

## From the Secretary

Enclosed with this Newsletter are the documents for the Annual General Meeting. I would ask Chairmen and Secretaries to make sure that their Members are informed of the Meeting and to complete and return the paperwork necessary for your Club/Society to be able to take a full part in the proceedings.

If your delegates want to order morning coffee/tea and also stay on for lunch, please complete the Booking Form and return it to me no later than 31 May 2008 together with payment: cheques to be made payable to "Hartpury College". Delegates do not, of course, have to remain for the tour of the College and grounds, but it is hoped that they will take advantage of this opportunity to gain an insight into the work of the College.

The date and format for the A.G.M. has been arranged by the Executive Committee in an effort to encourage more affiliated Clubs/Societies to attend. The Committee look forward to meeting many of you on Saturday 28 June 2008.

I do urge you to read carefully Mr. Sutton's Report on Page 3 and to discuss with your colleagues what you can do to help the schools in your area. The provision of small grants by the Federation is a new venture, the aim being to promote an interest in gardening among young people. The future of gardening and of Gardening Clubs/Societies is in their hands.

There has been no response to my request for an affiliated Society/Club to join with the Federation in setting up a Display at the Malvern Autumn Show. Please think about this: more than one Society could be involved.

Does anyone know of "The Dick Whittington Farm Park" which is situated in or near Longhope, Gloucester? It would be very helpful to have a contact telephone number: Google Search was not very helpful.

The next Meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Monday 19 May 2008 at 7.00 p.m. at Hartpury College. If your Club has any items for the Committee to consider please advise me by 3 May 2008.

John Wilson

[jcw@cwrmwell.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:jcw@cwrmwell.fsnet.co.uk)

01432 840 559

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION

HAWKESBURY GARDENING CLUB

•  
STOW-ON-THE-WOLD  
GARDENING CLUB

•  
RISBURY GARDENING CLUB  
has re-joined the Federation

•  
Sadly, Stroud & District Rose Club  
has closed down after some years of  
struggling with falling Membership

•  
The Federation now has 136 affiliated  
Members

## BAYER GARDEN SHOW STATIONERY

ADMINISTRATION & DESPATCH IS NOW  
HANDLED BY

MULBERRY ADVERTISING LTD.

to whom cheques should be made payable

Downloading and printing of Order Forms  
is still available from:

[www.bayergarden.co.uk](http://www.bayergarden.co.uk)

Price lists are provided on the Order Forms

01279 416 017



#### **"DON'T WASTE WILDLIFE"**

##### **COMPOST OFFICERS**

In April 2007, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust recruited 7 new compost officers to its 'Don't Waste Wildlife' team. The officers have been working in each of the council districts to encourage and support anyone starting to compost and offer help and advice to those who already do.

Over the last 9 months, the officers have come up with some creative ways to inspire Gloucestershire to go compost crazy at a local level. 2008 promises to be an exciting mix of events, workshops and presentations to an even wider audience. Topics covered include the different kinds of compost bin available, frequently asked questions, troubleshooting your composting and the dizzying selection of wildlife in compost from microscopic bacteria through to mammals and amphibians.

The team are available to give talks and presentations and help with any local composting support you and your community might need.

If you are a group, organisation, school or business that would like to know more about composting and how it benefits wildlife, you can contact your local officer via the Compost Hotline on:

[compost@gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk](mailto:compost@gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk)  
or 01452 313761.

**SPEAKERS ARE AVAILABLE AT**  
**GLOUCESTERSHIRE**  
**WILD LIFE TRUST**  
**TO ADD TO YOUR SPEAKERS' LIST**

**CONTACT:**  
**01452 383 333**

##### **BIO-DEGRADABLES IN LANDFILL**

It's easy! We put it in the bin, the bin men take it away, its put into a big hole in the ground, miles away, we can forget about it! But what happens in the big hole in the ground? Will it fill up? Will the next one be in my back yard?

All the waste is mixed up and squashed down by massive bulldozers. The biodegradable fraction, about half, breaks down without any oxygen, this anaerobic process produces methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. In fact 1kg of food waste produces the equivalent of 1kg of CO<sub>2</sub>. This is about the equivalent of driving 5 miles.

The other product of this process is a liquid called leachate. This unstable liquid requires a large amount of oxygen in order to become stable. If it is allowed to drain into our water courses it sucks all the oxygen out of the water thereby killing anything that was living in it, fish, insects and plants, affecting the whole food chain of the area. A huge amount of money has to be spent to catch and treat this leachate before releasing it in order to protect our wildlife and habitats.

The other problem with sending our waste to holes in the ground is that they keep filling up because we keep producing more and more waste per capita. We live on a densely populated island, we will run out of space. Gloucestershire County Council has 10 years of landfill space left at current rate of waste production.

These are three good reasons, three very good reasons, to make compost, not waste.

If you think you might like to have a go at composting, the Don't Waste Wildlife Team can help individuals or groups in Gloucestershire who would like find out how to do it. Where ever you live in house or flat it is possible to make the most of your kitchen and garden waste instead of sending it to land fill.

If you would like to find out more please call us on 01452 313761

or email us at [compost@gloucswt.cix.co.uk](mailto:compost@gloucswt.cix.co.uk)

**Financial Help for Schools.****Can you help a school near you?****Campaign for School Gardening.**

This is the Year of Food and Farming. It is endorsed by several national organisations whose web-sites are listed below. HRH Prince Charles is Patron for the campaign.

At the same time, the Royal Horticultural Society is starting The Campaign for School Gardening. The RHS is offering a small starter pack to those schools which sign up for the scheme as well as teaching/learning ideas on their website and professional development locally for teachers at Bristol University Botanic Garden, Westonbirt Arboretum and Hartpury College. Their focus is on primary schools and their aim is to have 80% of primary schools gardening in their own school garden by 2012. A further aim of this initiative, and those listed below, is to help teachers to enhance the curriculum in a number of subjects but particularly in science.

**How you might be able to help?**

In the light of these initiatives, the Executive Committee of the G.F.G.S. wishes to give support to primary schools in its area in the promotion of school gardening. The Committee sees this as an investment to promote interest in gardening.

Local gardening societies, allotment associations or individuals are encouraged to become involved with interested local schools in whatever way the schools think would be helpful. The help might include one or more of the following:

- Advice on aspects of gardening by individuals or groups
- Loan or donation of tools to the school
- Physical help with the setting up of a growing area
- Putting the school in touch with sources of free or low cost materials such as compost or seeds
- Financial help to buy seeds or other materials

To support the scheme the Federation will make available a limited number of small grants to societies which become involved on receipt of a brief description of their involvement and a statement of the support needed.

**Enquiries to:**

The General Secretary

01432 840 559 [jcw@cwimwell.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:jcw@cwimwell.fsnet.co.uk)

**Further information**

For those who require further information or to pass further information to schools some sources are listed below.

**Royal Horticultural Society**

Campaign for School Gardening. Ideas, teaching ideas, gardening advice, regional advisers in 2008. Assessment scheme and certificate awards. No mention of financial assistance.

Website: <http://www.rhs.org.uk/>

**National Farmers' Union**

Appears to be supporting the "Growing Schools" project with ideas. No mention of finance.

Website:

<http://www.nfuonline.com/x806.xml?keywords=Year+of+Food+and+Farming&startrow=1&resultcount=10&x=0&y=0>

You will find the following live links:

- The Royal Horticultural Society's Campaign for School Gardening
- British Potato Council's Grow Your Own Potatoes
- 'Getting your Hands Dirty' pack
- Growing Schools Garden
- Garden Organic
- Growing Schools
- Food for Life Partnership Mark for schools

**Department for Children, Schools, and Families (DCSF)**

Growing Schools - ideas and information for teaching. Some work on plants. No suggestions for actual growing. No mention of materials or finance. KS1 - KS3.

Website: <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/>

**Learning through Landscapes**

Organise competitions with significant prizes. Offer professional development for teachers.

Website: <http://www.llt.org.uk/>

**Defra**

No reference to gardens. No reference to finance. More to do with increasing understanding of food production.

Website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/>

**Dennis Sutton**

## 25 YEARS OF GARDENING AT NEWENT

Newent Garden Club was formed on 26 October 1983. The Inaugural Meeting was held at The Market House and chaired by Julian Dowle. 32 members of the public attended this Meeting and a Committee was formed with David Davis, Chairman; Mike Davies, Vice-chairman; June Davies, Secretary; Bill Lampkin, Treasurer; Julian Dowle, Programme Secretary; and Marian Moore and Richard Douch, Membership Secretaries.

In January 1984 the venue moved to the Community Centre, first to an upstairs room and then, as numbers steadily rose, to the Main Hall. In January 1990 the Club moved to the Memorial Hall to escape the dramatic increase in rent for the Community Centre. The facilities at the Memorial Hall are much superior with a purpose built kitchen and serving hatch for refreshments. The facilities at the Memorial Hall are much superior with a purpose built kitchen and serving hatch for refreshments.

The aim of the Club has always been to promote improvements in gardening, but the underlying theme is that gardening should be enjoyable. To this end the social side of the Club is as important as the business side. Past outings have included visits to the Liverpool Garden Festival in 1984, the Stoke Garden Festival in 1986, the Glasgow Festival in 1988, and a trip to Holland in 1986. Members have also visited Warwick Castle, Lydney Park, Bowood House, Clacks Farm, Kew Gardens, Knightsbrayes Court in Devon, Derbyshire for the Well Dressings, Spitchley Park, The Rose Society HQ in St. Albans, and the RHS Gardens at Wisley and Rosemoor.

The Club is thriving with duties shared by an active and hardworking Committee. There have only been two Presidents in the history of the Club - Roy Brooks from 1985 to 1996 when Sarah Williams took over. Pearl Pryce replaced David Davis as Chairperson in 2001 when ill health forced him to relinquish the role. However, David is still an active Committee Member. Mary Kitchen, having been a Member of the Committee since 1985, took over the role of Secretary in 1995.

Guest Speakers have covered all aspects of gardening and have included the television personalities Howard Dnary, Frank Hardy and the late, great Arthur Billel. Local celebrities Chris Evans from Dundry Nurseries and Reg Moule from Hurans Garden Centre are also popular with Members, as is Christine Kear, the flower arranger, and Pippa Palmer, the cookery expert.

Although Members are not competitive, the Club does arrange monthly competitions. These are well supported and cover fruit, vegetables, photography, floral art and craft. The Bill Lampkin Vegetable Trophy is awarded at the A.G.M. each January for the most points scored for vegetables during the year. Similarly, the Frank Gibson Flower Shield is awarded for points in the Floral Art competitions. There is also a Members' Cup for the most points scored overall.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall in Newent. New Members are assured of a warm welcome as the Club has a reputation for friendliness.

**For further information 'phone the Secretary:**

**Mary Kitchen on 01452 419 301**

(Apologies for the delay in publishing this News Item)

### RHS SLIDE & VIDEO HIRE SERVICE

The RHS offers a Slide and Video hire service through the Regional Development Department. The Slide Sets, including a Slide List, are available for hire at £18 plus return postage.

#### Slide Sets (40 slides plus script):

1. Trees & shrubs for small gardens.
2. Plants for the rock garden.
3. Practical vegetable growing.
4. The amateur's fruit garden.
5. Hardy & half-hardy bulbs.
6. Plants for foliage effect.

#### Videos (approx. 60 minutes):

**The Videos are available from the RHS Lindley Library: please contact 020 7821 3050.**

Further information is obtainable from the

**Regional Development Executive  
020 7821 3038**

### BLAKENEY GARDEN CLUB

**Are arranging trips to:  
Abbey Gardens in April  
Bidcote Manor in June  
Bristol Botanic Gardens  
in July**

**If you would like to join them 'phone the Secretary:**

**01594 510 349**

## **CAN "VICE" HELP US?**

Some time ago, at a Meeting of the Federation's Executive Committee, we discussed the difficulties Societies are having in finding Members who are willing to be elected for official posts. Two Federations in the South-east of England have recently folded over this very issue. Our own Federation is still battling with this problem.

You will know that some Societies in our Federation have failed to find replacements for vital Offices and have been forced to close down: others are struggling. Not long ago my own society at Slimbridge was entering displays at Malvern, Chelsea and Hampton Court but at our last AGM the Chairman was very worried at having to go into that Meeting with four posts unfilled and with no obvious replacements. Fortunately, the posts were filled on the night. The problem appears in cycles and even apparently strong Societies can suddenly find themselves in trouble.

### **A Widespread Problem**

It is not just Horticultural Clubs that are having difficulties: Village Hall Committees, W.I. and Church councils, to name but a few, all need volunteers to give more of their time. Members want their organizations to continue for ever but without volunteers willing "to have a go" it is sometimes just not possible to carry on.

To make matters worse, when the word gets round that a Society is looking for new Officers, attendance at the vital AGM drops off because Members do not want to risk getting "roped in".

The younger generation often claim that there is no time for outside activities apart from those linked to their children's education and sporting needs, especially when both parents have to work to pay the mortgage.

### **Where do we go from here?**

Some Clubs have re-written their Rules so that every Member must serve some time an Officer. I am told that this procedure reduces new Membership and even established Members leave because they get so nervous of being forced to do something they have never thought themselves capable of doing.

To make the work seem less onerous, some clubs have tried restricting the period for any Office to two or three years. An apparent advantage is that this builds up a large core of experienced Members. In reality, without long standing stalwarts the Club can become weaker and the problem of filling posts comes round more often.

A possibly better scheme, and one which we shall be trying out at Slimbridge, is for each Officer to find a trainee or future replacement and give them a gradual introduction to the work involved and then sharing the Office before the current holder retires. It may seem undemocratic in that a future AGM would be presented with a "fait accompli". To overcome this the Chairman could announce a list of volunteer trainees and Members could then let it be known in good time if they object to anyone named. We could call this list "The Vice Club".

Peter Ballard

**YOUR comments and ideas would be welcome – send them to the Secretary.**

## **MICKLETON GARDENING CLUB**

### **ANNUAL SUMMER SHOW**

**Saturday 23 August 2008**

**2.30 – 4.00 p.m.**

**King George's Village Hall**

**Mickleton**

## **73<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ROSS-ON-WYE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

*(affiliated to the R.H.S.)*

### **ANNUAL FLOWER, FRUIT & VEGETABLE SHOW**

**SATURDAY 9 AUGUST 2008**

**THE LARRUPERZ CENTRE**

**ROSS-ON-WYE**

**SHOW OPENS 2 P.M.**

**ADMISSION £1.50**

**Grand Draw : Plant Sales**

**Refreshments**

**NEXT NEWSLETTER  
MID-SEPTEMBER 2008  
COPY TO SECRETARY NO  
LATER THAN  
31 AUGUST 2008**

**RHS SHOWS**

**SPRING FLOWER SHOW**

**BUTE PARK, CARDIFF**

**18-20 April 2008**

**10.00 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.**

**(4.30 p.m. on 20 April)**

**Groups of 10+: £8.50**

**Individuals: £9 in advance; £10 on door**

\* \* \* \* \*

**MALVERN SPRING**

**GARDENING SHOW**

**8-11 MAY 2008 : 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily**

**For tickets 'phone: 01684 584 924**

\* \* \* \* \*

**RHS CHELSEA FLOWER  
SHOW**

**22-24 MAY 2008 : 8 a.m.-9 p.m.**

**Tickets: £41 (no group rate available)**

\* \* \* \* \*

**BRISTOL CACTUS SOCIETY**

**ANNUAL SHOW**

**Saturday 31 May 2008**

**10.30 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.**

**FILTON COMMUNITY HALL**

**CHURCHDOWN  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY**

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

**Saturday 9 August 2008**

**Opens at 2.00 p.m.**

**CHURCHDOWN COMMUNITY  
CENTRE  
PARTON ROAD, CHURCHDOWN**

**Entries close on 6 August 2008**

**Admission: Adults: 50p**

**Children 20p (free if accompanied by an  
adult)**

**SHOW SECRETARY: 01452 859 637**

**CHELTENHAM  
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

**SUMMER FLOWER &  
CRAFT SHOW**

**Saturday 16 August 2008**

**12.30 – 4.00 p.m.**

**Pittville Pump Road**

**PLANTS & CRAFTS FOR SALE**

**For further information:**

**Hilary Harvey : 01242 526 290**

# Open Gardens

Page 7

## **ASHTON under HILL**

(off A46 South of Evesham)

**Saturday & Sunday**

**7 & 8 June 2008**

**1.00 – 6.00 p.m.**

*Wide Variety of Gardens*

*Plants for Sale : Displays*

*Lunches : Teas : Refreshments*

**Entrance £4 : Children Free**

**Enquiries:**

**01386 881 778**

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

Proceeds in aid of the  
Community Centre & St. Barbara's Church

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the  
ANNUAL**

## **BARNSELY VILLAGE GARDEN FESTIVAL**

**Saturday 17 May 2008**

Gardens open include:

Barnsley House Hotel

Barnsley Park : Oxwold House

The Little House : Monk Bretton

Plus:

"A wandering Opera Singer"

Town Cryer : Craft Stalls

Kung Fu Demonstration

Children's Zone : BBQ

Teas & Cakes : Local Artwork

Licensed Bar

Garden Passports £5

(Children under 14 free)

Free Car Parking

Enquiries: 01285 740 196

[info@barnslevillage.co.uk](mailto:info@barnslevillage.co.uk)

## **HEREFORD & DISTRICT FUCHSIA ASSOCIATION'S 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SHOW**

**SATURDAY 9 AUGUST 2008**

The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School

Hampton Dene Road, Tupsley

Doors Open 2 p.m. – Free Entry

Plant Sales – Raffle – Tombola – Refreshments

Enquiries: Mr. Gordon Jones

01432 266 759

## **UPTON ST. LEONARDS FLOWER SHOW**

**Saturday 13 September 2008**

Village Hall,

Bondend Road

Upton St. Leonards, Glos.

2.00 – 4.00 p.m.

**CINDERFORD & DISTRICT CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY**

22 October: 2 p.m. - 8 p.m.

23 October: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

24 October: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

THE WESLEY HALL, BELLE VUE ROAD  
Entrance: 30p

**REFRESHMENTS AT ALL TIMES  
BLOOMS FOR SALE**

*Schedules from the Secretary:*

*01600 890 142*

**STROUD & DISTRICT  
CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY**

**54<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
CHRYSANTHEMUM &  
DAHLIA SHOW**

Sunday 31 August 2008 : 1.00 - 4.00 p.m.  
The Scout Hall, Dr. Brown's Road  
Minchinhampton

**SHURDINGTON &  
BADGEWORTH GARDENING  
SOCIETY**

**ROSE SHOW: 21 JUNE 2008  
ANNUAL AUTUMN SHOW:  
16 AUGUST 2008**

**The Cotswold  
Fuchsia &  
Pelargonium  
Society**

39<sup>th</sup> Open Pelargonium  
Flower Show

Saturday 31 May 2008  
12 noon - 4.30 p.m.

The Primary School  
(off Chance Street)  
Tewkesbury, Glos.

39<sup>th</sup> Open Fuchsia &  
Flower Show

Saturday 2 August 2008  
12 noon - 4.30 p.m.

The Social Centre  
Bishops Road  
Shurdington, Glos.

For Schedules & Enquiries for  
the above Events contact:

Colin or Rosemary Smith  
01242 523 740

**THE BEE**

The pedigree of honey  
Does not concern the bee;  
A clover, any time, to him  
Is aristocracy.

Emily Dickinson  
1830-1886

## Part-Time Study in Amenity & Landscape Horticulture



As a mature student it is not always possible to study full-time because of work and family commitments. With this in mind we have designed our National Award qualification to be studied part-time over two years.

You can choose which five units you wish to study from our range of hard or soft landscaping units as well as the 'Investigational Project' unit which is mandatory and must be studied at some point during the two years. The only restriction we place on the choice of units is that if you wish to study the units 'Landscape Construction' or 'Horticultural Surveying and Levelling' then they must both be studied in the same year along with the unit 'Horticultural Design Principles'.

All units start in September each year and run for a whole academic year. Part-time students study along side the full-time students in a class which is typically made up of a range of ages from 16-60 or beyond.

Options available to qualified students are continued study or supervisory and management roles; landscape construction; amenity based horticulture and nursery and garden centre work, among many others

**Entry Requirements:** (These may be waived for mature students)

Two Cs at GCSE level, or equivalent, one of which must be in English, Maths or Science or a relevant further education qualification.

Mature applicants: an interview and pre-entry assessment may be required.

For further information contact:  
Elizabeth Lisle, Hartpury College, Hartpury,  
Glos. GL19 3BE.  
Email: [Betsy.lisle@hartpury.ac.uk](mailto:Betsy.lisle@hartpury.ac.uk)  
Or ring: 01452 702377

**HARTPURY**  
COLLEGE