

MASS-OBSERVATION IN THE 1990s

SPRING DIRECTIVE 1998

PART ONE

The garden and gardening



The first part of the directive is about your garden, and what it means to you - if you do not have a garden now but once had one, please write about that, or if you would like to have a garden, you could describe what you would like.

*Please remember to start with a brief (2-3 line) autobiography:
M-O number (NOT name), sex, age, town or area where you live,
occupation or former occupation*

Background

First, we would like to know whether you grew up in a house with a garden; what are your memories of it?

Did your parents or any relatives tell you about what was in the garden - for example, plants, insects, birds etc.

As a child did you help to plant things in the garden? What other kinds of things did you like doing in the garden?

Do you have a favourite plant/shrub or flower that brings back memories? Maybe it reminds you of your childhood or someone in particular.

Your own garden, if you have one

Please tell us about your garden, or the one that you cultivated most recently (or even indoor plants or window boxes).

What do you grow in your garden? And why? (for example some people try to make their garden look attractive, and others grow plants that attract insects that will eat aphids) .

How do you use your garden? What kinds of things do you do in it? How much time would you spend in it on a typical spring/summer's day?



In your family, who does particular tasks such as mowing the lawn, digging, planting, weeding?

If you have any children do they help (or did they when they were younger)? Do you pass on gardening tips, cuttings or seeds to them?

Some people are passionate about their gardens, others see it as a burden - what does your garden mean to you?



What do you *dislike* about your garden?

Describe the last time you went to a garden centre (or when you go to one next time please keep a note). Why did you go there? And who did you go with?

Gardening knowledge

If you wanted to know more about what kinds of plants to grow or get some general knowledge about gardening, where would you get this information from - for example, family/neighbours, newspapers, TV programmes, gardening magazines, garden centres?

Do you always follow this advice?

Do you consider yourself to be an 'expert' gardener? If so, do you give anyone else advice?

There can often be contradictory advice in gardening (for example whether or not to use chemicals, organic fertilisers/compost) Who do you trust to give you the best advice about gardening?

Gardening and the environment

Some scientists think that certain species of plants, birds, and insects are declining because of global warming, and industrial farming in the countryside; at the same time more animals may be living in towns and cities.



Looking in your garden and the gardens in your neighbourhood, have you noticed any differences in the kinds of plants and wild animals that there are around?

Do you think the earth's climate has changed from the things that have noticed in your garden? If so, how is your garden different from before?

Do you have a hose pipe ban in your area? How does this effect your gardening and the kinds of plants you grow?

Finally, do you have a **photograph** of your garden that you would like to send us? (please avoid sending anything which identifies you or your house). If you can attach it to a sheet of paper with photo corners, that would be very helpful. *Please don't use adhesive tape or staples.*

Part Two

Having an affair



Please remember to start with a brief (2-3 line) autobiography: M-O number (NOT name), sex, age, town or area where you live, occupation or former occupation. Please do not use real names for your family or friends.

What is the impact of sexual affairs on marriage, and what happens to relationships when an affair becomes 'known'? This is a delicate but important subject and one that has been much in the news - President Clinton, Robin Cook and , although perhaps not so much in the limelight at the moment, Prince Charles. We would be most interested in your views. Please be assured that we are not assuming you necessarily have had personal experience to draw upon. It is possible however, that many of your lives have been touched in some way or another by news of other people's affairs. As always, it is up to you how much information you wish to share with us.

Listed below are some general questions so that you can express various thoughts, feelings and beliefs. Included at the bottom of this page are more specific, individual questions which we hope you can answer personally. Your replies will be as usual anonymous, so please do feel free to write candidly. It would help if you used initials or pseudonyms for other people.

Your views and opinions

Thinking of your own experiences, and those of people close to you, how important do you think it is to remain sexually faithful in a long-term relationship like marriage?

What might the repercussions be for friends and family when news of an affair comes to light?

Have you, directly or indirectly, been affected by news of someone else's affair?

Do you think there might be different types of affairs? Are there some affairs that matter more than others? Can you say why? Could affairs be positive and enriching experiences?

Your personal experience

- ◆ Have you ever had - or thought about having - an affair? Has your partner?
- ◆ If you - or your partner - has had an affair, who else knew about it?
- ◆ Can you describe the 'stages' the affair went through?
- ◆ How did the affair end, and what happened when it was over?

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