making a series  
for ITV West  
about the memories of  
youngsters in the  
West Country**

- If you have memories of
- Being a child in the 1950s
  - Early toys, cars, housing
  - Life before the NHS
  - Contracting serious illnesses
  - Seaside holidays
  - Growing your own food

Then get in touch with:  
**Lisa at Testimony Films  
12 Great George Street  
Bristol BS1 5RH**

**0117 925 8598**

[\*\*Lisa.lipman@testimonyfilms.com\*\*](mailto:Lisa.lipman@testimonyfilms.com)

**BECKFORD & DISTRICT  
GARDENING CLUB**

The Club was set up by our Vicar in 1989. We now have 140 Members and meet in Beckford Village Hall. The Club serves a number of villages on the slopes of Bredon Hill and one Member lives in Wales!

In the winter we hold seven evening Meetings: in the summer we run four day-long coach trips to gardens. We also visit local gardens on the summer evenings.

The Club does not run a Show but Members support local village Shows and participate in local villages' "Open Gardens".

Along with other Clubs we do sometimes struggle to get people to take on more active roles and we do need younger Members. But the Club thrives and it is a real pleasure to be involved with it.

Chairman: Roger Umpelby:  
01386 881 1449  
Secretary: Doreen Brett: 01386 881 565

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**CLIFTON GARDEN  
SOCIETY**

The Society was started in 1993 and the current Membership is in excess of 200. The Annual Subscription is £7 single and £10 double. A charge is made for postage for Members living outside the BS8 postcode area.

Meetings are varied: usually four Talks during the year; visits from February to October; a short break in various parts of the country; informal Meetings which do not require the hiring of a hall; AGM in April; Christmas Gathering.

A Newsletter is published each month with contributions from Members. Members are offered a 10% discount on purchases at Riverside Garden Centre. The Society is affiliated to the RHS and supports the Avon Garden Trust.

**Enquiries: Val Pritchard, Treasurer  
2 Clifton Close Bristol BS8 3LR**

**NEWS FROM  
AFFILIATED CLUBS & SOCIETIES**

**BRISTOL & DISTRICT FUCHSIA SOCIETY**

**Meetings are held on the last Friday of each month in  
ST. LUKE'S CHURCH HALL, BRISLINGTON, BRISTOL  
at 7.30 p.m.**

**Talks: APRIL: Chris Woolston: "Fuchsias"  
JULY: Jean Drew: "Summer Gardening"  
AUGUST: Peter Holloway: "Fuchsias"**

**New Members always welcome**

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**May Hill & District  
Gardening Society**

The Club was formed in the early nineteen seventies "to promote improvements in gardening and to provide a forum for exchanges of opinions and in gardening techniques".

Our friendly, thriving and lively Club draws Members from the surrounding area as well as villagers. Some Members are also involved with The Hardy Plant Society; The Gloucestershire Organic Gardening Group; The Wildlife Trust; NCCPG among others.

Meetings take place monthly throughout the autumn and winter and are held in The Methodist Chapel, May Hill at 7.45 p.m. From April to August garden visits take place at about 6.30 p.m.

Chairman: Roger Cox 01452 830 454  
Secretary: Angela Danby 01531 820 761

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**Wyche & Colwall  
Horticultural Society**

Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month in Colwall Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. Refreshments are served before Meetings

Members enjoy substantial discounts on seed orders  
A number of Outings are arranged during the year

Annual Subscriptions £10 per calendar year  
Visitors are welcome at Meetings for a charge of £2.50

**Note: A Special Ticket must be purchased for the  
Percy Picton Memorial Lecture**

**More information: Sharon Maiden: 01531 635 890**

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**FOR SALE**

Various items for  
Computers

- 15" Monitor (not flat)
- Modem Blaster
- Two Speakers
- Keyboard
- Mouse
- Microphone
- 4 Port USB Hub

Items sold

individually or in  
lots. Just make an  
offer for one or as  
many as you like -  
no reasonable offer  
refused

Proceeds to Charity

Contact:  
The General  
Secretary: John  
Wilson  
01432 840 559  
[jcw@cwmwell.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:jcw@cwmwell.fsnet.co.uk)

**Please  
Note ...**

The next issue of  
the Newsletter will  
be published in  
September 2006.  
Copy for inclusion  
to the General  
Secretary by

Friday 11 August  
2006

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE FEDERATION OF  
GARDENING SOCIETIES**

Registered Charity No. 257391

Affiliated to the RHS

**President:** Mrs. H. Elwes  
**Vice Presidents:** Mr. D. Waring  
Mr. R. Brooks  
Mr. P.J. Ballard B.Sc.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS**

Elected at the A.G.M.

**Chairman:**  
Mr. M. Leech

**Vice Chairman:**  
Vacant

**General Secretary:**  
Rev. J.C. Wilson

**Hon. Treasurer:**  
Mr. S.G. Reed C. Chem., MRSC

**Secretary of Guild of Judges:**  
Mr. M. Davis

The above five Officers act as Trustees for the Charity

**MEMBERS ELECTED AT THE A.G.M.**

**Miss J. Worsfold:** Convenor of the Guild of  
Judges  
**Mr. J. Tolkien**  
**Mr. G. Baker**  
**Mr. R. Champion B.Sc. (Hon)**  
**Mr. C. Smith**  
**Mrs. R. Smith**  
**Mr. R. Bailey**  
**Mrs. B. Powlesland**  
A Representative from "Growing Ideas"

**EX OFFICIO**

**Mrs. K. Turner:** W.I. Representative  
**Mr. H. Wharton B.ED (Hon) NDA MRAC A.R.agS**  
**FRSA**  
(Dean & Principal of Hartpury College)  
**Mr. J. Lowe:** Board of Directors, Hartpury  
College  
**Mrs. B. Lisle:** Hartpury College Liaison  
Officer

The Executive Committee meets four times a  
year usually at Hartpury College