

From the General Secretary

First, on behalf of the Executive Committee, may I wish you a good New Year with kinder weather for gardeners!

We welcomed Mrs. J. Grassom to her first Meeting of the Executive Committee on 22 November 2008 as the officially appointed Women's Institute Member. We hope that Mrs Grassom will enjoy her Term of Office on the Committee.

You will see elsewhere in the Newsletter a preliminary notice about this year's A.G.M. The Committee agreed an earlier date than last year but one that would give time for the Annual Accounts to be audited. Papers relating to the A.G.M. will be distributed with the next Newsletter at the beginning of April 2009.

The Committee has received letters of thanks from schools which were given grants towards their gardening projects. Please note that any further applications for grants should be made in writing to me before the date of the next Committee Meeting on Saturday 7 February 2009.

Among the List of Additional Speakers in this Newsletter you will see information about Mr. G. Always: it has come to my attention that the page which contained Mr. Always' details in the List of Speakers published in June 2008 was missing from some copies that were distributed. I have notified as many affiliated Members as possible by email and hope that other Members will now add Mr. Always to their List along with others given on page 2. I have apologized to Mr. Always.

I apologize also to Hawkesbury Gardening Club for the late inclusion of their Report on its official launch back in June 2008: the Report is included in this issue on page 3.

Remember: if your society is arranging Shows, Open Gardens or other events, Trips etc and you want them advertised in the Newsletter and on the website I need full details of date, time, venue, admission charges/costs, contact names/addresses/phone numbers.

Note: I have now moved to Broadband and this has necessitated a change in my email address. If you have not already received notice of the change please make sure that the Officers of your Society/Club are aware of the new address which is given below.

John Wilson

john.wilson1@mypostoffice.co.uk

01432 840 559

ADVANCE NOTICE

OF THE a.g.m.

Saturday 18 April 2009

2.00 p.m. for 2.30 p.m.

At Hartpury College

Refreshments will be available

Documents & Nomination Forms will be sent out with the April Newsletter

Brockweir, Hewelsfield & St. Briavels Garden Society

BEEKEEPING

Bees have been much in the news recently. Having noticed the diminishing number of bees and the effect of this on their gardens members decided at the Society's AGM on Friday (28th November 2008) that they will make a grant of £300 to a person living within the Parishes of Hewelsfield and Brockweir and St Briavels who wishes to take up bee-keeping.

The grant is intended to fund the purchase of bees, hives and the necessary clothing and equipment to keep bees, and a basic bee-keeping course run by the Dean Forest Branch of the Gloucestershire Beekeepers' Association. The society will help to find a site for the hives and already has the offer of one.

It is a condition of the grant the hives are kept within the two parishes. In this way all local gardeners will benefit from the grant.

By giving publicity to this we hope that other societies will follow suit and encourage beekeeping in their localities.

Application forms are available from me by phoning 01594 530424 or e-mailing ag.robertson@btinternet.com. The closing date for applications is the 31st December 2008.

Alan Robertson, Secretary

Additional speakers
TO ADD TO YOUR LIST

* * *

Mr. G. Always

Clovermead Farm, Abson, Wick

Bristol BS30 5TU

Telephone: 0117 937 3141

Titles of Talks

- Delphiniums (Slides & Talk)
- Sweet Peas (Slides & Talk)
- Cottage Garden Flowers (Talk)
- Hostas & Hemerocalis (Slides & Talk)
- Hints & Tips (Talks & Demonstration)
- Hanging Baskets & Patio Tubs (Talk & Demonstration)
- Primroses & Polyanthus (Slides & Talk)
- Bulbs & Spring Flowers (Slides & Talk)
- Peonies for Garden Display (Talk & Demonstration)
- We made a Garden (Slides & Talk)
- Calendar of Flowers – Parts 1 & 2 (Slides & Talk)
- Dahlias (Slides & Talk)
- Vegetables without Tears (Slides & Talk)
- Hens in the Garden (Slides & Talk)
- Self-sufficiency in the Urban Garden

Projector & Equipment provided

**Maximum travelling distance: 100 miles radius
of Bristol**

Fee: £50 plus petrol (approx. £10 - £15)

SPEAKERS ARE AVAILABLE AT
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

WILD LIFE TRUST

CONTACT: 01452 383 333

Mrs. S. Dodd & Mrs. S. Smith

11 Stony Riding

Chalford Hill, Stroud

Glos. GL6 8ED

01453 882 127

sue@sue-smith.net

Illustrated Talks include:

- **Butterflies of the Cotswolds: a look at Butterflies on our doorsteps.**
- **Wild Flowers of the Cotswolds: Remedies, Myths & Legends.**
- **Not so common on the Commons: the rarer Flowers of Gloucestershire.**
- **The Pyrenees in June: Flowers & Butterflies of the Pyrenees.**

**Fee: £30 plus 25p per mile
(within 30 miles of Stroud)**

Victoria Logue

Whitehall Farmhouse

Sevenhampton

Cheltenham, Glos. GL54 5TL

01242 820 772

07711 021 034

Victoria@wfplants.co.uk

Talk:

Propagation: Seeds, cuttings & beyond

**Fee: £35 plus 40p per mile
(anywhere in Gloucestershire: available
throughout the year)**

Additional Speakers

Continued on Page 3

JIM BILLINGS

Prestige Garden Services Ltd.

11 Langley Mow

Emersons Green

Bristol BS16 7DS

0117 910 93 93

07917 20 65 98

JimBillings@PrestigeGardenServices.com

Varied Talks

For Gardeners

(Speaker recommended by affiliated Member)

Dr. Dean Marston

Marstons-Gardens of Distinction
Ltd

Outwoods Farm

Monks Park Lane

Merevale

Warwickshire CV9 2RH

0800 612 2084

DrDeanMartin@marstons-ltd.com

Numerous Talks of interest to Gardeners
& Gardening Societies

No Fees

Full details on website:

[www.marstons-ltd.com/TalksandEvents/](http://www.marstons-ltd.com/TalksandEvents/Aboutus.html)

Aboutus.html

(Please note: Dr. Marston has been ill recently and
may not yet be back to full activity)

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HAWKESBURY

GARDENING CLUB

Official Launch

23 June 2008

Our Chairman, Liz Howard, welcomed everyone and introduced herself and the other Committee Members.

Liz also expressed her thanks to Mr. John Walker, a local landscape gardener, for his generous donation of sparkling wine, and also to Deb Pidsley for a superb cake to celebrate the official launch of the Club.

The turnout of some 45 people for the evening surprised even the most optimistic of us.

Liz explained that the intention is to keep the business part of Meetings to a minimum – say 15 minutes. The main focus will be on the Speaker and to socialize and to talk gardening. To this end the Minutes of the previous Meetings will be placed on the notice board together with any other information that will need to be displayed – Club Constitution, insurances etc.

The Speaker will be expected to talk for around 45 minutes. There will be refreshments, a raffle and a plant exchange.

Trips will be one function of the Club but not the main one. Linda Robinson and Susan Bennett are the Club reps for trips.

Our Speaker for the evening, Mr. Barry Nash, then told us all about “Growing and Showing Fuchsias”.

At the end of the evening the fully paid-up Membership tally had reached 42 with several others who will come as guests if the Speaker’s topic takes their fancy.

All in all, a really good start for the Club.

Terry Truebody

Secretary

(Sorry Terry, we are unable to print the picture of the celebration cake)

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*THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER
WILL BE IN THE WEEK BEGINNING
30 MARCH 2009
COPY IN BY 20 MARCH 2009*

Don't Waste Wildlife



Gloucestershire

NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

New Year's resolutions...often we make them about ourselves to change things we don't like, losing weight; stopping smoking; taking more exercise. Maybe this year's resolution can go a bit beyond including people we don't know and the environment around us whilst at the same time doing something for ourselves. Composting and recycling do just that. Even if New Year resolutions and Christmas aren't part of your tradition have a go at some of the ideas below, maybe you are already taking part in Zero Waste Week, and you have thought of ways to 'slim your bin'. Here are a couple of more ideas.

If you had a real Christmas tree and have enough room in your garden try composting it. While you're at it maybe you can help someone else by composting their tree. Use a pruning saw and secateurs and you'll cut it up in no time. If you keep it separate from your other compost you can begin to make your own **ericaceous, or acidic compost** for plants like rhododendron, azalea and blueberries. Other suitable materials to make ericaceous compost include composted sawdust, composted or freshly chipped pine bark, peat, leaf mould and pine needle leaf mould. (next year's needles!) This means you don't have to buy peat based ericaceous compost anymore! (another plus for the environment!) www.rhs.org.uk/advice Give the tree to a friend to make compost if you haven't room yourself, or put it in your green bin for collection. **N.B it's not advisable to use Leylandii for composting.**

This year why not try using the compost for growing food. Start small and experiment! You can grow food in the smallest garden. Growing your own food really does make a difference to your carbon footprint and climate change. www.gardenorganic.org

To get a free Composting Information pack please call Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust on 01452 313761 or email compost@gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk

Don't Waste Wildlife



Gloucestershire

Give your compost bin a present for 2009!

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust is encouraging people to compost as much as possible this Christmas. All those vegetable peelings for a start – sprouts, parsnips, carrots and potato peelings can all be composted at home. To balance out the vegetable peelings don't forget to add wrapping paper, along with cardboard packaging, and how about those shredded receipts from all that Christmas shopping. Other festive items that can head to the compost are cardboard tubes from the kitchen foil, cracker jokes ("How do worms send their Christmas cards? Through the com-post!"), party hats, streamers, pine needles and envelopes. Just scrunch them all up and add them to the mix. By the time summer comes around you will be using your Christmas waste as valuable compost on the garden, and helping wildlife in the process.

After Christmas why not continue the good work and sign up for Gloucestershire's Zero Waste Challenge and help Gloucestershire reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfill. Zero waste week will be held from 26th January to 1st February 2009.

Zero Waste means that nothing gets thrown away in the dustbin. As well as trying to cut down what we use, it also means that we try to only use things that we can reuse, recycle or compost. That way we're left with nothing else to throw away. Throughout the week the aim is to only use things that you can reuse, recycle or compost. Home composting can go a long way to help you achieve zero waste, along with some careful shopping beforehand. You can enter as an individual, family, household or a community. There are lots of great prizes to be won. You can sign up on the 'Recycle for Gloucestershire' website –



www.recycleforgloucestershire.com

(Two for the price of one!!)

**LOOKING FOR SOMEWHERE TO
GO.....? Book a show - OR
TRIP**

Cheltenham Horticultural Society

Spring Flower & Craft Show

Pittville Pump Room

**Saturday March 28th 2009
12.30 to 4.00 pm.**

Plants, Crafts and Cakes for Sale

**Admission: Adults £1.50
Children Free**

**CHELTENHAM & DISTRICT
ORCHID SOCIETY**

Orchid Show

at Churchdown

Community Centre

Parton Road, Churchdown,
Gloucester, GL3 2JH.

Saturday 7th March 2009

10.30 am to 4.00 pm

Nursery & Society Displays

Plants for sale

(Including Alpines)

Talks, Potting Demonstrations &
Advice

'Resident Artist', Tombola &
Refreshments

Entry £1.50p

www.cheltenhamorchids.org

Cheltenham & District Orchid Society

are running a coach trip to the
RHS Gardens at Wisley
On Saturday 25th April 2009

The coach will leave Maisemore
(Parking available)
promptly at 0800 hours.

Anyone is welcome to join this trip.

Tickets £15

(Includes entrance to RHS
Garden Wisley)

If you have already indicated that
you are interested in coming on
this trip, or are still contemplating
it, please note that we require a
firm booking and payment before
Tuesday 24th March 2009.

For a booking form go to
www.cheltenhamorchids.org

or email

secretary@cheltenhamorchids.org

A lot of interest has already been
shown in this trip so to avoid
disappointment book your seats
now, please note tickets will be
sold on a 'first come, first served'
basis and is open to non-
members!

THE COTSWOLD FUCHSIA & PELARGONIUM
SOCIETY

40th ANNUAL SHOWS

PELARGONIUM SHOW

SATURDAY 30 MAY 2009

FUCHSIA SHOW

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST 2009

Classes for Handicrafts, Floral Art,
Domestic & Photography

Both Shows to be held at

The Social Centre, Shurdington,
Cheltenham GL51 4TB

Plant Sales, Tombola, Refreshments &
Raffle at both Shows

SCHEDULES FOR THE SHOW
SECRETARIES:
01242 523 740

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"GARDENS TO VISIT 2009"

The new edition of the book is now available

*The retail price is £8.95 but affiliated Members of
G.F.G.S. can purchase copies at £5.00 plus £2.00
P&P.*

Applications to:

PO Box 32

Tetbury

Gloucestershire GL8 8BF

Cheques payable to: Publicity Works Ltd.

(i.e. £7.00 per book)

Advise of your affiliation

For bulk orders telephone:

01453 836 730

Email: mail@publicity-works.org

WINTERBOURNE DOWN & DISTRICT
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Welcome

ANNE SWITHINBANK

Who will give a talk entitled

"MY DEVON GARDEN"

ON TUESDAY 17TH MARCH 2009

At 7.30 p.m.

**THE GREENFIELD CENTRE,
PARK AVENUE, WINTERBOURNE
SOUTH GLOS.**

**Tickets £10 per person
available from Mrs. P. Gradwell
(01454 774 352)**

Refreshments available Raffle

21st

**BARNSELY VILLAGE
GARDEN FESTIVAL
16 MAY 2009**

WONDERFUL VILLAGE GARDENS OPEN

Including

BARNSELY HOUSE

BARNSELY PARK : MONK BRETTON

OXWOLD HOUSE

THE LITTLE HOUSE

A HOST OF OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDING

**LICENSED BAR, DELICIOUS BBQ, KIDS ZONE,
TEA & CAKE, CRAFT &
LOCAL PRODUCE STALLS**

ADULT GARDEN PASSPORTS £5

Free Parking—Starts at 10.30 am

www.barnsleyvillage.co.uk

Email: franks.sarah@btinternet.com

Tel: 01285 740 471

WWW.barnsleyvillage.CO.UK

SHOW TIME!

From the Cheltenham & district orchid society

Is it really twelve months ago since I was writing about our efforts at the Malvern Autumn Show and wondering if anyone would put up a display Stand with the G.F.G.S. in 2008? Unfortunately, I was away and unable to visit the Show but the Cotswold Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society took up the challenge and didn't disappoint! Pictures of the Stand can be seen on the G.F.G.S. website.

Will anyone step forward for 2009? I'm sure that, like we did, the Cotswold Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society found that although it's months in the planning and a great deal of hard work setting up etc, it was well worth it for those involved; it is also an opportunity to showcase the G.F.G.S. and your own Group, Club or Society.

The Federation has 139 Members: looking on the bright side, if only one third of that number put up a Stand we would only have to do it once every 40 years or so – which means that the Cheltenham & District Orchid Society would be doing it again around 2050 and the Cotswold Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society in 2051!

And whilst we are looking on the bright side and also looking forward to the Shows we can visit in 2009, you will have seen elsewhere in this Newsletter that the Cheltenham & District Orchid Society's Annual Show takes place on Saturday 7 March 2009 at Churchdown Community Centre.

At this Show there will be Nursery & Society Displays (a mix of tropical and hardy orchids), Plants for sale (including Alpines), Talks, Potting Demonstrations and Advice, a 'Resident Artist', Tombola and Refreshments.

With this Newsletter you should have received a poster and four tickets offering reduced price entry to the Show: please display out poster at your Meetings. If you are unable to use the tickets please pass them on to someone who can. If you would like more tickets please send a SAE to 'CDOS' Secretary, 15, Lapwing Close, Northway, Tewkesbury, Glos. GL20 8TN, indicating the number of tickets you require in the top left hand corner of the envelope. Further updated details and a link to our Society's website can be found on the G.F.G.S. website.

Once again our thanks go to the Federation's Secretary, John Wilson, for his support throughout the year and his help in advertising our Show. We look forward to seeing many of you on 7 March.

Rod Wells

Hon. Secretary

From the national society of allotment & leisure gardeners

Due to Ralph Redden's illness, we were asked once again to stage the Stand for the Malvern Autumn Show: as this was the last big Show of the year we did not want to let down either Ralph or the Society.

We spent the Thursday afternoon and all day Friday getting the Stand ready. Saturday, the first day of the Show, dawned with thick fog but the Stand looked good and colourful, with lots of vegetables as well as jams and chutneys. From the start of the day the Stand was very busy. We think the Judges came round about three times before they presented us with a Second Prize for our efforts.

It was good to talk to fellow plot holders – we all seemed to have been having the same kind of problems. The main topics and concerns were the price charged for plots, the loss of sites for building, the failure of some parish or Local Councils to provide allotments, caterpillars on all the green crops, and potato and tomato blight! Our advice for the caterpillar problem is to spray a very weak solution of vinegar every two days for the first week when they appear and then every five - six days after. It does help.

Our thanks go to Liz and Karen from the Office, and Dennis and Sylvia who all helped on the Saturday; and also to Iain, Jennie, Dave and Lynn for their help on the Sunday.

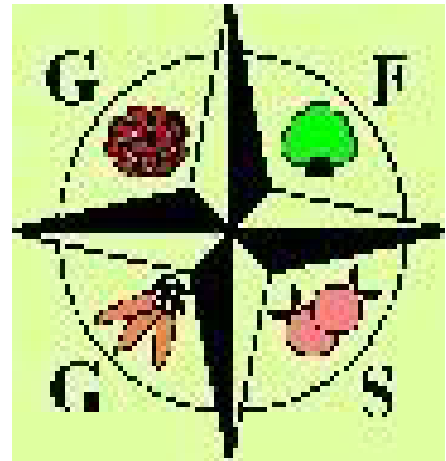
The ground in the marquee was muddy and everywhere was damp: by Sunday the potatoes were turning green and the paperwork was curling up. But on the whole it was a good Show which we all enjoyed. With Alan's help we managed to dismantle the Stand and get home by 8.00 p.m. after a tiring four days.

Sorry to say we did not manage to recruit any new Members at the Show, but the interest shown by Members of Site Associations over the Seed Scheme and the benefits of joining the Society will, no doubt, make all our efforts worthwhile.

Pictures of the Stand can be seen on the G.F.G.S. website.

Colin & Rosemary Smith

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE
FEDERATION OF
GARDENING
SOCIETIES**



Registered Charity Number: 257391

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY

2009

Issue Number 10

