

From the General Secretary

The Annual General Meeting proved to be very encouraging compared with previous years. The business was dealt with in a limited space of time and those Members who were able to stay on after lunch enjoyed the tour of the College grounds.

But, I'm sorry to say, I have another apology to make! Please make the following corrections to the Minutes of the A.G.M. which you should have received a few weeks ago:

1. Attendance: there were twenty three Members of **fifteen** affiliated societies - not eleven as printed.

2. Wherever the name **Mr. Ward** appears in the body of the Minutes please replace it with **Mr. Waring**

I shall produce a corrected copy of the Minutes for the Chairman to sign at next year's A.G.M.

(At least I have got the correct month on the cover of this Newsletter!!)

I am very happy to report that the Cotswold Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society has volunteered to assist the GFGS with a Display at the Malvern Autumn Show. The Executive Committee is very grateful to the Society for their support. We hope some of our affiliated Members will visit the Display.

The next Meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Monday 15 September 2008 at 7.00 p.m. at Hartpury College. If your Club/Society has any items for the Committee to discuss please advise me as soon as possible. The Meeting will be preceded by a meeting of the Sub-committee to review applications for grants for School Gardening Projects.

Please note that there are a few vacancies on the Executive Committee for Members of affiliated Clubs/Societies.

Many thanks to those Members who contacted me with information about "The Dick Whittington Farm Park".

John Wilson

jcw@cwmwell.fsnet.co.uk

01432 840 559

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2008-2009

PRESIDENT

Mrs. H. Elwes

VICE PRESIDENTS

Mr. D. Waring

Mr. P.J. Ballard

Mr. R. Brooks

CHAIRMAN

Mr. M. Leech

GENERAL SECRETARY

Rev. J. Wilson

HON. TREASURER

Mr. S. Reed

SECRETARY GUILD OF JUDGES

Mrs. S. Archer

CONVENOR OF GUILD OF JUDGES

Mr. M. Davis

ELECTED MEMBERS

Mr. R. Champion (Cotswold Fuchsia Soc.)

Mr. C. Smith (Cotswold Fuchsia Soc.)

Mr. J. Tolkien (Cotswold Fuchsia Soc.)

Mrs. R. Smith (Chelt. Allotments)

Mr. D. Sutton (Chelt. Allotments)

Mr. D. Wadsworth (Andoversford H. Soc.)

Mrs. B. Powlesland (Newent Gdn. Club)

Mrs. S. Gibson (Slimbridge H. Soc.)

Mr. S. Yells (Fairford Gardeners Club)

EX-OFFICIO

Mr. H. Wharton (Dean, Hartpury College)

Mrs. E. Lisle (Liason Officer, Hartpury)

Mrs. J. Grassom (Women's Institute)

CO-OPTIONS

Ms. S. Hanson (Hartpury College)

Mr. S. Ward (Hartpury College)

There are vacancies for three Members from affiliated Societies

**WELCOME TO
NEW MEMBERS OF
THE FEDERATION**

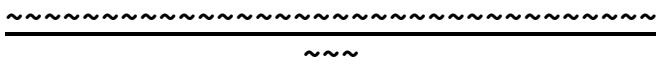
BROMSBERROW GARDENING & SOCIAL
CLUB

*

MARSHFIELD ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

*

**The Federation now has 139 affiliated
Members**



Additional speakers

*

**SPEAKERS ARE AVAILABLE AT
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

WILD LIFE TRUST

TO ADD TO YOUR SPEAKERS' LIST

CONTACT:

01452 383 333



BRIAN WHITE

Barnfield, Wilnecote Lane

Belgrave, Tamworth, Staffs. B77 2LF

01827 250 123

Brianandjenniewhite@hotmail.com

An illustrated Talk about life around

SCENTED LEAF DELARCONIUMS

Suitable for all kinds of groups, clubs & societies

Diverse & amusing

**WITH GARDENS IN MIND
AND LOOKING AHEAD WITH
THE
NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME**

OPEN GARDEN AT

WELLINGTON HEATH

LEDBURY, HEREFORDSHIRE

12 JULY 2009 : 2.00 – 6.00 p.m.

One acre garden with magnificent views to the Frith Wood. Areas of mixed planting and herbaceous borders. Wide range of perennials, most of which are colour themed, plus an area with a Mediterranean theme. Nearly 100 clematis.

**PROCEEDS IN AID OF
COUNTY AIR AMBULANCE**

*Visits by individual societies can be arranged by
appointment on other days*

Further information from Mr. Brian Snell

Hb.snell@tesco.net



NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME

in Gloucestershire has a vacancy for an Assistant County Organiser to assist with the administration of the ngs in the County.

The vacant post covers the north east of the County from Winchcombe in the west, across to Stow-on-the-Wold in the east, and north to Hidcote.

Further information from the County Organiser:

Norman Jeffery:

01793 762 805 : normjeffery28@aol.com

The Charity raised £1.78 million nationally in the year ended in March 2008 with Gloucestershire contributing over £90,000.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE..... TO VISIT A SHOW

r.h.s. shows

UPTON ST. LEONARDS
FLOWER SHOW

Saturday 13 September 2008

Village Hall,
Bondend Road
Upton St. Leonards, Glos.

2.00 – 4.00 p.m.

Harrogate autumn show

12-14 september

01423 561 049

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LATE SUMMER SHOW

16 SEPTEMBER: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

17 SEPTEMBER: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Lawrence Hall, Westminster

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MALVERN

AUTUMN SHOW

27 & 28 SEPTEMBER

9A.M. – 6 P.M. BOTH DAYS

01684 584 900

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Great Autumn show

7 october: 11a.m.-7 p.m.

8 October: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Lawrence & Lindley Halls

Westminster

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LONDON FLOWER SHOW

14 NOVEMBER: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

15 NOVEMBER: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Lawrence Hall

Westminster

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

CONTAMINATED MANURE WARNING!

The Committee of the **Brockweir, Hewelsfield and St. Briavels Garden Society** have decided to put this short note out to the Members of the Society to make them aware of an issue that seems to be affecting most animal manure this season.

There is a new type of herbicide (**clopyralid**) that has been used on some grass crops and which persists for much longer than previous types due to the way it binds itself to the lignin in straw and grass. 98% of this herbicide passes unchanged through an animal's gut and is therefore still present in any manure that has the presence of grass or hay stems. This has led to unintentional herbicide contamination on a number of allotments across the country resulting in a loss of crops and, in the case of organic growers, significant long-term effects. It can take 12 months for the herbicide to dissipate into the soil – as the grass and straw rots down it releases the herbicide.

The herbicide is sold under the brand names of

'Banish', 'Forefront', 'Halcyon', 'Pharaoh', 'Pro-banish' and 'Runaway'.

Advice:

- **Be certain of the chain of origin of any manure you use on your garden or allotment – this includes where the feed that the farmer used to feed his cattle or horses came from and whether this new type of herbicide was used on it.**
- **Ensure any manure you use is very well rotted – because the herbicide lingers in the more substantial elements of the grass or straw make sure that it is well rotted before using on the ground.**
- **Consider making more use of your own compost, comfrey feeds and green manures as you will have more control over their origins and preparation.**

Links:

<http://www.rhs.org.uk/news/Weedkiller-manure.asp>

http://www.glallotments.btik.com/p_Contaminated_Manure.ikml

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/jun/29/food.agric>

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

BOTANIC GARDEN

Newnham Garden Club had a pre-booked Outing to the above in July.

Members of the GFGS will probably remember that the Garden was moved from the Leigh Woods site a few years ago. It is now at

The Holmes, Stoke Bishop.

I liked the Leigh Woods site very much and visited it most years. I was pessimistic about the move, expecting down-sizing and regimentation of the displays to a more accountant-approved scale. In the event, my fears were not justified. The new site is a lovely setting; sloping and undulating, with another fine old house and mature trees.

Nick Wray and his Team have arranged the transplanted stock into this setting without any obvious razing. Yes, there are signs of "work in progress", but in a few short years much of the stock displays/collections already have an established look.

Our group was split into two and we were provided with two knowledgeable Guides, who were ready to let us tarry on occasions when something held our interest.

There has been an opportunity to re-think the subdivisioning of the Garden, without noticeably compromising the botanical rigour; but nonetheless there is much to engage the gardener (few of our Members have any botany). I would recommend taking a notepad.

An innovative display, which appeared on TV, is the "Evolution of land Plants". One follows a making path down into a dell and on both sides the plants are chronologically displayed. Expensive highlights are some large tree ferns and Wollemi Pines, while (despite its youth) the whole dell is redolent of profound age.

If your Club/Society has not yet been, it is well worth including in your programme.

Larry Bellamy

Don't Waste Wildlife

Grow a Community around the compost heap!

Community composting is becoming more popular in Gloucestershire and beyond. Local communities are getting together to compost their garden waste and create wonderful locally made compost. The benefits of community composting include -

- ❖ Garden waste is dealt with locally, reducing the environmental impact of transporting it. Local gardens will have fertile and healthy soils as the compost is returned to members.
- ❖ Community compost groups can normally deal with woody waste and weeds, as they often have use of a shredder and have large compost heaps that heat up to considerable temperatures.
- ❖ Creates a sense of community and a great outdoor activity, which will help keep you fit and healthy. All members of the community can be involved.
- ❖ Community compost groups can claim recycling credits for every tonne of garden waste they compost - a useful income.
- ❖ The need to buy compost is greatly reduced, thus preventing further damage to our precious peat bogs.

The Wildlife Trust offers support and guidance to groups wanting to set up a scheme. There are several groups already up and running in the County, including Bisley, Lower Slaughter and Alderton, which opened in April, and Hidcote Gardens whose scheme began in May. There are several others under development.

Community composts are most often sited on allotments and are run by volunteers. Groups will need to find a suitable site (this many need planning permission), a licence from the Environment Agency and usually some start up funding for initial costs. However, with a Compost Officer in each district of Gloucestershire there will be someone local who can advise and support your group.

Would you like to see a community compost near you?

To find out more call the

GLOUCESTERSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST COMPOST

HOTLINE on: 01452 313 761 or:

compost@gloucestershiREWILDLIFETRUST.CO.UK

Middlecombe

Nursery

Wrighton Road

Congresbury

North Somerset BS49 5AN

Guided tours of the Nursery and Gardens with Nigel North can be arranged by Clubs/Societies.

Contact Nigel's Secretary, Jenny

01934 876 337

Lines from POT-BOUND

By Ruth Ritter

O I am root-bound! In this earthen Pot
How many a strangling noose and
writhing knot

Describe contorted misery! A tomb
Where one woe for another leaves not
room!

A charnel-house of starved desires,
whence all

Is gone of Humus and good Mineral,
Or anything on which a Plant might feed
Till it could blossom and produce a seed;

Where wretched Worms, to their own
hurt, have got

In by mischance, and poison all the Pot:
Where poor roots search all ways in vain,
Sick for the Food and Space they can't
attain.

For if a growing Plant's not potted-on
Betimes, and given new soil, its hope is
gone.

O Gardener (if Gardener there be)

Behold this yellow leaf, and succour me!

O tap me out! The tangled mass uncoil,
And rid my root of the exhausted soil!

Changes to Insurance Cover

Mr. Reed reports that the Public Liability Insurance Limit has been raised to £5,000,000.00 to meet requirements on Schools or premises hired from Local Authorities and other Landlords.

A new Benefit: Employer's Liability for helpers/volunteers up to £10,000,000.00 at no extra cost to affiliated Members. A Certificate of Employer's Liability Insurance is held by the Treasurer from whom copies may be obtained on request and providing a SAE.

These changes bring our Insurance Cover up to that offered by other Schemes but at much less cost: e.g. nearly half the cost of the RHS Scheme (GFGS £40.00, RHS £76.00). Cover for Trophies/Cups is also cheaper in that you only pay for what you require.

If any Members not already insuring through the GFGS but would like to join the Scheme, a pro rata rate can be arranged whenever existing Insurance Cover ends to coincide with the GFGS start date of 1 April 2009.

It is anticipated that there will be a slight increase in Insurance costs next March of about 15%.

Contact Mr. Reed if you have any queries:

01452 548 478

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THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE AVAILABLE EARLY IN JANUARY 2009

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COPY TO THE SECRETARY BY MONDAY 15 DECEMBER 2008

Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust

Registered Charity No: 511181

The Chairman and Committee invite you and your friends to a

COFFEE MORNING

To be held in

THE ASSEMBLY ROOM, TOWN HALL, HEREFORD

On

THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER 2008

From 10 a.m. to 12 noon

CAKE & PLANT Donations most STALLS gratefully received

Mrs. J. Gallimore

The Old Vicarage, Norton Canon HR4 7BQ

Please support our priceless Heritage

LATE NEWS:

HERGEST CROFT GARDENS

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"A unique garden for all seasons, in the heart of the Welsh Marches"

EDWARDIAN GARDEN

AZALEA GARDEN & MAPLE GROVE

KITCHEN GARDEN : PARK WOOD

Opening Times & Admission

Daily until 2 November : 12 noon - 5.00 p.m.

Adults: £5.50 : Children under 16: Free

Pre-booked Groups 20+: Adults £4.50

Pre-booked guided tours 20+: Adults £6.50

Annual Season ticket: £20.00

01544 230 160 : [gardens@hergest.co.uk](mailto:gardens@hergest.co.uk)



## A very late offering from “The Wildlife Trusts” .....

### Worms work!

A wormery or vermi-composter is both an education and a great way to compost wastes that are often more ‘difficult’ to add to your usual compost bin. They’re also very suitable if you don’t have garden space and fit easily on a balcony or any other sheltered spot away from severe climates. Worms aren’t partial to high temperatures, but they don’t like cold ones either and won’t eat at all during extreme conditions; hence the sheltered spot requirement.

Wormeries are based on the same composting principles as a composting bin, but cooked waste and some other food types can be added. Normally, these food ‘wastes’ are omitted from the normal bin because most people don’t ‘hot’ compost (therefore killing potential pathogens) and also to avoid attracting vermin. They are sealed units; allowing oxygen in but keeping out other beasts that might be interested in cooked foods.

Composting worms are secondary decomposers. They don’t directly feed off the waste but on the mini-beasts that do. There are certain earthworms that will do the job well. *Eisenia fetida*, the brandling or tiger worm is considered one of the best composting worms in the UK for several reasons that limited space here prevents from expanding on.

You can make your own vermi-compost bin as long as you follow certain rules. And remember, surface area is more important than depth.

Once set up, try not to overfeed them ~ little and often is best. Break up any food waste into smallish pieces so that the surface area can be attacked by the primary decomposers.

If you have internet access, you could go to a worm forum, a support group where people swap ideas and facts about how to set up and maintain a wormery. Go to <http://www.recycleworks.co.uk/forum/> click on ‘worm forum’.

Watch out, however, the worms might hook *you* into a bit of an obsession!

To get a free Composting Information pack call Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

on 01452 313761 or email [compost@gloucestershiREWILDlifetrust.co.uk](mailto:compost@gloucestershiREWILDlifetrust.co.uk)

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### PLEASE TAKE NOTE

**The Arrow Garden, Ledgemoor, Weobley, Herefordshire is closed**

**It is not known if this is temporary or permanent**