

# Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies



NEWSLETTER

*Registered Charity  
Number: 257391*

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## *A Message from our President:*

*I have taken over from Carolyn Elwes after her successful five year tenure as your President. I am delighted to have been asked to succeed her and look forward to the next five years.*

*Gardening is in my blood as I was born at Kiftsgate Court near Chipping Campden. The gardens were created by my grandmother, Heather Muir, in the 1920s. Encouraged by Lawrence Johnson at Hidcote my grandmother set about laying out the gardens as we see them today. My mother, Diany Binny, then took over the running of the garden in the 1950s and my husband Johnny and I moved back to Kiftsgate in the 1980s.*

*Over the years each generation has added and created new areas and of course planted masses of new plants and trees. The garden has been open to the public for many years and now attracts around sixteen thousand visitors a year. None of us has been trained in horticulture but have learnt by being 'hands on' and being taught by the previous generation.*

*Local gardening societies have always been welcomed to Kiftsgate as their members are enthusiastic and knowledgeable and, as we know, you inevitably learn from seeing other peoples' gardens and plants. Our local gardening societies in Mickleton and Ebrington are very pro-active and play a vital part in the local community.*

*I also have the honour this year of being High Sheriff of Gloucestershire which is enabling me to travel the County and meet organizations and individuals who do a huge amount of work on behalf of the community, the unsung heroes of the County.*

*Barbara Chambers*

### ***Perennial - the horticulturists' charity***

Every year, Perennial helps many hundreds of people from the gardening trades who find themselves facing need or difficulties.

Ordering our stylish show cards is just one way your gardening club or society can help us to continue providing our vital services.

If you would like to find out more about the work of Perennial and how we may help each other please contact 08456 760630 or email:

[sbowers@perennial.org.uk](mailto:sbowers@perennial.org.uk) or visit

**[www.perennial.org.uk](http://www.perennial.org.uk)**

AN EXEMPT CHARITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES NO 15408R  
A CHARITY REGISTERED IN SCOTLAND NO SC040180

**LOGLEVENS SCHOOL**

**AUTUMN SHOW**

**SATURDAY 19**

**SEPTEMBER 2009**

**ON THE SCHOOL FIELD**

**(off Church Road, Longlevens)**

**Open to everyone**

**aged 1 - 100!**

**BREAM**

**GARDENING SOCIETY**

**SUMMER SHOW**

**Saturday 15 August 2009**

**2.00 - 4.30 p.m.**

**Bream Rugby Field**

**Admission: £2**

**Senior citizens: £1**

**Under 16: Free**

**More details from:**

**Jean Read: 01594 562 593**

**Schedules from:**

**G. Williams: 01594 563 598**

**Cheltenham Horticultural**

**Society**

**Summer Flower &**

**Craft Show**

**Pittville Pump Room**

**Saturday 15 August 2009**

**12.30 - 4.00 p.m.**

**Plants, Crafts & Cakes**

**for sale**

**Admission: £1.50**

**Children: Free**

## From the Chairman

The Federation is most fortunate in having as its Administrative Headquarters the use of a Lecture Room in the main building of Hartpury College. Mrs. Betsy Lisle, a member of the College Staff and the Federation's College Liaison Officer, books the room well in advance and makes all other necessary arrangements for Meetings of the Executive Committee.

Mrs. Lisle and her husband, who also works at the College, are shortly to leave the UK to take up residence on one of the Greek islands. We on the Committee will miss Betsy and all that she has done on our behalf over the years. As a token of our appreciation I took the opportunity while attending the annual Speech Day ceremony at the College on 16 June to present Betsy with a book on Mediterranean gardening techniques which, hopefully, she will find helpful when she and her husband come to start their new garden in what will be a challenging environment.

Our good wishes and sincere thanks go with her.

\* \* \*

On Friday 10 July I was the Guest Speaker at the Awards Presentation held at Rodbaston Campus at Penkridge, Staffordshire.

### **AN IMPORTANCE NOTICE ON THE USE OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT IN VILLAGE HALLS & OTHER COMMUNAL MEETING PLACES**

Although not universally known, it is now a legal requirement that all electrical equipment has to be checked annually and the date of inspection recorded on the equipment by a registered electrician.

The inspection is concerned basically with possible fire risk hazards.

If projectors have had heavy use during the twelve months leading up to this annual inspection it may be advisable to have, as many Speakers do, their equipment serviced at the same time.

Perhaps the Secretary or other appropriate Member of the Committees of affiliated Societies/Clubs could bring this to the attention of visiting Speakers - they may not be aware of this regulation. The information will be included with the next update of the Speakers' List.

Michael Leech

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in

January 2010

Copy to the Secretary by Monday 14 December 2009

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### **SPEAKERS' LIST**

Please Note: SEVERN WYE ENERGY AGENCY

Are no longer providing Speakers

### **MORE SPEAKERS TO ADD TO YOUR LIST**

**Miss Fiona Warin**

**Glebe House, Church Road**

**Leonard Stanley,**

**Glos. GL10 3NP**

**01453 23 319**

[Fiona\\_warin@hotmail.com](mailto:Fiona_warin@hotmail.com)

### **All about Allotments**

An entertaining Talk on:

- Allotment History
- Digging for Victory
- Allotments Today
- Plot Planning
- Me and my Plot

**Fee: £50 plus mileage**

**Within Gloucestershire**

### **Graeme Mitchell BRIGHTWATER HOLIDAYS**

**Eden Park House**

**Cupar, Fife KY15 4HS**

**01334 657 155**

[info@brightwaterholidays.com](mailto:info@brightwaterholidays.com)

**Fee:**

**Cup of Coffee & a Sandwich!!**

### **Dede Liss**

**Gloucestershire Wild Life  
Association**

**01594 542 5126**

[dedeliss@hotmail.com](mailto:dedeliss@hotmail.com)

**Compost making**

**Gardening to encourage wildlife**

**Organic methods**

**Green approaches to Gardening**

**Fee: by arrangement**

# NEWNAM GARDEN CLUB

## FACES UP TO A HARDY PERENNIAL

### - WHAT TO PROVIDE?

#### Preparing the Programme

Our Club Committee, through the Programme Secretary, spends much time arranging the annual Programme of Talks and activities. The AGM and Christmas Party take up to evenings, leaving ten to be filled. In the recent past, the January and February Meetings have been poorly attended: this is embarrassing for the Committee especially when a Speaker has travelled a good distance. As a result of a vote by Members, for the time being we have now omitted the January Meeting. That leaves nine to be filled.

Three or four Meetings in the Summer months are usually given over to garden visits. If these are far enough away, they require a daytime visit, which discriminates against those Members who are not retired (weekend visits are problematical). That leaves six Meetings to be filled, and this is where the GFGS Speakers' List is consulted.

#### Choosing a Speaker

The first considerations are to select a variety of topics and avoid repeats from recent years. The next is "Which subjects would Members find attractive?" Would it be specialist topics such as Cacti or bonsai, or perhaps general topics such as 'How to get the most from your vegetable plot?' A mixture is usually attempted, of course. Then, is it a slide show or a demonstration? How expensive is the Speaker? If the Speaker has been previously, how well was he/she received?

A tactic to reduce the bill for Speakers has been to have "in house" Meetings. One version being to have Committee Members as speakers (one to four per evening). Another is to have a practical hands-on activity, such as seed sowing, or potting-on of plugs or cuttings - which, of course, needs organization and the provision of materials by one or more Members of the Committee.

#### Shows and Competitions

Historically, our Club has voted not to have competitive Shows as such, but an innovation by our Treasurer is to have small, monthly competitions (except outings months) which require Members to bring in e.g. a spray of Autumn berries, or an arrangement of pressed flowers, or a vase of three Spring flowers, or even compose a garden limerick! These are judged by the Speaker, if there is one, or by a show of hands. The points gained are accumulated for the prize giving at the AGM.

#### Finally

A basic fact that is always a consideration when compiling the next year's Programme is that the knowledge and expertise of Members is varied. Some Members are very experienced, some are less so. So it is possible that some topics may bore the experienced while others may be hard for the less experienced to digest. This is always a problem for Speakers, of course.

Compromise is the only practicable solution, but even that can reduce the attractiveness of the Club - both to Members and also potential Members alike. Looking on the bright side, this is our Club's twentieth year, so some of the people are pleased some of the time!

Larry Bellamy

### RHS Regional Lecture New Gardening - Gardening in a Changing Climate

Guest Speaker:

MATTHEW WILSON

TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER  
2009

7.30 P.M.

LARRUPERZ CENTRE  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL CLOSE

ROSS-ON-WYE

RHS MEMBERS £5

NON-MEMBERS £6

TICKETS: 01989 567 505

### HIGHNAM GARDEN CLUB

A Talk by

RHS Chelsea Flower Show

Gold Medallist

JULIAN DOWLE

"CHELSEA

FLOWER SHOW

GARDENS

Behind the Scenes"

Wednesday

9 December 2009

7.30 - 9.30 p.m.

Members: £3

Non-members: £5

Tickets from:

01452 412 604

01452 312 626 (after 6 p.m.)

After the Talk, stay for Mulled  
Wine and Mince Pie

## CHELTENHAM & DISTRICT

### ORCHID SOCIETY

#### VISIT TO THE RHS GARDENS AT WISLEY

At 8.00 a.m. on Saturday 25 April 2009 forty one Members, relatives, friends and some Members of the Cotswold & Malvern AGS Group boarded a coach at Maismore and set off for a day at Wisley. We picked up eight more passengers at Cirencester and continued along the M4, stopping at Reading Services before arriving at Wisley just after 11.00 a.m.

As we entered Wisley we knew we were in for a treat after catching a glimpse of colour: the rhododendrons and azaleas looked a picture and we had yet to enter the Gardens! But we were soon in the gardens, marvelling at displays of tulips, wallflowers, bellis daisies, hyacinths and forget-me-nots.

Other delights included *Fritillaria imperialis* in bright orange and yellow, and in other parts of the Garden, Spring ground cover plants, fritillaries, daffodils, primulas, anemones, lungwort and more, including the fresh green growth of ferns. *Gunnera manicata* was just starting to send up its large, textured leaves - it seems to grow in many parts of the Wisley Gardens, but not in mine!

Other interesting plants were waiting to be discovered in the 'Rock Garden' and the 'Alpine Meadow', from large skunk cabbages (*Lysichiton*) to tiny dog's tooth violets (*Erythronium dens-canis*) in the meadow.

I have already mentioned the rhododendrons and azaleas, but add to these the blossoms of magnolia and a number of other trees, including, of course, the fruit trees, and what a wonderful sight it all added up to.

And then there was the 'Alpine House' surrounded by more alpines in troughs. Inside the alpine House we saw Auriculas, Dionysia, Pleione and Saxifraga, to name but a few. An exceptional pan of *Cypripedium calceolus* caught my eye, a British native that is almost extinct in this country.

I nearly forgot - there were some tropical orchids to be seen in the new glasshouse. This opened in June 2007 and covers an area equivalent to ten tennis courts. At its highest point it rises to 12 metres (40 feet) and has three climate zones - tropical, moist temperate and dry temperate.

At 5.00 p.m. we were all back on the coach - 50 ready to go back home - but that's funny, I thought we came with only 49 - and then I realized Tom Price had bought a tree on with him! The only complaints was that a couple, the last to get back on the coach, would have liked to have stayed - little did they know that if they had been five minutes later they would have had their wish!

So we set off on the return journey, stopping at Membury Services. After dropping off the Cirencester contingent we back at Maismore by 8.00 p.m.

I'm almost looking forward to the next trip!

**Rod Wells**  
**Hon. Secretary**

ngs

gardens open for charity  
SOMERSET, BRISTOL, BATH,  
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Information & Booklets

From:

Bristol Area: 0117 977 5587

[jddamey@hotmail.com](mailto:jddamey@hotmail.com)

Somerset: 01823 451 633

[dodhill@hotmail.com](mailto:dodhill@hotmail.com)

## HILLTOP GARDENING CLUB

Invites all Gardeners

to enter our

**23<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL AUTUM SHOW**

**SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2009**

**EASTCOMBE VILLAGE HALL**

69 Classes including:

Vegetables & Fruit

Flowers & Pot Plants

Decorative \* Home Produce

Photography \* Handicrafts

Children's Classes

**Judging according to RHS Show  
Rules**

Schedules from:

Eastcombe Stores &

Chalford Parish Office

Or call: PIP DADE 01453 882 248

[pipdade@btinternet.com](mailto:pipdade@btinternet.com)

Also available on the Club website:

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

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**Stroud & District  
Chrysanthemum Society**  
55<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
CHRYSANTHEMUM & DAHLIA SHOW

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2009  
1.00 - 4.30 p.m.  
THE SCOUT HALL, DR. BROWN'S ROAD  
MINCHINHAMPTON

SCHEDULES FROM:  
John Bingle: 01453 884 017

**UPTON ST.  
LEONARDS**

**2009 ANNUAL  
FLOWER SHOW**

**SATURDAY 12  
SEPTEMBER 2009**

**Open 2.00 p.m.**

**USL VILLAGE HALL &  
GROUNDS**

Gloucester Brass Band : R.S.P.B.

Guide Dogs for the Blind :  
Skittles

Cat Protection League : R.N.L.I.

Plant Stall : Bargain Bar : Raffle

Tombola : Book Stall

Home Made Cakes and Teas

Gloucestershire Guild of  
Weavers & Dyers

Further information:

01452 614 746

OR: Peter Macey: 01452 615 308

**SHOW SCHEDULES FROM  
UPTON ST. LEONARDS  
POST OFFICE**

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**108<sup>TH</sup> BERKELEY SHOW**

**Monday 31 August 2009**

**Castle Meadows**

**(south of the Castle)**

**Entry fees: 35p each class**

**(10 classes or more £2.50)**

**Further information:**

**Mr. & Mrs. King**

**01454 260 899**

**MINCHINHAMPTON  
GARDENING CLUB**

27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SHOW  
SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2009

MINCHINHAMPTON SCHOOL HALL

11.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Details from:

John Bingle: 01453 884 017

**CHEDWORTH & DISTRICT  
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

**AUTUMN SHOW : SATURDAY 29 AUGUST 2009**

**2 - 4 p.m. CHEDWORTH VILLAGE HALL**

Entry to all Vegetable Classes & the three Dahlia Classes  
open to entrants from all Societies affiliated to G.F.G.S.

Entry fees non-members: 40p. 1<sup>st</sup> prizes range from 50p to £3

Open entrants can compete for:

STRADLING CUP: Highest number of points in Dahlia classes.

STYLES CUP: Best exhibit in the Vegetable section.

HARMAN CUP: Highest number of points in Fruit & Vegetable classes

Schedules from: Roger Duggleby

Whites Barn, Cheap Street, Chedworth, Cheltenham GL54 4AA

01285 720 169

## Jottings from

### HAWKESBURY GARDENING CLUB

**Re-cycling:** It came as something of a surprise to learn that even when we are all being urged by the government to re-cycle like crazy, the funds available to local councils to respond to our efforts is very limited indeed. Several composting sites in our area had had to close temporarily in order to clear backlogs of green waste - there just isn't enough machinery, manpower or physical space to deal with the current deposits. It goes to show that the general public are keen re-cyclers but our ever-ready-on-the-ball political masters didn't figure that we would be. So what's new? To paraphrase W.C. Fields: 'I love politicians. I have one for breakfast every day.'

**A recent survey of earthworms:** Participants chosen for this essential endeavour were required to spend long hours at night lying on wet grass with an ear to the ground recording the sounds of worms travelling through the soil. A CD of worm-song will be available later in the year. A further task was to pull the worms, thrush-like, from their tunnels when ever they broke surface to measure them, length and width, to the nearest millimetre. Once captured and counted it became necessary to fry them in a little cooking oil, add some salt and pepper and sample their taste. Are they better crispy or just lightly done? Next year the survey results will be made in to docu-movie presented Al Ogre, entitled: 'The Great Global Worming Swindle - An Inconvenient Cast'.

**Controlling slugs and snails:** 1. Chemical controls e.g. slug pellets. Other chemicals like sulphuric acid, caustic soda, sodium chloride, quicklime etc work just as well but usually destroy more than just slugs. 2. Nematodes (not to be confused with common toads and other amphibians). 3. Ducks and geese (Mr. Fox likes these, but if you can keep him away then you might get some tasty meals for yourself later on). 4. Copper bands (relieve rheumatism, or so I'm told. I've never seen a slug with rheumatism, have you?) 5. Collecting them by hand, usually at night (yeuch!).

**Recent Speaker:** Mr. Richard Cripps gave an introduction to Garden Design. He raise questions like: 'What do you want from your garden? What do you want to do in your garden? Do you like lots of space? Do you prefer small enclosures? Is your garden REALLY big enough for that giant redwood? How will you be remembered if you actually do plant a monkey puzzle tree in your 20ft x 15ft front garden?

He also promised to send round the 'heavies' armed with clubs and sledge hammers to dispatch outlandish garden ornaments. A major plea: do not become 'plonkers' i.e. do not just plonk one plant down like a dot on the ground - plant a group of 3 or 5 or 7.

Mr. Cripps is not too impressed with TV gardening programmes and neither is he much fond of sending budding horticulturalists to university. His preference is to concentrate on practical experience - think about it, discuss it, then go and do it!

Mr. Cripps was interesting, informative, funny and very entertaining. We must get him, back for another talk.

**Garden visits:** In June we had a very enjoyable visit to RHS Wisley. Through our RHS affiliation we are allowed one visit per year to a RHS Garden - I reckon we should look at a trip to RHS Fiji for next year!

Terry Truebody

## SHURDINGTON & BADGEWORTH GARDENING SOCIETY

### ANNUAL OPEN SHOW

SATURDAY 15 AUGUST

2.30 - 5.00 p.m.

Shurdington

Social Centre

Bishop Road, Shurdington

Classes in:

Vegetables : Flowers

Photography : Handicrafts

Flower Arranging

Cookery & Preserves

Plus

Classes for Paintings &  
Handicrafts

for children under 11

Details from:

Mrs. J. Woodruffe

01242 862 963

Mrs. J. Timbrell

01242 863 312

Closing date for entries: 12 August

## MALVERN

### AUTUMN SHOW

26-27 SEPTEMBER

The Malvern Show Ground

Bookings:

01684 548 924

RHS Members:

£13 in advance

(GFGS will have a Stand at this  
Show)